

Regathering Guidelines for Corporate Worship

As we begin to move toward regathering as a church on Sundays, we are ever-mindful that indoor gatherings are a high-risk environment for the transmission of the coronavirus. This is why we are regathering in phases while cautiously lagging behind the transitions made by our local government. We are still a long way away from what we once thought of as “normal,” so be prepared for a different corporate worship experience for many months to come as we all adjust to a “new normal.”

More than anything else, Jesus’ command “to love your neighbor as yourself” drives our decision making. We recognize that many will not feel comfortable gathering anytime soon, and that’s okay. Our desire is to be gracious toward all, err on the side of caution, and, especially, act to protect our vulnerable population. We can only be successful if we can all agree to take the following measures for the sake of our neighbor.

Should You Attend?

- We at All Saints love all our members and want each one to be safe. According to the CDC, “adults 65 and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.” We support those in our vulnerable population if they decide to remain home at this time. A live feed of the 9:45am service will be provided online as well as a copy of the bulletin.
- We strongly encourage anyone experiencing any possible symptoms of the virus (even if you think they are allergy related) to remain home.
- If you or a member of your family have traveled to a hotspot or had guests visit from a hotspot, please wait two weeks before attending on Sundays.

If You Decide to Attend

- We plan to regather on Sundays for said Morning Prayer services (no Eucharist) beginning May 31 at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 am.
- Each service will be limited to 50 people. To ensure that we do not exceed this number, we will offer three services instead of two and ask parishioners to notify the church office each week as to which service they plan to attend.

Before You Leave Home

- Bathrooms will be open for emergencies and handwashing only. Remember to use your restroom at home before you leave for Sunday worship.
- Everyone must wear washed or new face coverings at all times when inside the building (we also encourage children ages 5+ to do so if possible). Please bring and wear your own face masks. (We will have a limited supply on hand for those who do not own one or forget to bring one.)

When You Arrive

- Please put your mask on before entering the building.
- All entryways, door handles, light switches, and countertops will be sanitized before and after each service. Hand sanitizer will also be made available. The doors to the nave will remain propped open before and after the service to minimize contact with door handles.
- Bulletins will be available for pickup instead of being distributed by hand, and will not be reused. Feel free to bring and use your own prayer book (BCP19).
- Households are to remain together once on campus and sit together in the nave.
- Since nursery care and Children's Church will not yet be offered, please do what you can to keep your young children close and accompany them at all times.
- No gathering in the narthex. Coffee and refreshments will not be made available.
- The doors to the nave will remain propped open before and after the service to minimize contact with door handles. Upon arrival, please move directly to your seats, keeping at least three seats apart (six feet) from other households. We will remove some rows of seating to maintain front-to-back social distancing.

During the Service

- There will be no choir or singing in the building at this time as evidence suggests deep breathing aids the spread of the virus.
- Instead of passing the alms basins, the ushers will hold them after the service as you exit the nave, or you can continue to mail your offerings to the church office.
- We will keep a list of each attendee for each service to facilitate contact tracing in the event a congregant tests positive for the virus.

After the Service

- After the service, we will have an orderly dismissal, releasing one family group at a time. If weather permits, we intend to sing the doxology together outside in the parking lot after each service. Socializing outside is encouraged as long as appropriate distance is kept.
- We discourage children from using the outdoor swing set.

In the Coming Weeks

- Private communion (bread only) will be provided during the week in the nave by appointment only.
- While smaller mid-week gatherings do not exceed the 50-person gathering limit, we feel that for the summer, at least, we should minimize all gatherings beyond Sunday morning worship, so we will continue to offer online video calls as a temporary option.
- As conditions continue to improve over time, we look forward to easing these measures.