

It is with great anticipation that we look towards our first Sunday service back in the building on the Feast of All Saints, Sunday, November 1st, at which we will celebrate the Eucharist and remember those saints who have gone before us. It is also in gathering Sunday for pledges

Probably none of us expected back in March that we would be away from the sanctuary for so long – nor, indeed, that we would find ways of meeting online and outdoors that would provide continuity in worship for many and also reach new people. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible.

There are many churches that are unwilling to risk indoor worship yet. Even with precautions, the risks are real, and affect some people more than others. We understand that there are some people who will not return indoors, and others who have not and will not tune in for online worship. In order to include everyone as best we can, we have decided, for the time being to do the following:

First, we will have services in the building twice a month: a Eucharist the first Sunday of the month, and a lay-led Morning Prayer the third Sunday. One reason for the lay-led service is that Diocesan rules now require that a part-time priest cannot lead worship or preach more than three Sundays per month, so whether online or in person, Mary would not be leading one service per month. This is a wonderful opportunity for more lay members to be involved. These services will also be available to view online on our Facebook page.

Second, we will continue regular online worship on alternate Sundays in partnership with St. John's North Haven, with whom we have now had several joint services. Our two choirs will collaborate and Ekklesia and the praise band will make a monthly appearance. These will be much like the services we have had over the summer. They will be available at 9:30 on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. (And 5th if there is one.) These services will always be followed by a zoom coffee hour.

Third, at 9am each Sunday, before each service, Peter van Siclen will lead Musical Sunday School for all ages. For the in-person Sundays, these will involve making music with instruments. For online Sundays, Peter will lead us in singing.

Hopefully, this will allow everyone who can either come to church or use the internet to take part in our weekly worship in the fashion they deem best. We will of course be vigilant in watching health trends, and ready to change our plans quickly if the crisis rapidly deepens over the winter.

We look forward to seeing those who can attend in person on All Saints, and everyone who can join our online services on a regular basis.

Steven Horst, Warden