

[View as Webpage](#)

COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Public Health Task Force met this week to consider our diocesan Covid requirements as the Omicron numbers are improving. Although California is still encouraging masking, masks are no longer required by the state for indoor worship. Accordingly, beginning this week, we will allow congregations to make the decisions that are appropriate for their local contexts, with the following notes:

- Masks are still required for unvaccinated people. Although we do not ask churches to check vaccination status, the state of California asks each unvaccinated person to take responsibility for protecting their neighbors and wear a high-quality N95 or similar mask.
- People who have other high-risk factors should also wear a mask.
- Congregations should consider the size of their worship space and how crowded it is likely to be in deciding whether to lift their mask mandate. You may also want to require masks at particular events that are likely to be especially crowded, even if you don't require them for other worship services.
- We ask everyone to be thoughtful and respectful of the people around them. If you are sitting close to a person who may be at high risk, please do put on a mask, especially when singing.
- Please follow local guidance. If your county or city has stronger mask requirements than our diocesan ones, please follow them.
- We still have not restored sipping from the common cup. However, it is acceptable for the priest or deacon to intinct all wafers in the wine and place them in people's hands.
- Congregations are free to make decisions on hospitality and other matters that are appropriate for their contexts.

As always, we urge everyone to be vaccinated and boosted to protect their own health and that of others and to protect healthcare workers who have labored with care and compassion throughout this pandemic. We offer our thanks to healthcare workers – please check out this video for a diocesan thank-you card, and feel free to share it with others!



Thank you once more for your faithfulness throughout this time. I give thanks to God for your care and compassion for our neighbors.

In Christ,

Bishop Susan Brown Snook



[Join the Diocesan News](#)

