

Dear Ones,

Many of you heard in the announcements after our online worship last Sunday that we will be moving ahead over the next few weeks with an increasing and more regular pattern of in-person worship – both outdoors and indoors. As we do this, we will also continue our Sunday morning online worship offering on Zoom.

So how will this look over the next month or so?

Outdoor In-Person Worship

We will have outdoor in-person worship offering in English on Sundays May 2 and 16. We imagine that these will continue to take place at 3 pm, Creekside, and with the sharing of communion in the manner in which we shared communion on Easter (bread only and pre-consecrated).

Outdoor in-person worship in Spanish was offered last Sunday and will also be offered on Sunday, May 9 at 5 pm.

Then on **May 23 – The Feast of Pentecost – we will have an afternoon outdoor, in-person, bilingual worship offering for the whole St. Bede's community** as we have done for many Pentecosts past. Please look for more details on the time of that worship offering. It will take place sometime in the afternoon.

During these outdoor worship offerings, we will continue to follow all of the diocesan protocols for outdoor worship. Registration will be required in order to attend.

Indoor In-Person Worship

Beginning on Sunday, May 30 – Trinity Sunday – our plan is to begin offering in-person, indoor Sunday morning worship at 9 am, followed by online worship which we imagine will move to 10:30. These worship offerings will be followed by Zoom fellowship with breakout rooms at 11:30 and we hope that folks will want to join us for that Zoom fellowship whether you have worshipped in-person or online. We will try that pattern for a season and adjust as we move forward. Registration to attend in-person indoor worship will be required as well.

There will be more details forthcoming about what to expect from the first steps back into indoor in-person worship – as it will likely feel different for us all.

What we can look forward to as we begin to worship God in-person again are the gifts of being able to be together in person and in sharing in communion on a regular basis again. There will be some things that we will want to be able to do at first that we will not immediately be able to do, but we can look forward to adding those things back in over the months ahead as conditions allow.

I hope that you can join with me in celebrating these new opportunities as they present themselves. **Online worship on Zoom will continue for those for whom this is the best option at this time.** As we move further down the road, we will discern how we may maintain a hybrid environment as we return more fully to in-person indoor worship while not closing the door to online access for those to whom this connection has grown important.

I want to thank the Gathering Going Forward Group and the Vestry for their ongoing guidance over the past fourteen months – and I particularly wish to thank Jeff Swoope and Muriel Diguette who have been shepherding our Gathering Going Forward work. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers as there will be more work and discernment to be done in the weeks and months ahead as well.

As I also said on Sunday, I am taking a little Sabbath break from Thursday, April 29 through Tuesday, May 4, so if you have questions about any of this, please know that I will be happy to respond when I am working again on Wednesday, May 5. In the meantime, please be in touch with Muriel Diguette about any church matters.

I love you all. Keep loving on each other. God is good – and hope and grace abound.

Peace,
Chad