

Covenant Acts of Reconvening Saint David's Parish Life in Time of Pandemic

A pastoral note from the Rector

Throughout the Hebrew Scriptures we hear God tell the Israelites, "You shall be my people and I will be your God. There are other ways God articulated this promise: "I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God." *Exodus 29:45.* "And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people." *Leviticus 26:12* "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people." *Jeremiah 31:33.* As the Divine dwells among us, promising to be for and with us, we too have promises to keep in the spirit of stewarding the relationship we have with God. While these are laid out in the Hebrew Scriptures beginning with the Ten Commandments, they are encapsulated in Jesus's reply to the authorities: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." *Matthew 21:36-40* In short: Love God. Love People.

Our Baptismal Covenant points us to the means through which God calls us to follow these two laws so that we may thrive in community with one another. The Baptismal Covenant is an embodiment of the Kingdom of Heaven, lives lived out together in both individual and corporate intentionality and concern for the health of the Body of Christ. It is the "rule of life" we follow so that we may be good stewards of the grace and new, best story about ourselves that God gifts to us in Christ's resurrection. Covenant is how we live for and with God and each other.

In this spirit of "covenant," therefore, I commend to you the following acts for the healthful reclaiming of our life together as we reconvene in person for worship, formation, service, fellowship and sharing the Good News of God's lavish love. Please know that the following "Covenant Acts" were arrived at through myriad conversations with our Vestry, Wardens, Bishop, Canon to the Ordinary and other clergy and senior wardens of the Diocese of Tennessee. Additionally, many other documents were consulted, which can be accessed in the Sources section of this letter. The survey that 115 persons answered was also of immeasurable assistance to this challenging discernment. Undoubtedly, you will find that other parishes are offering different covenant acts to their congregations, however, I believe the details of our guidelines and requirements best serve Saint David's. I encourage you to seek me out if you have questions regarding these Covenant Acts.

I hope that you will allow the changes to our life together to foster gratitude and joy. A time of pandemic can give rise to misdirected emotions because of changes and constraints to otherwise routine living. Let us be tender with one another as well as welcoming and intentional about one another's health and wellbeing. Let us be good stewards of the corporate good physical, mental and spiritual health we enjoy at Saint David's and model it for other communities. Let us love one another as the Divine adores us.

With much hope and great peace,

Carolyn+

TIMELINE FOR GATHERING IN PERSON AT SAINT DAVID'S

Now

- Sunday 10:30am Service of Ante Communion live streamed on YouTube and Facebook
 - Only 10 persons or fewer in attendance in the Nave: Celebrant, Deacon, Lector(s), Organist, Singers and Tech Support.
 - Service will have service music and hymns.
 - Service will not celebrate Eucharist.
 - Childcare will not be available.
- Groups of 10 or fewer may gather in Sanders Hall or the parking lot.
 - Each person must wear a mask and follow physical distancing guidelines and common sense.
 - They must follow the cleaning and disinfecting protocol provided for Sanders Hall and upstairs bathrooms.
- Individuals may come to work at the church for the Junior Warden's Guild worklist.
 - They should be mindful of physical distancing best practices.

Beginning June 14 (if Davidson County COVID-19 confirmed cases have remained steady or decreased)

- Sunday 8am (in person, outside) Service of Holy Eucharist without music.
 - We will meet in the circle drive, weather permitting.
 - If we need to cancel because of rain, the Parish Office will send out an eblast by 6am Sunday morning.
 - 30 persons, including the altar servers, staff and clergy, may attend.
 - Please note that this number includes 5 spaces for newcomers and visitors who may visit with us without having pre-registered. In other words, no more than 30 persons may be in the circle drive for this service.
 - Bring a lawn chair and face mask. You may also wish to consider a hat, sunscreen and/or sunglasses.
 - The Sanders Halls bathrooms will be available.
 - Childcare will not be available.
- Sunday 10:30am Service of Ante Communion live streamed on YouTube and Facebook
 - Only 10 persons or fewer in attendance in the Nave: Celebrant, Deacon, Lector(s), Organist, Singers and Tech Support.
 - Service will have service music and hymns.
 - Service will not celebrate Eucharist.
 - Childcare will not be available.
- Wednesdays at 12pm Service of Holy Eucharist for Elders Only (60+ years of age)
 - 30 persons, including the altar servers, staff and clergy, may attend.
 - Please note that this number includes 5 spaces for newcomers and visitors who may visit with us without having pre-registered. In other words, no more than 30 persons may be in the nave for this service.
 - You must use a reservation system to attend this service.

