



St. Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 23, 2021

Dear Friends,

Across our region, COVID-19 cases have begun to decline and the availability of vaccines continues to increase. It seems as though after a long season of Good Friday, Easter is in fact upon us. Last week, Bishop Sean announced updated guidelines and permission to re-open buildings. The staff, in cooperation with the Bishop's Committee, is happy to say that in-person worship will resume on Sunday, May 2. The promise of gathering together for worship, sharing the Eucharist, and being present in our worship space is exciting and, after more than a year, a welcome change.

At first, worship may look and feel different than what we left behind more than a year ago. We will be carefully following diocesan guidelines, practicing social-distancing, and remain masked, regardless of vaccination status. Our worship space will be limited to 40 people per service, requiring a registration process. We will have a cantor and instrumental music, but corporate singing will not be allowed at this time. We will celebrate the Eucharist, but will continue doing so with the all-in-one, self-contained elements.

Each Sunday we will offer a 9:00 Service and an 11:00 Service. Registration links will be available soon. Coffee Hour and Nursery Care will not be available at this time. The Worship Space will be cleaned following the early service. Additionally, the 11:00 Service will be made available via Zoom Webinar for those who may not be comfortable returning to in-person worship or for anyone wishing to participate beyond the 40 person limit.

As we have more details, we will provide them through eNews and will make the registration links available in late April. (instructions for phone call registration will also be made available) We will be re-evaluating our protocols and adjustments may be made later this summer as new COVID-19 data becomes available.

We are excited about this news and look forward to seeing you back in church!

Faithfully,

Craig Dressler, Associate for Development
Carly Rowe, Associate for Congregational Life

