

# Christ Church Procedures for Outdoor Worship

*revised at the direction of the Rev. Canon Col. Carl Andrews*

## **Welcome!**

We are thrilled to be able to announce that Christ Church will begin offering in-person, outdoor worship on **September 13 at 10:00am!** The following procedures have been approved, with amendments, by the Rev. Canon Col. (U.S.A.F., ret.) Carl Andrews, from our Bishop's Office. All of these procedures and safety protocols are for your health and safety and the health and safety of our fellow Christ Church members and visitors. They are expressions of Christian love and care for one another. "Love does no harm to a neighbor." (Romans 13:10)

Members who attend in-person worship will be asked to agree to, and sign, a Community Covenant which has been approved by our Vestry and Canon Andrews. Links to the Covenant are found in the Belltower, or [here](#). You can download your Covenant form, print and sign it, and bring it to worship. Those without email will be sent covenant forms, along with this letter, via U.S. Mail. If you forget your Covenant form, forms will be available at the Check Point. There will be a box at the Check Point in which to place your signed form.

## **Reservations and Capacity**

Reservations for worship will be required ahead of time. A sign-up sheet is linked in the Belltower, or you can find it [here](#). (Just **click on the "Edit" button** before entering your information; your entries will be saved automatically.) If you do not have internet access, or are having a difficult time signing up online, please call Fr. Mark at 719-557-9086. Safety Team members Mike Smith and Jody Kellough measured the space and determined that, with proper distancing, there is room on the west lawn of the church property for 20-25 worshipers, depending on how many family groups there are. Additional worshipers may be parked diagonally along the corner of Harrison and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, with vehicles at least 6 feet apart (this is a stipulation of Canon Andrews) and their windows down.<sup>1</sup> Please understand that it is possible that you may sign up or call for a reservation and there may be no more spots available. If there are significantly more members wanting to worship in-person than we have available spots on our west lawn, our Vestry will consider whether to hold an extra worship service, or possibly find a larger venue for future Sundays.

## **Masks and Social Distancing Required**

It goes without saying that Christians, out of love for our neighbor, do not want to unknowingly transmit the coronavirus to another person. Researchers continue to find that 40% of the transmissions of this virus are by people who have no symptoms and don't know they have the virus. Wearing masks and social distancing are extremely simple and highly effective methods of keeping this virus from spreading. Therefore, we are requiring every worshiper to properly wear a mask and observe the minimum 6-foot social distancing (we should all be used to this by now...). If you forget your mask, disposable masks will be available for you; please take them home with you after the service. If any worshiper refuses to properly wear a mask or properly observe the 6-foot social distancing, worship will be ended immediately.

## **Arriving at the West Lawn**

Worshippers are asked to arrive 20 minutes before the start of the service. If you desire to stay in your car during worship (with windows rolled down to hear), and have indicated this desire when you signed up for worship, you may park diagonally on either 8<sup>th</sup> Street or Harrison, where you can view the worship. Please park at a 6-foot distance from the neighboring car. *If you are not planning on staying in your car during worship, please park somewhere else, so that the parking places bordering the west lawn are available for those who wish to worship from their vehicle.* Please put on your mask (required, no exceptions)<sup>2</sup> before exiting your vehicle. First go to the Check Point (Safety Team members will help direct you), where your name will be recorded (for possible future contact tracing), your temperature taken, and a few questions asked (similar to what most of us have experienced recently with visits to a doctor or a dentist). If there are others waiting at the Check Point, please observe 6-foot distancing while waiting.

## **Seating**

We are asking that you bring a sun hat, your own water bottle (if you wish), and your own chair (or blanket for the ground). If it is not possible for you to bring a chair, then when you register for worship, please request that a chair from the parish hall be supplied for you. When you sign up for worship, you can indicate whether you need a chair from the Parish Hall.

Properly-distanced seating areas will be marked on the ground, and you (and your family group) will be asked to remain in your area from the time of your entry into the worship space until the time you leave.

As mentioned above, it will be possible for a few people to park diagonally within view of the west lawn, and remain in their car (cars parked 6 feet apart) with their windows open. When you register, please make it known that you desire to remain in your car during worship.

## **Worship**

### *Morning Prayer*

Our service of worship on September 13 will be Morning Prayer. (Authorization for Holy Eucharist, beginning September 13, and directives for how it is to be safely conducted was only announced by the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Liturgy and Music on September 1, after we had already made plans for Morning Prayer on September 13. Our Vestry will be discussing how we might implement the Bishop's Advisory Committee's directives for celebrating Holy Eucharist, and we will notify our Christ Church members as soon as we have our plans established.)

### *Order of Worship*

Canon Andrews specified that we should avoid people handing things to other people (he specifically mentioned paper bulletins). Therefore, your options, should you want to follow the order of service, are: 1) Download the bulletin which Becky will make available in PDF form online (I'll post a link in the Belltower). You can then keep it on your smart device and bring it to worship, or print it out and bring it to worship (and then take it home with you to recycle or dispose of). 2) Bring your *Book of Common Prayer* (if you own one), and follow the service from the *Prayer Book*. If you don't own a *Book of Common Prayer*, we will loan you one, for the duration of the pandemic, which you can take home with you and bring to worship each Sunday. (If we loan you a Prayer Book, *please take it home*; don't leave it. Disinfecting them is difficult!) 3) You can just worship God without the bulletin!

### *Singing and Responses*

You have probably read about how this coronavirus spreads: a carrier (and 40% of transmitters of the virus are asymptomatic) can spread the virus in the

air simply by breathing. Talking spreads more of the virus, and spreads it further. Singing can spread the virus as much as shouting or sneezing: up to almost 30 feet. Therefore, *we will not have congregational singing*. Also, verbal responses (“and also with you,” the Lord’s Prayer, the Confession, etc.) in the liturgy are discouraged (you may whisper quietly or, better yet, mouth the words). The Officiant will speak on behalf of all. A soloist will sing the hymns from a safe distance, and we are hoping the electronic keyboard in our Chapel can be hooked up to our portable speakers.

### *Offering*

We will use a wooden box with a slot on the top, placed at the Check Point, into which you can place your offering before the beginning of worship.

### *Passing the Peace*

The exchange of Peace will be done at the end of the service, as a dismissal. Please stay in your space and wave or bow to fellow worshipers; do not speak or move out of your space until you go to your car (maintaining a 6-foot distance at all times).

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms will be closed, except in an emergency. In an emergency, please enter the Parish Hall door (or if you need to use the ramp, you may enter the front door) and use the upstairs handicapped restroom only. When you have finished, please use the sanitizing wipes provided in the restroom to clean the surfaces, including the door handle. If, for some reason, there is a line waiting for the restroom, please observe 6-foot social distancing.

Yours in Christ’s love and service,

Mark Meyer, Rector

Bryan Fredrickson, Sr. Warden

Sheila Banker, Cyril Armstrong, Mike Smith, Dhiana Clarice, and Jody Kellough,  
Vestry Members