- To reserve for the following Wednesday,
 - You may call the Parish Office prior to 4pm on the Tuesday prior,
 - Or you may reserve on SignUp Genius prior to Wednesday at 12am.
- We will be taking attendance so that we can keep track of who is present and who has not had an opportunity to come because they have not had the opportunity to make a reservation in time.

Back to "Normal"?

When we will be back to in person services with both larger parishioner numbers *and* congregational singing? As of this writing, that is unknown. However, we will proceed with equal parts hope and caution.

Covenant Acts of Community Stewardship in Worship and Group Meetings

Assumptions

- Because of this pandemic and the fact that there is not yet a vaccine widely available and successful, we assume that in person gatherings at Saint David's will not be "back to normal," like they were prior to March 15, 2020 when we began live streaming our services. We understand that we do not know when the time will come for us to enjoy a more relaxed experience of community and liturgy at Saint David's.
- Because persons infected with COVID-19 can be asymptomatic for up to 14 days after exposure, and because some persons infected with COVID-19 will never present with symptoms or fall ill, we must assume that the COVID-19 virus is present at Saint David's wherever persons gather.
- Because we know from scientific research that the COVID-19 virus survives on a variety of surfaces, we assume that we need not only to clean, but to disinfect after each gathering, no matter the size. To allow for careful and thorough cleaning and disinfecting, there will be *only one* service of Holy Eucharist held indoors for the foreseeable future.
- Because we respect the independence and dignity of all persons, especially the elders among us, we must assume that those persons who choose to attend in person gatherings or principle Sunday worship will abide by the following protocols to safeguard everyone's health and as an act of community stewardship.
- We assume that Saint David's will embody the same warmth and hospitality as we did prior to March 2020 when we had to suspend in person gatherings. Let us use common sense, good stewardship of one another's health and the peace of our community to carry us through the shifts of our common practices for a time. Let us rejoice in sharing space and time with our Creator and Redeemer.
- If you are unable to attend services in person, we hope and assume you will join us for our live streamed service via YouTube or Facebook, which shall continue as a regular part of our worship and community life.
- All must understand that Saint David's cannot guarantee your safe avoidance of contracting COVID-19 here or at any gathering of the community. We can only follow guidelines that the science makes known to us and do our best to prevent infection. You must ultimately make the choice to attend or to continue sheltering at home.

Covenant Acts for Attending Services In Person

- Come to services in person in good health, feeling well and exhibiting no upper respiratory symptoms related to cold, flu or COVID-19 or other illnesses of these kinds.
 - If you experience any symptoms, please refrain from going out in public, especially Saint David's, for 14 days if you have experienced such symptoms.
- Enter the building through the Sanders Hall entrance.
- Wear face masks. Wear nitrile gloves if you wish.
- Wash hands with soap and water and/or sanitize hands upon entering the building.

- Always observe a physical distance from others of at least six or more feet.
- Greet one another with air hugs, air handshakes and the Victory sign –  – at the passing of the Peace.
- Please find a seat that has been marked off.
- The Celebrant will distribute the elements to each person.
- Receive Communion in one or both kinds,
 - You may also choose to simply stand in front of the chalice and hear the words, “The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.”
 - Take care to place the compostable plastic cups in the baskets provided.
- All bathrooms are accessible and available unless otherwise noted.
 - Use elbows and/or shoulders when possible for opening and closing doors.
 - Please use the bathroom cleaning supplies that are available.
- Wash hands with soap and water and/or sanitize hands upon exiting the building.
- Observe physical distances of at least six feet when engaging others inside the church as well as in the parking lot or other areas of our campus.

