

June 16, 2021

Dear Friends,

I pray that all of you are well!



Bishop Deon Johnson stated in his letter of introduction to the new guidelines for gathering, “We now enter into a new phase in our common life with hope toward a new normal.” (Dated June 1, 2021). I happily echo his words as we will come together this Sunday, June 20, at 9 a.m., for an *outdoor* Eucharist! The liturgy will launch our being together in-person after over a year of fasting! For some of you this is indeed good news and for others there will be some hesitancy in joining us. We understand! But rest assured that we will do everything we can to keep all of us safe and connected!

Things you should know for Sunday:

- There is no maximum for outdoor gatherings so come one, come all! Don’t forget your lawn chairs! Social distance is the name of the game unless you are in your bubble!
- Your worship bulletins will be “fully loaded” so you won’t need a BCP or hymnal. Please take your bulletins home with you.
- “Congregants may engage in liturgical responses but not singing at indoor or outdoor services.” So, feel free to tap your feet, clap your hands and hum along with the choir who should be masked and keep social distance.
- At the Sign of Peace, fist and elbow bumps please unless you are in your bubble!
- I promise to keep my hands clean and sanitize often! I will be wearing a mask as I joyfully distribute **ONLY** the consecrated hosts at Communion. I will lightly place the host in your hands-take a step away as you consume it. If you are wearing a mask simply slip the host under your mask.
- **PLEASE**, if you are not feeling well **STAY HOME**. This will not be the last outdoor service.

Our first *indoor* service will be on Saturday, July 10, at 11 a.m. It is scheduled to be our Celebration of New Ministry and the Re-dedication of our newly renovated church! An invitation from our Senior Warden will be sent out soon as there may be limited seating capacity. Not to worry though! For this special occasion the liturgy will also be live-streamed so that the entire diocese can celebrate with us! Bishop Deon Johnson will be the chief presider.

I strongly encourage all of you, as an act of love, to get vaccinated if you haven’t done so already. I also encourage you to read the updated guidelines provided by the bishop and members of the Diocesan Pandemic Taskforce that went into effect June 1. The guidelines can be found in recent publications of iSeek and on the diocesan webpage. All of that said, the Episcopal Church of All Saints and Ascension is ready to embark on a new journey!

I am looking forward to seeing you on Sunday! Until then, be blessed, be safe, wash your hands, wear a mask when appropriate, and pray often and for each other!

Your sister in the Redeemer,

Reverend Renee+