

## Information about Worship at St. Peter's During the Pandemic

NOTICE: You will be unable to enter the church for worship if any of the following applies to you:

1. You have any of the following symptoms of Covid19: Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing; fever or chills; sore throat; unusual muscle pain or unusual headache; or new loss of taste or smell.
2. You have had a positive test of Covid-19 within the last 10 days.
3. You have been within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes with someone suspected or confirmed to have a Covid-19 infection.
4. You are unwilling to wear a mask and abide by the social distancing and other safety requirements that are part of this worship service.

**At present attendance at worship is limited. Advanced registration highly advised. Walk-ins will be admitted if seats are available on a first come, first served basis. Click on the Reservation button on the In Person Worship page of the parish website for free registration. All with reservations must be seated at least 5 minutes before the start of service. Sorry, due to safety protocols we are unable to accommodate those who arrive late.**

## Covenant for Regathering at St. Peter's

In response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Easton and St. Peter's Church for participation in the life of my congregation according to the regathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

In fulfillment of the Baptismal Covenant (BCP pp. 304-305), I will strive to:

Love my neighbor as myself, I will...

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part, refrain from singing in church and follow public health guidelines for hand sanitizing and disinfecting
- Only attend worship and receive communion if am non-symptomatic for the COVID-19 virus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant
- Abstain from attending if doing so would put me at greater risk due to my own health status

Respect the dignity of every human being, I will...

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household

- Maintain a six foot or more distance from other members of the congregation and comply with seating, Holy Communion and exiting requirements at worship
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, and cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others

Seek and serve Christ in all people, I will...

- Trust and support the decisions of both my diocesan and congregational leaders
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, video chat, or mail

## **Instructions for In Person Worship at St. Pater's**

*During the Pandemic for the safety of everyone in church we are making some changes to the way we worship to comply with protocols intended to lessen the risk of contracting Covid-19. The Covenant above is our commitment to one another to care for each other. Thank you for your understanding.*

### Masks

You are required to wear a mask at all times when you are in the church – the exception being when you receive Holy Communion.

### Pews

Practice social distancing – keep six feet between one another, unless you are part of a couple, family or group. Sit only in designated spaces. Books and kneelers have been removed due to risk of cross-contamination. It is perfectly proper to stand rather than to kneel. Use paper worship bulletin or your own Prayer Book. You can also download the Sunday bulletin from St. Peter's website on your phone or tablet at [www.stpeterschurch.net](http://www.stpeterschurch.net). Please bring all papers out with you and deposit in the receptacle by the door. Please maintain social distancing during passing of the peace, except those of same household.

### Livestream

Be advised that when the service is being livestreamed- from Prelude to the end of the Postlude – loud conversations may be picked up by microphones and broadcast to the world.

### Offering

There is no passing of the plate at this time. An alms basin has been placed at the back of the church for money offerings. You can place your offering in the basin as you leave the church.

### Singing

Singing indoors has been shown to aerosolize the virus in the air, increasing its reach and longevity. As such, no singing is allowed in the church, even with a mask. It is perfectly fine to rhythmically say the words to the hymns.

### Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be in the bread form only during this time. The Acolyte in the aisle will indicate when you can leave your pew to go to the Communion rail. Practice social distancing in approaching the altar. An usher will indicate when you can ascend the stairs. Four people may receive Holy Communion

at a time; stand to receive on one of the four crosses on the floor in front of the rail. Cross the palms of your hands, one over the other. The priest will drop the host on your top hand; use your bottom hand to unhook your mask and take the host with the top hand to your mouth to consume. Replace your mask and exit through the door on the right, practicing social distancing. If you cannot make it up or down stairs without assistance, let the usher know. Ushers cannot assist people up and down stairs, but will let the priest know and the priest will come down to administer Holy Communion to you.

#### Dismissal

After the procession of ministers to the back of the church at the end of the service, please stay in your pew until dismissed by the ushers. Do not congregate in the aisle – practice social distancing. During this time there is no coffee hour and all are asked to exit through the tower doors and continue practicing social distancing until they reach their vehicles.

Updated: 1/7/2021