

Return to In Person Worship Guidelines St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Worship in Person - Reservations Required: Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first serve basis. The maximum capacity to worship in the church is 25 persons. Should more than 25 persons wish to worship on any given Sunday, we would invite the “over-flow” to worship in Getman Hall with the service being streamed on the screen in the Hall. Eucharistic Ministers would be stationed in the Hall. You will be able to reserve a place on our website - stpaulsexton.com - by clicking on the Register Now button.

- Families will be seated as a group and their spaces will be reserved through the use of masking tape. Individual spaces will be similarly indicated with masking tape. Kneelers on the pews will clearly mark where NOT to sit. Should we need to use Getman Hall, the chairs will be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart.
- Attendees must register for the Sunday service they wish to attend every week so that we may manage capacity and ensure the correct contact information is on hand. We ask you to stay home if you are unwell or have been in contact with someone exposed to COVID-19.
- **Cleaning:** All high traffic areas will be cleaned with sanitizer before and after each service.
- **Prior to the Service:** All side windows of the church will be opened 30 minutes before service is set to begin. (This is intended to promote ventilation and the fans will be set to high.) This will be adapted as weather conditions permit.
- **Entry to the Church and Getman Hall** will be marked clearly and **Ushers** will be assigned to each location. The ushers will be taking your **temperature**.
- **Face masks** are required on entering the building and must be worn during the service. Masks are available if a member has forgotten theirs. A table with **wipes and hand sanitizer** will be placed at both entrances. Name **Badges** will not be used.
- **Communion:** Many of our members have indicated that they will not be receiving communion until a vaccine is available while others feel that communion is essential to their worship experience. The Bishop has instructed us that if we choose to offer communion, it can be offered in only one kind – bread. Remember that it is always a personal decision if you wish to take it or not, but those members wishing to receive communion should move to the front of the Church (single person and spaced six feet apart) and pick up a piece of consecrated bread that has been placed on a table near the communion rail. The celebrant will have consecrated the bread wearing gloves and then placing the bread on a paten and then placing the bread on a table at the front of the church. If needed the consecrated bread will be carried over to Getman Hall. You will be guided by the ushers one side at a time, one row at a time. The floor will be marked to maintain social distancing.
- **Alms:** Alms basins will be placed at the front of the church so that parishioners may drop their gifts into the basins after receiving communion. This will be explained during the Announcements until people get accustomed to the flow. Additional alms basins will be placed at the back of the church for those who choose not to receive communion or need to leave early. You may always honor your pledge

or make additional contributions by going to the St. Paul's website and clicking on *Donations* – or mailing it in.

- **Passing the Peace:** We must not leave our pews or breach spacing protocols for this part of the service. Acceptable ways of Passing the Peace while staying in your pew: wave, a slight bow of the head or blowing a kiss to another parishioner should convey your caring in a responsible way.
- **Programs:** The Church Bulletin, with the complete service – readings, prayers as well as prayers of the people, Eucharistic prayers etc. - will be sent to every parishioner via email in the week prior to the service. You may print it and bring it with you or you may pick up a program copy at the either entrance. The programs will be clearly marked that they are for ONE TIME USE and recycling bins will be clearly marked at the exits. No re-use.
- **Singing/Music:** There will be no communal singing at this time. Music will be played live and recorded songs will be streamed over speaker system. Our Choir members will be providing solos, duets and trios from the choir loft while respecting the appropriate distance.

Please be patient – everyone is working hard at making this a meaningful worship experience while being as safe as we can be. Remember, you are the best person to decide if you are ready to worship in person in the church.