

# Instructions for Worship at Bethesda during the Pandemic

## Instructions for What the Congregation Will Do Differently

1. **In order to come to Church, you must NOT**
  - a. **be experiencing any symptoms.** If you are not feeling well, running a fever, coughing, etc., you should not attend Church until you are well and have completed a 14-day self- quarantine.
  - b. **have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.** If you have, you must complete a 14-day self- quarantine before attending Church.
2. **You must wear a mask to enter the building and throughout the service.** The Church will have a supply of disposable masks available for anyone who doesn't bring their own mask.
3. **The ushers will record your name and contact information when you come in.** We need your phone number or email address should contact tracing be necessary.
4. **You must keep 6-feet between you and others not of your household** when entering the Church and throughout the time you are in the Church.
5. **Upon entrance, an usher will spray hand sanitizer on your hands.**
6. **You will not receive a service bulletin from an usher. Instead they will have been placed in the pews** on Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. They will also be posted on Bethesda's website. You may use your smart phone or bring your tablet to Church to access them. Just remember the Church does not have Wi-Fi, so you'll have to use your data plan to access them while in Church unless you've downloaded them at home.
7. **We have changed the seating arrangements so that people will sit in every third pew. The pews with no tape on the floor in front of them will NOT be used at either service.** We have designated separate pews for the 8 and 10 o'clock services, which allows us to have two services on Sunday while meeting the Bishop's physical distancing requirement. Please sit in a pew on the *center aisle* unless all of the pews designated for your service are already taken.
  - a. If you are coming to the **8 o'clock service**, you must sit in a pew that has **blue** painter's tape on the floor in front of the entrance to it. The left (Gospel) side has blue tape at the entrance to pews 1, 4, 7, 10, etc. while the right (Epistle) side has blue tape at the entrance to pews 2, 5, 8, 11 etc.
  - b. If you are attending the **10 o'clock service**, you must sit in a pew that has **purple** painter's tape on the floor in front of it. The left (Gospel) side has purple tape at the entrance to pews 2, 5, 8, 11, etc. while the right (Epistle) side has purple tape at the entrance to pews 1, 4, 7, 10 etc.

8. **We will share the peace by bowing, nodding, or waving to each other.** The Bishop has banned handshakes and hugs or any other form of touching someone not in your household.
9. **The collection plates will not be passed. Instead you will find them at the back of the Church.** We ask that you place your offering into the plate as you enter or leave.
10. **Communion will be distributed in one form only (communion wafers). It will be distributed at the top of the center aisle.** Follow the directions of the ushers carefully. The ushers will have people line up for communion starting in the back of the Church and moving forward. You will be directed to stand on the diamond/square inlays in the center aisle, which fortuitously meet the 6-foot physical distance requirement. People who live in the same household may share a diamond/square. The usher who directs you to line up in the center aisle will spray hand sanitizer on your hands. You will move up each diamond inlay as the line moves forward. When the last person in front of you has received communion, you will go up to the large inlay at the base of the steps, standing on the tan diamond at the top of that inlay and put your hands out. The Priest will place the host in your hand. Please move six feet to your left. You will then lift your mask, place the host in your mouth and then walk down the side aisle on the left to return to your pew.
11. **If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion,** please follow the same instructions, but cross your hands over your chest when you reach the top of the center aisle. The priest will bless you without touching your head.
12. **To maintain the 6-foot physical distance, at the end of the service you must wait to leave until the usher signals that it is your turn.** You must take your bulletin with you and drop it in the wastebasket in the narthex. Or you can take it home and recycle it there.
13. **Please note: the bathroom will be closed and unavailable** at all times on Sunday morning for health and safety reasons.

### **What Will Look Different**

1. The Bishop has required us to post the following sign by each entrance door to the Church:  
*Dear Friends, If you answer YES to any of the following, we ask that you NOT Attend Church today:*
  - *Have a temperature of 100.4 or higher*
  - *Lost your sense of taste or smell*
  - *You or someone in your household has tested positive for COVID-19*
  - *Have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Thank you for your*

*understanding and cooperation. The health and wellbeing of everyone is dependent on it. May The Lord Bless You and Keep You Safe!*

2. The Bishop has also required that we post a sign informing people of the requirement to wear masks, maintain physical distance, and use hand sanitizer, as well as other necessary instructions, near all entrance doors of the Church.
3. The priest must wear a mask when in close proximity to others, including when administering communion. The celebrant is NOT required to wear a mask while at the altar, provided they are by themselves and the bread and wine are covered with a linen or pall. Nor are the clergy required to wear a mask while proclaiming the Gospel or preaching, provided they are at least 10 feet away from the nearest person. The Gospel should be proclaimed from the front of the Church. We will do it from the pulpit.
4. The priest will thoroughly wash his hands before the service starts. He will use hand sanitizer immediately before distributing communion.
5. Lectors may remove their masks while reading the lessons. The same lector will read the lessons and lead the Gradual psalm and the Prayers of the People from the lectern.
6. There will be no sung music, that is no hymns and no singing of any of the usual parts of the mass (Gloria, Sanctus, etc.).
7. The bread and wine will not be brought up at the time of the offertory. Instead it will already be on the altar.
8. Weather permitting, at the end of the service the priest will stand outside. You may speak to him or other parishioners outside as long as you maintain the 6-foot physical distance from people who do not live in your household.
9. The windows and doors of the Church will be open to increase air circulation.
10. The Bishop has banned coffee hours and other social gatherings.

*Updated June 20, 2020*