

Your Church Heading here

Dear **salutation**,

There is no question that these past few weeks have been challenging. The threat of COVID-19 to public health has turned upside down our norms for daily living, not to mention that it has completely transformed the way we gather as a community of faith. Challenging times require ingenuity and change. While we may grieve for what we have lost, we can also celebrate our successes in learning how to adapt to interruption and disruption - not the least of these is gathering for worship, prayer and sustaining our community life online.

Though physically distanced, our love and care for one another and our neighbor have not diminished. Love of God and love for neighbor must continue as we plan for re-entering our church building. *On Begin Faithful*, our diocesan guide for re-entry and re-gathering, provides the roadmap for our planning (we refer you to the executive summary of this document posted on our website).

Our plan for re-gathering will require careful preparation, thoughtful due diligence, wisdom, courage, and patience. To this end, we have created a re-entry team to think through every detail to make the re-gathering in our church building as safe and reverent as possible. Our plans will be submitted to the Bishop's Office for review and approval. Once approved, we will share this plan with you so you can anticipate what will be required for safe re-entry into our building(s).

Together, we must demonstrate a deep sense of mutual responsibility and accountability to each other for our safety and well-being. Promoting safety is our commitment to care for one another and a sacred trust. Coming together as a community will look and feel different, there is no doubt. Please allow your love for your neighbor and this community to transcend any discomfort safe practices may cause you, i.e., wearing a mask, foregoing handshakes or hugs, sanitizing, etc.

These new ways of being together will feel counter-intuitive, yet they are courageous practices that affirm our mutual responsibility and love for one another. Please read *On Being Faithful*. And please be prepared to re-gather in ways we previously could not have envisioned, but which will become new ways of being in community. There really is no going back, but there certainly is renewal, health and vitality in going forward.

Yours in Christ,

Rector/Priest-in-Charge and Vestry