

Cathedral Liturgy Post-lockdown: Trends and Questions

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Context for Grace Cathedral

- 2018: began testing livestreaming and developed a roadmap for implementation
- Jan 2020: basic infrastructure completed
- Generally rigorous with COVID protocol
- Sanctuary is central to our identity
 - The worshipping community
 - site for pilgrimage, tourism, civic conversation, and culture
- Strong in-person work culture
 - often translated to Board, committee and volunteer culture
- Pastoral staff
 - 2020: Dean + 6 full-time clergy
 - 2024: Dean + 3 full-time clergy

Daily Prayer

Service	Pre-COVID	Current Practice
Daily Office – Morning Prayer	• Daily • 8-10 people, side chapel • formation of clergy and lay church staff • necessitated opening the building	• Daily • 15-25 people, online • sparse clergy involvement • includes weekly organ meditations • pastoral touch point • building is now opened to begin site-seeing hours
Daily Office – Evening Prayer	• Daily • 5 people, side chapel	• Weekly, preceding yoga • hybrid Zoom/in-person • slightly larger congregation
Midday Eucharist	• Daily • ~5 people, side chapel • Led by diocesan chaplains and staff clergy • Spare custom • Diocesan chaplains stayed in the cathedral to greet and counsel visitors • Formed clergy community	• Weekly • ~19 people, in-person • Led by staff clergy, unevenly • lightly richer liturgical custom and preaching expectations • 1x month includes Seniors with Grace • Forms lay volunteers

Funerals

- Pre-COVID, holding a funeral, or Requiem, was counter-cultural.
 - Cultural norm: celebrations of life, or less formal closure
 - Still, pre-COVID, funerals regular in worship life and building use
- COVID taught us to delay grieving, and sometimes to suppress or minimize it.
- Funerals are now harder to predict and manage.
 - Some are envisioned like weddings – wanting to delay 6 months or more from the time of death to include a guest list
 - Some are envisioned like private concerts or parties with incidental ritual or distinctly Christian elements
- Caskets are even rarer than pre-COVID.
 - Separating the final disposition of remains from the funeral event.
 - How do we hold embodiment, both in life and in death?

Who Counts?

- Metrics are important to internal church practice and general social trends
- Livestream provides continuity, but also changes a sense of who is present
- When someone streams, it's impossible to gauge the quality of attention
- Livestream allows multiple religious/community belonging
- Metrics suggest 1:3 in-person to online ratio at principal services.
 - How should that data be interpreted, recorded, or reported?

Our mission is to reimagine church with
courage, joy and wonder.

Our vision is a spiritually alive world.

Onward with love.