Covenant Acts for Gathering in Groups of 10 or fewer

- Come to gatherings in good health, feeling well and exhibiting no upper respiratory symptoms related to cold, flu or COVID-19 or other illnesses of these kinds.
- Enter the building through the Sanders Hall entrance.
- Wear face masks. Wear nitrile gloves if you wish.
- Wash hands with soap and water and/or sanitize hands upon entering the building.
- Observe a physical distance from others of at least six or more feet at all times.
- Greet one another with air hugs, air handshakes.
- Please remain in your assigned area(s) only.
- All bathrooms are accessible and available unless otherwise noted.
 - Use elbows and/or shoulders when possible for opening and closing doors.
 - Please use the bathroom cleaning supplies that are available.
- Following the gathering, please complete the steps of the disinfecting protocol.
- If you plan to use the kitchen, please inform the Parish Office. There is another layer to the disinfecting protocol involved.
- Wash hands with soap and water and/or sanitize hands upon exiting the building.
- Observe physical distances of at least six feet when engaging others in the parking lot or other areas of our campus.

Covenant Acts for Gathering in Groups of 30 or fewer outside

- Come to gatherings in good health, feeling well and exhibiting no upper respiratory symptoms related to cold, flu or COVID-19 or other illnesses of these kinds.
- Wear face masks. Wear nitrile gloves if you wish.
- Observe physical distances of at least six feet when engaging others in the parking lot or other areas of our campus.
- Individuals/family groups bring their own chairs, drinks and food.
 - Bring a bag for recycling and trash and plan to clean up after yourselves upon leaving.

- Be mindful that while Saint David's is private property, neighbors often walk the trails and property. If alcohol is present, please consume responsibly and respectfully. You are representing our community!
- Greet one another with air hugs, air handshakes.
- If arranged in advance, the bathrooms near Sanders Hall will be available.
 - Confine movement inside the building to just the bathrooms, however.
- Following the gathering, please complete the steps of the disinfecting protocol for the bathrooms, entrance doors, etc.
- Wash hands with soap and water and/or sanitize hands upon exiting the building.

DISINFECTING PROTOCOL COVENANT*

Before cleaning and disinfecting

- Put on nitrile gloves and face masks for cleaning and disinfecting, which are provided in the Cleaning Station in Sanders Hall.
- The CDC highly recommends using protective clothing, but an apron will suffice. They will also be available at the Cleaning Station.

Cleaning and disinfecting

- Clean surfaces of tables, chairs and other surfaces with a clean kitchen towel or paper towels and Simple Green or a soap and hot water solution.
 - Put dirty towels in the bucket provided at the Cleaning Station in Sanders Hall.
 - Take home, launder in the hottest water appropriate, and then return at your earliest convenience.
 - Clean out bucket, if used, and return to the cleaning station.
- Disinfect surfaces of tables, chairs and other surfaces with the provided CDC approved disinfectant at the Cleaning Station or one of the following products or an alcohol or bleach solution found below.
 - Fantastik
 - Clorox
 - Softscrub with Bleach
 - The Works
 - Scrubbing Bubbles
 - Bleach solution: 4 tsp. bleach in 1 quart water or $\frac{1}{3}$ C bleach in 1 gallon water
 - Alcohol solution: 60% at least 70% alcohol + 30% water + 15 drops Immunity/Germ Fighter essential oils, which contains Clove, Lemon, Cinnamon Bark, Eucalyptus, and Rosemary essential oils.
 - If using the above two solutions, do not wipe off the solution. Let it dry.
- Practice routine cleaning and disinfecting of high touch areas, such as door handles, light switches, toilet flush handles, faucets, etc.
- Vacuum if needed.

Laundering Kitchen/Cleaning Towels and Albs

- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty linens.
- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Do not shake dirty laundry.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
- Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.
- Altar servers must take home the alb they wear, launder, and return it in a timely manner so that the next server may use it.

Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning, *but do not require disinfection*.
 - Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds- it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
 - High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) *is not recommended*.
- Sidewalks, railings, parking lots or roads should not be disinfected.
 - Spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.

Common sense actions to do when gathering in person at Saint David's

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
 - Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a person who is sick.
 - Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- Additional key times to wash hands include:
 - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - After using the restroom.
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - After contact with animals or pets.
 - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child).

**This protocol is adapted from the CDC's article, "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility." See "Sources" at the end of this document for the original words.*

SOURCES

“Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility,” Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.

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