

St. Thomas Worship Guidelines

Sunday, August 9, 2020

We will have three platforms available for worship; sitting outside at the church, worshiping from your car using our FM audio option or tuning in via Facebook livestream.

Please review the following guidelines for Sunday's worship service. If you have any questions, please check our parish website at www.stthomasgreenville.org or call the church office at 334-382-8914.

- Masks are to be worn according to Alabama state guidelines and Diocesan Guidelines:

From <https://governor.alabama.gov/assets/2020/07/Safer-at-Home-Order-Final-7.29.20.pdf>

2. Facial coverings for individuals. Effective July 16, 2020 at 5:00 P.M., each person shall wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times when within six feet of a person from another household in any of the following places: an indoor space open to the general public, a vehicle operated by a transportation service, or an outdoor public space where ten or more people are gathered.

From the Diocese:

5. PHYSICAL DISTANCING All congregants (except for members dwelling together) and clergy must sit at least 6 ft. from one another.

6. FACE COVERINGS/MASKS Face coverings face masks (defined as non-vented, non-medical grade masks) are mandatory at every public in-person worship service. This goes for the clergy also. Clergy may remove the mask to preside and to preach, as long as they are 12-15 feet from others.

b.If proper social distancing is enforced the face mask may be removed once the parishioner is seated. However, the mask should be covering the face during any congregational responses c. The celebrant/officiant should occasionally remind the congregation to do so at times they are being invited to pray aloud. d. Face covering for the priest is required while saying the Eucharistic Prayer. It may be removed if the elements are covered by a linen

cloth. e. Lectors and intercessors may remove masks when reading. Both officiant and lectors (including intercessors) must be at a safe distance from others to avoid spreading respiratory droplets.

7. SINGING There will be no congregational singing. Likewise, choirs will not perform since choral singing has been noted as one of the prime methods of spreading respiratory droplets. Solos or duets are a preferred alternative, as long as singers and musicians have a radius of 15 feet of separation from each other and the congregation.

8. THE EXCHANGE OF THE PEACE No physical passing of the Peace is allowed.

9. OFFERING/COLLECTIONS Offering plates should be in a fixed, conspicuous place[s] for people to offer their contributions, while encouraging online giving if available. The presentation of the offerings should be avoided.

Arriving for Worship: (Worship begins at 8:30 a.m.)

For those sitting outside to worship:

- Please park on Herbert St. or Dunklin St. and carry your chairs to the designated seating areas. Please let one of the parking ushers know if you require assistance with carrying your lawn or camp chair from your vehicle. We will have a few chairs available, but encourage you to bring your own if possible.
- Seating will be in designated areas marked for social distancing. There will be various size areas meant to accommodate various seating needs. Larger areas are for seating family groups; smaller areas for pairs and singles. If in doubt on where to sit, please ask a parking usher for guidance.

Worshiping in Cars:

- Our audio should be available on FM 88.5 (Any changes to this will be announced).
- The portion of Church St. in front of the Church and the office will be closed off for the duration of our worship.
- If you plan to worship in your car please be sure to arrive by 8:15 a.m. so as to be in place before the street is closed.
- Parking ushers will provide guidance regarding where to park. If they are busy, please wait for their instructions before parking.

Celebration of Holy Communion:

- Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. (We will observe Morning Prayer on subsequent Sundays).
- Communion in one kind (individually wrapped low gluten hosts) will be distributed to parishioners in place. The Celebrant will bring Communion to parishioners in their seats and cars.
- Our service of Holy Communion will feature a blended format with the Sermon available online through our Church website.

Worshiping via Facebook Livestream:

- Online worship will now be a Facebook live stream of our 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship. Our church Facebook page can be accessed through Facebook or by going to the church website at www.stthomasgreenville.org and selecting the Facebook icon on the homepage.
- Our weekly Parish Prayer List and the bulletin for our Sunday service will be available as .pdf documents from our church website.

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- We will have designated ushers handing out bulletins.
 - The alms basin will be on a credence table near the Altar Table. Please see the bulletin instructions regarding offerings.
 - In the event of inclement weather worship will be live-streamed via Facebook.

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Yours in Christ, Rev. Linda Suzanne +