



Episcopal Church of the Advent/St. John's Chapel

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COVID-19 Revised Protocols 2021

Effective immediately, people who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks on church property and at church events, including worship. People who are not fully vaccinated will need to wear a mask as well as maintain six feet of distance from other non-vaccinated people outside of their family. It will no longer be necessary to reserve space for services, as we can once again use the entire sanctuary. Visitors will be required to sign the guest book and provide contact information so we may notify them if anyone who attended a worship service tests positive for COVID-19.

At this time, the Bishop has not authorized use of the common communion cup, so I will continue to offer only communion bread. As before, the congregation will come forward from the side aisles, receive the host one at a time, and return to their pews by the center aisle; however, distancing is only required for unvaccinated people. After communion, people wishing prayers for healing may come forward to the altar rail to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. Please kneel or stand at the rail six feet apart from other people; if there is not space for you, wait until someone else has left and take their place at the rail.

The diocese is requiring that lectors/readers and choir members provide proof of vaccination if they wish to serve in those capacities during worship. You may show Kathe or Carol your card or email a photo of it to the office. Carol will be in touch with the choir about her plans as they are developed.

We will return to having coffee hour after the 10:30am Sunday service! As during worship, unvaccinated people will need to wear a mask except while eating and drinking; they also need to maintain six feet of distance from other non-vaccinated people outside of their family.

Online technology has greatly enhanced our ministry during the pandemic. The 10:30am Sunday service will continue to be live-streamed. All groups and committees may meet in person on church property following the same requirements for unvaccinated people to wear masks and maintain social distance. Groups are encouraged to provide a way for people to attend all meetings online should they prefer to do so.

We will offer an outdoor Vacation Bible School in August. In the fall, we expect to return to in-person indoor Sunday school and hold our Advent dinners.

As before, everyone should decide for themselves what makes participation comfortable for them. Of course any vaccinated person who wishes to is welcome to wear a mask and maintain distance. Please check with others whether they are comfortable shaking hands or receiving hugs in greeting or during the passing of the peace. A small, polite bow is always an appropriate hands-free greeting.