

## **Gathering for In-Person Worship during Phase II for St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Sun City, AZ**

In-person worship will resume after authorization by Bishop Reddall of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, under the guidance of the CDC, state and county guidelines and the Diocesan Regathering Task Force.

During Phase I, St. Christopher's is holding all services virtually including Zoom and FaceBook Live. We are also conducting phone tree calling of our members and building and grounds checks of the campus. These practices have worked well for us and will continue in Phase II.

This plan encompasses only Phase II worship services. Restarting education or other ministry including our thrift store will come later. Each will be evaluated for scheduling, cleaning / sanitizing, social distancing, masks, and will resume only under the approval of the vestry and we will publish our re-gathering instructions for each.

There are many findings and recommendations that we must accommodate, including those from our parish survey of June/July 2020 that will change all aspects of our in-person worship services. St. Christopher's is one congregation worshipping in two languages and will gather for in-person worship under the following guidelines:

### **General Guidelines:**

- **A poster**, developed by the Diocese in both English and Spanish, will be posted near all entrances so that people will see it prior to entering.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be available at the door if anyone can't bring their own.
- **Masks** must be worn from the time a person gets out of their vehicle in the parking lot until they get back into their car after the service. Congregants will be asked to bring their own mask but we will provide them along with children's masks if needed.
- **Two worship services** will continue to be held on Sunday, one in English and one in Spanish. **Wednesday** services will continue only on virtually (using things like Zoom and FaceBook Live) during Phase II.
- **Sunday services will alternate** between the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall each Sunday at times to be determined, but with enough time to reduce the chance of more than 50 congregants simultaneously.
- **Worship capacity** will be limited to 50 people at any service. We have identified available pews. Preaching will be done from the altar or in front of the altar to allow for a 20-foot distance from the pews. The subdeacon will remain masked but rely on the microphone to be better understood.
- **Cleaning** will be done by a professional cleaning service in alignment with CDC recommendations following each use of the sanctuary, parish hall and chapel. The cleaning service will sanitize all bathrooms, pews, door handles etc.
- There will be no use of the facilities by **outside groups** except for our **Korean Congregation** who may continue to use only the Chapel to hold their Sunday service. They must abide by these same guidelines including cleaning measures after their service.
- **No registration for services** will be held at this time. Our ushers can manage attendance that exceeds 50. We will introduce a registration system for the service if needed.
- **Virtual services** will continue to be held for those who do not wish to attend in person.
- **A Communications Plan** will be developed to keep our congregation informed as changes take place.
- **Positive testing of COVID-19** by any staff or attendees will require notification to the church immediately. The church will notify members that someone tested positive and that we will go back to Phase I services for at least 14 days. We will also substantively clean affected areas at least 72 hours after the last contact.

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### In-Person Worship Services Guidelines:

- All participants in the service, except the homilist, will wear masks at all times. Unmasking indoors, even at a 20-foot distance, is discouraged. Only the homilist, if necessary, may remove their own mask.
- **Online Giving** is encouraged at [stchristophers-az.org/online-giving](http://stchristophers-az.org/online-giving), as is giving by mail, since there will be no collection at any service. Members who need to count checks or offerings received by mail will be required to wear gloves and masks while doing so.
- **Safe distancing** will be maintained by marking the pews. Members of the same household/family/couple's group may sit next to each other in the pews.
- **Ushers** will be present to escort congregants to their seats before the service and out of the church after the service to assist in maintaining attendance numbers, and to answer any questions.
- **No materials will be in the pews** (Hymnals, Prayer Books, Bibles, tissues, prayer shawls, etc.) Paper bulletins for the service will be available. We also encourage congregants to bring their electronic devices to follow the service.
- **No processions** of any kind will be held in or out of the sanctuary. The elements will be placed at the front of the church before the service and will only be touched by the celebrant and an assistant with sanitized hands.
- **Music** will be provided by instrumental only or recorded and played. However, no brass or wind instruments will be used during the service.
- **No singing** from a choir or from the congregation will be allowed.
- **In Passing the peace** we ask everyone to remain in place and not move about the sanctuary. There should be no physical contact. Instead, give a silent gentle bow or nod of the head or a handwave.
- **In Receiving the Eucharist**, the celebrant will come to the people in their seats and silently drop the wafer into their open palms. There will be no physical contact or words exchanged. Once the celebrant has moved on, masks may be removed to consume the Eucharist wafer, then put back on immediately thereafter.