

Regathering Update

St Stephen's continues to move forward with efforts to gather again for in-person worship. With the wise counsel of the St Stephen's Regathering Advisory Task Force, the parish submitted a detailed plan describing our safety protocol to the diocese. This plan just received approval, so the worship team is moving forward with implementing the plan.

We are hoping to begin in-person worship mid-September (exact Sunday to be determined). We will hold a trial service to trouble-shoot the logistics, which are myriad! So that you will have an idea about what to expect, please note the following guidelines, procedures, and description that have been incorporated into our plan.

The morning service will meet on Sundays from 8:15 am to about 8:45 am in the courtyard. A word liturgy, it will combine prayers and music with a focus on scripture and preaching. Brief and accessible, it aspires to appeal to all ages. Observing current guidelines, we can have up to 25 people attending (including worship leaders and musicians). Reservations will be made through the office, and we are still working out a system which ensures that all who want to come will have a fair opportunity to reserve a spot(s) over time. Seating will be assigned. Check in at 8 am will be required. Social distancing will be observed, and masks must be worn at all times. People will not be permitted to congregate before or after the service.

While such restrictive parameters around our worship may not meet the needs of many of us for showing our great affection for one another, we will continue moving forward in ways that assure safety and honor different comfort levels during this time of pandemic. Livestream services will continue at 10 am. Please stay tuned for more details in coming weeks.

— CTT+