

# In-person Worship Frequently Asked Questions

*This document represents what we know right now and is subject to change.*

## **What COVID safety precautions are you putting in place?**

All attendees and worship leaders will wear masks and practice social distancing. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at the entrance to the worship spaces, at the entrance to the building, and before approaching the altar to receive communion. *If you are ill, have been exposed, or suspect you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home for everyone's well-being.*

Last summer, we had the air patterns in the building analyzed. We installed air purification systems that include UV light filtration and higher-rated air filters. The air in the nave - and most of the rest of the building - cycles completely every fifteen minutes, a number the CDC and others suggest creates a safer environment. We are attempting to limit the indoor service, for the time being, to 45 minutes, which also should lower the risk of exposure.

## **What if I am not comfortable worshipping in person?**

A livestream worship service will also be available at 8:30am and the recording will be available on our [YouTube page](#).

## Indoors

### **Will I need to wear a mask?**

Yes. We will ask everyone to wear a mask.

### **Will I need to keep socially distanced?**

Yes. At this time, the rows in the Nave have been placed so that every-other-row is six feet apart. Three chairs are also six feet apart, so each household should sit in rows marked for use and maintain at least three chairs between households. In order to fit everyone, ushers may ask your party to move to different seats, please follow the instructions of our volunteers.

### **How else are you planning to keep us safe?**

Hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the building and worship space, including at the entrances and at stations before receiving communion. Last summer, we had the air patterns in the building analyzed. We installed air purification systems that include UV light filtration and higher-rated air filters. The air in the nave - and most of the rest of the building - cycles completely every fifteen minutes, a number the CDC and others suggest creates a safer

environment. We are attempting to limit the service, for the time being to 45 minutes, which also should lower the risk of exposure.

### **Will we sing?**

We will sing at all services, and [several studies](#) have indicated that we can safely sing if everyone wears masks, and maintains social distance, and we attend to the air changes in the space. Last summer, we had the air patterns in the building analyzed. We installed air purification systems that include UV light filtration and higher-rated air filters. The air in the nave - and most of the rest of the building - cycles completely every fifteen minutes. We are attempting to limit the service, for the time being to 45 minutes, which also should lower the risk of exposure.

### **Will we receive communion?**

Yes. Communion will be received at two stations each having wafers and gluten-free wafers in biodegradable packages and wine and grape juice in small, lidded, recyclable cups. Worshipers will file by section to the rear of their section, sanitize their hands, then proceed forward to the communion station at the front of their section. After receiving their elements, worshipers will return to their place, briefly remove their mask to consume their elements before re-masking. After the service, a receptacle for cups, lids, and wafer packagers will be at the rear of the worship space.

### **I'm supposed to be an assisting minister, lector, or usher and this seems different.**

#### **So...help?**

Absolutely. On the one hand, we have spent months talking through various scenarios, and so the staff is absolutely prepared to answer your question. On the other hand, we have probably missed a lot of details, so your questions are incredibly helpful to us. We have prepared new documents that you will receive before your scheduled Sunday, but please reach out by phone or e-mail or on the Sunday you serve with your questions!

## **Outdoors**

### **Will I need to wear a mask?**

Yes. We will ask everyone to wear a mask. Even though the rate of transmission outdoors seems extremely low, wearing masks out of an abundance of caution seems like a simple way to keep our neighbor safe.

### **Will I need to keep socially distanced?**

Yes. We are asking people to maintain six feet between households. Again, we believe the risk of transmission is low, but we also want to be sure our members and visitors feel safe in attending worship.

### **Where will we sit?**

We will be on the patio and drop off circle between the worship space and Heritage Hall. Please bring a chair with you; a limited number of chairs will be available.

**How else are you planning to keep us safe?**

Hand sanitizing stations will be placed at the entrance to the worship space and at the entrance to the building (for restroom use).

**Will it be hot?**

Probably be. Please dress accordingly. Outdoor worship is casual. Think “camp” more than “high mass.” Wear a hat or bring an umbrella to shade you and sunglasses. There will also be a few pop up canopies that will shade about half the area, and, if you attended worship on Easter Sunday, the altar will be west of the assembled worshipers, so while the sun will be close to overhead, it should be a little easier on the eyes!

**Is this service rain or shine?**

Yes. Please plan accordingly, and so will we. On extremely hot days or rainy days, we may shorten the service. In case of rain, we will use the pop up awnings over the altar, so please bring an umbrella or wear rain gear.

**What about severe weather?**

We will cancel worship by 8 a.m. on Facebook, which also appears on the side bar of our website.

**Will we sing?**

We will sing at all services, and [several studies](#) have indicated that we can safely sing outdoors.

**Will we receive communion?**

Yes. Individual wafers, gluten-free wafers, and grape juice will be in pre-packaged, recyclable containers. Households will file past a hand sanitizing station, receive their communion elements, and then return to their places. As soon as they have returned to their places, they will briefly take off their masks to consume the wafer and the juice.

**I'm supposed to be an assisting minister, lector, usher or help with set up/tear down and this seems different. So...help?**

Absolutely. On the one hand, we have spent months talking through various scenarios, and so the staff is absolutely prepared to answer your question. On the other hand, we have probably missed a lot of details, so your questions are incredibly helpful to us. We have prepared new documents that you will receive before your scheduled Sunday, but please reach out by phone or e-mail or on the Sunday you serve with your questions!