

## **Safety precautions as we resume corporate worship at St. Matthew, Port Washington**

Since the “Safer at Home” edict was lifted, it is legal for us to assemble again for worship. If new regulations are put in place, we will make sure to follow them. Out of love and concern for one another’s health and level of comfort, we will put precautions in place. Some may feel that these measures are too extreme. Such measures, however, may put other people’s minds at ease. Let us all be patient and loving with one another as the family of faith that we are. We wish that – as best as possible during these circumstances – we can worship without distractions. We will take videos of the service and post them on-line so people have the option of worshipping at home. No list of guidelines can cover every contingency. We trust that people will use Christian common sense. The pastor, vicar and elders are NOT going to be policemen, warning anyone to back off if they happen to get within six feet of someone else.

Our first service will be Thursday, May 21 @ 7:00 PM – Ascension.  
Holy Communion will be offered.

### **In general**

- Surface areas (pews, chairs, door handles, etc.) will be wiped down with disinfectant.
- Members at high risk for infection should consider continuing to worship from home.
- It will be impractical for us to check everyone for a fever as they enter. If you are sick and/or coughing, do not attend. Worship on-line.
- No one should feel guilty about not attending if they are concerned about their health – just like everyone has to make decisions about venturing out when there is a snow storm on a Sunday morning.
- Some may prefer our Monday night worship (except on May 25, Memorial Day) which has a lower attendance.
- Some may prefer to wear a mask and gloves.
- People are urged to respect spatial distancing.

### **As we enter**

- There will be an usher/doorman for each service who will open the door for anyone entering or exiting so only one person touches the door. The door will be wiped down between services.
- We will have hand sanitizer available in the entryway and fellowship hall.
- Service folders will be fanned out on a table in the entryway. People will pick up their own service folder, one per couple.
- People should not “hang out” in the small entryway. We need to think of that as a quick pass-through corridor.
- The sliding curtain door to the fellowship hall will be open to give people another way to enter the sanctuary.
- People will sit in every other pew. (They will be marked.) Within the pew, leave a decent gap between families.

### **During worship**

- The hymns and psalms will be printed in the service folders so there is no need to use the hymnals.
- The pastor and vicar will not wear masks or gloves, except during distribution.
- Absolutely cover any coughs or sneezes.
- The pastor and vicar will sanitize their hands before distribution.
- We will commune people using the “continuous flow” manner used at synod and district conventions. At the usher’s direction, people will file toward the chancel (trying to respect spatial distancing) where they will pause. The vicar will distribute the host. Then they will walk to the pastor and pause as he distributes the wine. We will leave spaces between the Individual Cups. The Chalice will be available. Then people will file back to their pew. The blessing will be given after the distribution.
- A basket will be available in the entryway for people to place their offering.

### **After worship**

- People will take their service folders home with them or throw them away. (They can serve as an excellent devotion guides during the week.)
- Please, visit and encourage each other, again – trying to respect spatial distancing. If the weather is nice, visiting outside is wonderful.
- Coffee will be available at the Sunday services.

### **Etc.**

- Bible class will resume on Sunday, May 31. We will study the book of Ephesians. Tables will be spread further apart than usual.
- Sunday School will break for the summer.
- Mid-week classes will resume on Monday, June 1 @ 10:00 AM. You may attend in person or via Zoom.

Again, no one should feel guilty about not attending if they are concerned about their health – just like everyone has to make decisions about venturing out when there is a snow storm on a Sunday morning. If you would like private communion, please contact Vicar Threlkeld (414-943-4461 / [vicarthrelkeld@gmail.com](mailto:vicarthrelkeld@gmail.com)).

Continue to pray that the Lord keep us safe, that the pandemic passes quickly and that through these strange days, our faith is strengthened as we rely more firmly on God’s promises, and that many more turn to Jesus as their only hope and salvation.