

I am happy to say the beginning on **Tuesday, August 11** (as you have read elsewhere in the E-News) we will offer **Facebook Live Evening Prayer at 6:00 p.m. also LIVE and IN PERSON** (for those who wish to gather) **on the Historic Church grounds** outside of the double south church yard doors on Fairfax. Bring your own chair and *Book of Common Prayer* for this 20-25 minute prayer service! Of course, masks are mandatory as are 6-foot social distancing requirements. But, we take a few more steps.

You might have also noticed that we are recording more and more of the Sunday services within the church. Soon, we will begin recording all of the Sunday service in the sacred space with celebrant, preacher, reader, intercessor, organist and a soloist. This will be a prelude to taking even a few more steps to having the Sunday morning service live-streamed actually on Sunday morning (and also recorded for later viewing). Eventually, we will take more and more steps, with the next ones coming possibly in September with an outdoor Sunday morning Service (again with recorded versions available). Eventually, we will be able to gather with about 50 or so worshippers at a time inside together, but still following the precautions we need to make to keep everyone safe.

I know you are missing your connection to each other in gathering to worship together. Our sharing God's presence among us builds our connections to the body of Christ, the church. But we are like my grandson and needing to take steps gradually before we have full reign of the house. Our initial gathering will seem like the gestures we will be taking to keep Jack safe by putting up baby gates and "locks" on cabinet doors. But eventually Jack will walk around uninhibited. And we will eventually be back together uninhibited. We keep in mind it is a gradual growth process the pandemic has placed before us.

Like Jack's learning to walk, it takes our support and love for each other as we pray and remain patient and do all we can to keep safety in mind. We will eventually get there. In the meantime, come together as you can with us on-line and in our initial small outdoor worship. Connect by supporting our outreach ministries like feeding others or standing for Racial Justice every other Friday on Broad Street. Join a Foyer Group or one of our other gatherings on-line. And pray, be patient and supportive as we move towards walking. I long for the days when we can live into what the prophet Isaiah wrote in 40:31: *...but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

Pax, Andy+