

Outdoor In-Person Worship beginning on July 19, 2020
Christ Church, Exeter

Jesus taught us to love God and love our neighbor. Loving God leads us to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 96.9). Our desire is to come together to worship safely.

Based on Current Guidance from the Diocese of New Hampshire

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During the pandemic, public health guidelines ask everyone to:

- Stay at home when we are ill or especially vulnerable to COVID-19;
- Maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet as we enter, worship, and depart;
- Limit the size and duration of worship gatherings;
- Use face coverings at all times (except those with breathing difficulties);
- Refrain from physical touching;
- Refrain from congregational or choral singing;
- Refrain from playing wind or brass instruments.

At this time, gathering together for worship, whether inside or outside, will require agreeing to these guidelines:

- Pre-registering to allow us to manage numbers in attendance
- Physical distancing of 6 feet or more at all times
- Wearing a face mask
- Refraining from singing
- Providing information for contact tracing and answering screening questions
- No coffee hour

Overview:

This plan provides for up to twenty-five (25) people to assemble for in-person outdoor Eucharist's with physical distancing and contact tracing. If there are more than 25 persons interested, additional services can be planned.

Services:

Services will take place at 8 a.m. in the Courtyard of Christ Church where the permanent outdoor altar is located. There will be no singing at in-person worship. The service will not exceed the 30 minutes guideline from the C.D.C. for exposure.

People over 65 years of age, or with underlying health conditions, will be reminded that the CDC advises against attending gatherings of this kind.

For those unable to safely attend, we will continue to offer a Zoom worship service at 9:30 a.m.

The weather, of course, can present challenges. We would make a decision by 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning whether to cancel or postpone. Emails would be sent that morning to cancel the services.

Registration:

Each parishioner will be required to pre-register for services by household to provide contact tracing information for all in attendance as necessary. (a household consists of persons who regularly interact with each other without the need for physical distancing). As part of the registration, compliance with safety screening questions is required to attend.

Registration will be by Email sign up or telephone (Details in the weekly Enews).

Email confirmation will be sent.

Seating:

Household groups should bring their own seating (i.e. lawn chairs) and be directed to a designated area. Seating will not be provided. Standing is also an option.

On-Site Greeting:

A Greeter/Usher will greet people, confirm that they are wearing a face covering, distribute facemasks to those who aren't wearing them, and remind households to maintain at least six feet or more of physical distance between other households. Hand sanitizer will be available.

Greeters will confirm that each attendee is registered and then direct worshipers to the seating area. Worship bulletins will be available.

Sound:

A sound system will be used. There will be no singing at in-person outdoor services, but appropriate music may be played during the service

Peace:

There will be no physical contact with the sharing of the Peace. A bow or wave will suffice.

Offertory:

There will be no collection during the service but an offertory plate will be placed near the entrance of the worship space.

Eucharistic Practice:

Small plastic communion cups with wafer and grape juice will be placed on the altar for consecration. When invited by the Celebrant/Presider, a designated member from each household will retrieve communion elements for their group.

After the service:

People will be reminded that our priority is public health and that they should keep physical distance after the service and continue to wear their face masks.

Restrooms: Available only for emergencies.