



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

St. John's COVID-19 Worship Service Phase II Guidelines

PHASE II GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP DURING THE PANDEMIC

For the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, Bishop Reddall, in conjunction with the Diocesan Task Force, has constructed a three (3) phase program that will, hopefully, culminate in a return to our prior familiar worship practices.

We have now been approved to enter Phase II, wherein the "stay at home" part of worship will be lifted, and physical attendance at worship can resume. So, we have attended worship! We will continue to have two (2) services: 8:00 a.m., Rite I and 10:00 a.m., Rite II each Sunday. We will continue to broadcast our Sunday, 10:00 a.m. services live on our Facebook page.

For our Wednesday evening services live, please bring your own Book of Common Prayer, if you have one. Because we are in Phase II, there are no books in our pews. If you don't have a Prayer Book, we will make sure that you will be able to follow the service nonetheless. Please also note that we will be live streaming the service on our Facebook page, if you cannot attend in person.

During this Phase II period, the following will be the guidelines for worship attendance:

1. All persons must wear a protective mask upon entry into the church and during worship services. If an attendee does not have a mask, we will provide one at the attendee's arrival. We will provide special masks for children.
2. Anti-bacterial sanitizer dispensers will be placed at all entrances and in all bathrooms.
3. We will have Kleenex tissues available, and all trash receptacles will be covered.
4. All worshipers will enter through our traditional "red" doors, and all will only exit through the exit doors in our Sanctuary.
5. We will not have coffee hour, meals, or food events.
6. Ministry and other gatherings and meetings will be limited to no more than ten (10) persons at a time.
7. We will not have live, attended Sunday School or Youth Sunday School, although our leaders will continue to have such on line.
8. Worship occupancy will be no more than fifty (50) persons per service. If there is an overflow at any particular service, the number beyond fifty (50) will be seated to watch service in the Parish Hall. The doors to the Sanctuary will remain open.
9. Individual worshipers will sit six (6) feet apart. Family units may sit together, but each such group will sit six (6) feet apart from individual and other family unit worshipers. Every other pew will be unoccupied.
10. Restrooms will be limited to one (1) individual, or family unit, at a time.
11. Communion will be without wine. Only the bread will be distributed. Recipients of communion will receive it six (6) feet apart from one another.
12. Music for our Rite II services will be provided by an organist or other instrumental soloist. There will not be a choir or singer(s) during this phase. There will be no hymnal books during this phase.
13. Offering plates will be located at the exit doors
14. Greeters and ushers will be available to be guides and of assistance.
15. All doors, restrooms, pews, chairs and tables will be cleaned between services.

At the end of Phase II, or Phase II.5, we will expand the size of gatherings. We will re-institute congregational and choir singing, and all other music offerings as before. Live, attended Sunday School and Youth Ministry will begin again. A gradual commencement of coffee hour and social gatherings.

Once we reach Phase III, we will return to our pre-COVID-19 practices, including traditional Communion practices, with the exception of encouraging, but not requiring, the wearing of protective masks.

We will provide updates and more information along the way. Thank you for your perseverance and loyalty to our blessed church during these difficult times. I so happy with our return to our joyous gatherings.

Let us continue to hope and pray for an easing of this terrible pandemic and a return to our great gatherings in worship and in service to others. You have continued to be faithful Christians in support of our church, and I thank you for it. With our continued diligence and the help of God, the church will prevail and will return to our great worship culture and mission as before in the near future.

Your priest and brother in Christ,

The Rev. Bruce A. Jackson