

Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion  
COVID Plan “Pilgrimage Phase” to begin October 2020

On Sunday September 20, 2020, Holy Communion’s vestry and Rector approved the following re-entry plan for Phase “1.5” Following the example of Trinity Church in the Central West End, we are calling this plan the “pilgrimage phase.” This phase will run to at least until Advent. The Regathering task force will meet to evaluate the progress in October.

### **Fall Phase**

During this phase, Holy Communion will continue to offer online worship, and additional efforts will be made to create virtual touch points that foster communal relationships and connections. The only gatherings for worship will happen outdoors, either as a “drive-in service” or in a local park or other outdoor space with proper permissions.

### **Gathering Guidelines**

- **Outdoors:** All Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion gatherings that happen in person will be held outdoors.
- **Masked:** Every participant age 6 and older (following the revised county order) must wear a mask. These masks should cover the mouth and nose (a loose bandana or face shield is not acceptable). Masks should not include a valve. If you are not healthy enough to wear a mask, we encourage you to stay home.
- **Physical Distancing:** All Holy Communion gatherings will occur in such a way that it is easy for each individual or household to keep a minimum of six feet between themselves and other individuals/households. This may require a group to plan to bring their own seating.
- **Contact Tracing:** Leaders will keep a full list of names, email addresses and phone numbers for participants in gatherings. Depending on the location, pre-registration may be required to limit totals and allow appropriate distancing.
- **Self Screening:** Participants should not come to live gatherings they have a fever, chills, cough, body aches, sore throat ,trouble breathing ,loss of taste or smell, new or worsening diarrhea. It is also recommended that you take your temperature at home, and if your temp is over 100 you should not attend. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we encourage you to get in touch with your healthcare provider.

## **In-Church Pilgrimage Plan**

The church will be open for 2 hours on a weekday and 2 hours on Sunday afternoons. During these pilgrimage hours, parishioners and visitors will be welcome to enter the sanctuary for a time of sacred pilgrimage. Parishioners may light votive candles, pray and meditate in the church, walk the labyrinth (one household at a time), and partake of communion from the reserved Sacrament distributed by a priest. Visits will be limited to 15 minutes, and the number of visitors in the space will be limited to no more than 2 households. The Sunday service will be recorded from Holy Communion. Communion consecrated during the virtual service will then be distributed (Bread only) on Sunday and the following weekdays to folks on pilgrimage. Communion distribution will adhere to diocesan guidelines.

### **Specific Details for Pilgrimages:**

- Everyone entering the space will be required to wear a mask. (See mask requirements above for further requirements). Disposable masks will be available at the door.
- Everyone entering the space will be given a small card that will contain a list of suggested prayers and the standard flow of the pilgrimage.
- Seating will be properly spaced.
- Markers on the floor will mark the flow of the pilgrimage, and the proper way in or out of the space. Special provisions will be made for those requiring ADA accessibility.
- Each pew will be sanitized by the usher after each use. The usher will also greet those who enter and hand out the pilgrimage cards. The usher will also keep track of the number of people in the nave and the time that each person has spent in the nave. (The sexton may be asked to act as an usher, if a volunteer is unable to serve).
- When the organ is functional, the organist will pre-record a program of organ music, so that the organ will play for the two hours of the pilgrimage period.
- Each person on pilgrimage will be required to pre-register online or by phone. If space permits, a registration can be made on site.
- Only the nave will be accessible.
- The air conditioning system will be set to ventilate the space throughout the pilgrimage time periods, and for an hour afterward. No one is permitted in the undercroft space during pilgrimages.
- Home communion visits will be available in accordance to diocesan guidelines.
- All hymnbooks, BCPs and other liturgical handouts will be removed and stored in a separate room.
- Visitors will be allowed to leave a remembrance at the altar of a loved one, as we build our "Oferta" for All Souls day.