Worship Guidelines October 31, 2020

The following guidelines will be observed as we resume worshiping inside our building:

 - Parishioners should call the office to rsvp for the service by noon on Thursday. Office hours are 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday - Thursday. 334-382-8914. This will help us anticipate attendance and allocate spaces.

- Masks are required. We will have disposable masks available, but you are encouraged to bring your own.

- Every other pew will be closed off in order to observe social distancing. Please wait for an usher to seat you and remain seated in that space for the duration of the service. Do not remove any tape or items used to demarcate space. There will be limited seating in the parish hall with streaming to the tv. These seats will be assigned beforehand, so please go to the Nave if you have not been assigned to seating in the parish hall.

- Each pew will have a bottle of hand sanitizer.

- We will resume our schedule of celebrating Holy Eucharist each Sunday. We will continue to receive Communion in one kind with the host being brought to you at your seat.

- We will have some choir members located in designated areas who will sing the vocals for our service music. Please refrain from singing. I am very aware that our hymns and music are an important part of our worship, and I know this will be difficult for many of us. I am thinking of it as a spiritual discipline for the good of the whole body.

- Our service will continue to be printed in the bulletin. For this season, we will not use Books of Common Prayer, Hymnals or any other common items. All such items have been removed from the pews. Please bring tissues or any other needed items with you to the service.

- We will have pastoral guides available throughout the service to help with any issues. For our first Sunday, Jean Hancock and Travis Powell will serve in this ministry. They will have name tags identifying them, and they will be watching for anyone that needs special assistance before, during or after the service.

- When our service concludes, please exit down the center aisle observing social distancing. We are so accustomed to speaking to one another and taking time for fellowship following worship. If you wish to visit with someone please exit the building and find a space that does not create a traffic issue and that allows for adequate social distance. We are all concerned with being polite to one another. Do not assume because someone does not express discomfort that they are comfortable without a 6 ft. separation. Even as we have worshipped outdoors, I have had pastoral conversations with folks made uneasy by others not giving them enough space. Please keep at least a comfortable 6 ft. space between yourself and others.

- We will continue to live stream our services on Facebook.

Please note that we might need to modify our practices from time to time. I bid your prayers for our beloved St. Thomas, and all God's people, as we prayerfully move forward in this season.

A Prayer for Guidance     BCP p. 832

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious  
favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our  
works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify  
  your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting  
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Yours in Christ, Rev. Linda Suzanne +