



Honoring the past. Nurturing the future.

Trinity Episcopal Church

2301 Hoyt Avenue, Everett, WA 98201; (425) 252-4129; www.trinityeverett.org

July 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

One of my great hopes by waiting for in-person worship was to give enough time for ALL our people to be vaccinated. For example, the CDC is still in clinical trials for vaccinations for children under 12, who won't broadly be eligible for vaccination until later in the fall or towards the end of this year. The vaccine clinical trials for young children (including toddlers) are still underway. I feel very strongly that we have a responsibility to protect those who have not yet been able to receive vaccination. The science is clear that vaccinated people can still get COVID-19 and can spread COVID-19. The Delta variant of the virus is highly communicable. Therefore, I believe that those of us who are vaccinated have a responsibility to protect those of our members who are not yet vaccinated when we gather.

Though COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the State of Washington as of June 30th, it is my plan and decision to maintain certain protocols at Trinity until such time as our youngest members have the opportunity for vaccination. These protocols apply to all church group meetings which are permitted to resume beginning July 1, 2021, and meetings by contracted outside public groups (such as AA) whose meetings are permitted to resume after August 1. **All groups MUST** contact the church office to schedule on-site meetings at least three business days in advance.

The protocols that Trinity will maintain **beginning July 1, 2021 include:**

- **ALL INDIVIDUALS** who are 12 years and older who enter the Trinity facility or want to meet on the Trinity campus **MUST BE VACCINATED**. Our church members and visitors only need to provide proof of vaccination once so we have it on file, whereas community groups and those who attend public events at Trinity are responsible to screen their own leadership and guests. Those seeking exemption from vaccination for medical reasons must contact the Church Office before visiting the church.
- **MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP** require that those meeting or assembling on this campus for purposes OTHER THAN WORSHIP, being fully vaccinated, may choose whether or not they want to wear a mask. Health screening questions will be asked by those appointed to do so, but individuals will no longer be required to sign the contact tracing form.
- **DURING WORSHIP SERVICES**, all those in attendance for in-person worship, being fully vaccinated or between the ages of 11 to 6 years, will be required to wear masks. Children 5 years of age or younger are not required to wear masks. Cantor's, soloists, readers, speakers, and instrumentalists playing wind instruments may remove their mask(s) while singing/talking/performing. However, the assembled choir, the liturgical teams, and those in the pews may sing behind their masks. Communion will be provided in bread (wafer) form only. There will be no common cup.
- **MUSIC PROGRAM** Trinity's Music Director David Spring is developing protocols for in-person choir rehearsals and performances – this will be a gradual ramping up which will depend in great part on the comfortability and readiness of each individual choir member.

- **COFFEE HOURS** can be held in the parish hall. However, all food handlers and servers **MUST** be masked and gloved while serving/handling food/beverages.
- **TRINITY NURSERY** will be available from August 1 onwards – the nursery attendant, Mary Willits, will be masked and will maintain a clean environment, cleaning toys after each session, as is customary.
- **GODLY PLAY** and **SUNDAY SCHOOL** availability will be dependent on our Education Team and the calendar they establish, to be determined.

Trinity's sanctuary, parish hall, and downstairs commons area are of such a size that there will be no restriction on the number of attendees for worship or meetings in those areas. For the time being, the Guild Room and Narthex each will be limited to small group meetings of 12 or fewer individuals.

There is one overall caution for all of us during this time of reopening (until our youngest children have the opportunity for vaccination). ***Please do not come to church if you feel ill*** - even if you think that what you have is a cold. Just don't do it. Trinity's staff and I will hold ourselves to this standard as well.

On Sunday, July 25: Trinity will livestream a Rite I Morning Prayer service at 8:00 AM. Then, at 11:00 AM, Trinity will hold our first in-person worship outdoors at the pavilion picnic area in Legion Park in Everett. All are welcome to attend the Legion Park open-air communion service. Masks are welcome but not required for this event. Participants are invited to bring a personal or family picnic to enjoy in fellowship at the park following the service. Attendees should plan to bring lawn chairs/blankets to sit on during the service. Please contact the Church Office if we can help you borrow a lawn chair. We will not have seen each other in sixteen months, so I hope that you will join us for this very special Welcome Back Service & Picnic!

On Sunday, August 1: Trinity will begin gathering in person in the church sanctuary for services. We will resume an 8:00 AM Rite I Eucharist Service and a 10:00 AM Rite II Communion Service. Both worship services will continue to be livestreamed for participants at home. You are strongly encouraged to find time during the month of July to provide proof of vaccination to the Church Office before August 1 or remember to bring it with you on your first visit.

To summarize, if all the details that I have provided above seems like a lot to keep straight, the three basic take aways from this letter are: 1) To attend worship in person, be vaccinated and wear a mask; 2) To meet on campus for any other purpose, be vaccinated, decide in your group if you want to wear masks or not, and schedule your meeting with the office; and 3) don't attend if you're not feeling well.

I am doing everything that I can to assure a safe transition in which every member feels confident and cared for as we venture back into in-person gathering, and I believe that each of you share the same call of our faith, to care for one another. I am grateful for your faithfulness and friendship, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Rachel+

The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, Rector