

And so with the Vestry's enthusiastic concurrence with the Bishop's guidance, we have prayerfully discerned that it is time we can gather outdoors for worship for those who are ready and feel safe to participate. **Weather permitting, we will do this on Sunday, March 7 at an outdoor in-person service at 11:15 a.m. on the south lawn of the Historic Church where we worshipped together outdoors in the fall.** The service of Spiritual Communion will also be offered through our on-line service which will be released this Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Let me say, however, that if you are present at the outdoor service and do not feel you are ready to receive Communion because of the pandemic, you may make your Spiritual Communion instead.

I recall these words especially from the Rite One Eucharistic Prayer: **And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord,** *our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee...that we may be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.* And I want to say, "Yes!"

Here is what to expect at the Outdoor Service:

- All must make a reservation through the SignUp Genius sent via Realm e-mail
- Masks and six feet of physical distancing are a must.
- Sign in with the Ushers when you arrive.
- Bring your own lawn chairs and households sit within the marked squares. Kindly allow folks who can't easily bring a lawn chair to sit on the benches on the lawn.
- As much as we love to exchange the Peace, we must keep our distance and only bow and perhaps wave or offer the "peace sign."
- There will be music, but we cannot sing as a congregation yet.
- The Bishop's guidelines specify that the Altar Guild will prepare the wafers for Communion after properly sanitizing their hands and wearing masks and gloves and that they will be offered in disposable wax paper sleeves (as we did for Christmas).
- The clergy will sanitize their hands immediately prior to the prayer of consecration and keep their masks on during the prayer.
- Our hands will be again sanitized as we prepare to offer Communion in stations in the church yard.
- It will be critical to follow the ushers' instructions in moving towards the Communion station, keeping six feet apart between family groups or individuals.
- Masks will be worn to receive.
- You will offer your cupped hands without touching the priest's hands nor the priest touching your hands. Should an accidental touch happen, then the priest will immediately sanitize their hands.
- Once you have received your blessed wafer of bread, please step aside, pull your mask up and consume the bread. Replace your mask and then return to your seat block.

Also, if you are joining us Sunday, dress warmly! We will celebrate and claim, whether we do so Spiritually or Sacramentally, that we are indeed one in Christ Jesus, and that God gives us life and sends us into the world in love and service. Thanks be to God!

Pax,

Andy+