Pastoral Letter June 14, 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you that the government and Diocese are permitting in person worship this coming Sunday. We will all continue to be careful by wearing a mask and frequently washing our hands. The seating in the pews is designed to be 2m away from people who are not in your family. We will be seated in every other pew. We will gather on Sunday at 8:15 and 10:00 am. Our facility will be cleaned between services.

The following is my attempt to respond to the many questions that have been asked in regards to our worship together. Although I’m sure I have missed a few, I hope the following summary responds to most questions and concerns.

**Covid Protocols Summer 2021**

* Please wear a mask and wash your hands as often as possible.
* Children under 4 must remain with their families during the service. Activity packages are available at the back corner.
* We will not have formal processions at the beginning or end of services at this time.
* Congregational singing remains suspended.
* The presider will remain 12 ft away from the nearest congregant while presiding or preaching (not wearing a mask). The presider will wear a mask when administering communion.
* The lectern is 2m away from the congregation. The reader will not be wearing a mask.
* There is no offertory plate being passed at this time. There is an offertory box at the entrance.
* Each individual will have their own microphone. These will be sanitized between services.
* Greeters will guide people to their seats and will lead them forward for communion.
* There will be no gospel procession at this time.
* The crucifer will be 12 ft ahead of the officiants as they process.
* At the peace, please smile and/or bow in acknowledgement of the holy that is within us all.
* The priest will wash his/her hands several times during the liturgy in front of the congregation.
* The deacon will set the altar for communion.
* Communion: the entire congregation is welcome to receive bread at communion.
* There will be 2 communion stations at the front of the church. We will not use the altar rail.
* When receiving communion, receive the bread, move to the side, consume the bread, replace your mask and wash your hands.
* When receiving communion, the administrant will carefully place the wafer on outstretched hands without making contact. If accidental contact is made, the officiant will sanitize their hands before proceeding.
* Ablutions will be done after the service.

Please call the office to book your “seating” today. We are limited to 15% of our worship capacity, so please call the office today. You will be greeted at the door and provided with a mask if necessary. There will be hand washing stations carefully placed throughout the entire facility. You will be welcomed as you make your way to your seat. The entire service will be printed in a bulletin. We will enjoy some wonderful instrumental music. We will share the eucharist together. As promised, there will be an “Easter theme” since we missed celebrating Easter together in person. We will also celebrate Father’s Day.

Final thought; if you or someone you know requires a home visit, please let me know. I would be happy to do home communions and anointing for the sick in private home settings.

Look forward to seeing you Sunday.

Blessings

Stephen