Gathering Again at Good Sam

As we share these plans with you, we would like to offer special thanks to Jay Crook, Talbot Fields, Sarah Shepheard, and Vestry Wardens, Carol Anne Long, and Zane Scarlett for their work and wisdom. We are grateful for your various gifts and for the reminder in this process of the power of the Body working together. Thank you for your love and care of this community and for offering careful attention to these plans with patience, grace, and the gift of levity and laughter.

With gratitude,
Cal+ & Elizabeth+
Overview

- We will gather again for in-person worship beginning **Sunday, July 5**, provided the number of active cases in Knox County remains at a stable level.

- At this time, worship will take place **outside** in the chapel area.
  - **If rain is forecasted, in-person services will be canceled**, and a service will be live-streamed for that Sunday from inside the church.
  - Our return to in-door worship will be considered in keeping with on-going reopening guidelines, as well as the trends of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in our area.

- **There will be two, identical Holy Eucharist Rite II services at 8:30am and 10:00am.** The importance of the two services is in allowing a fewer number of people to gather at each service. We are not seeking to replicate our pattern of meeting and worship from before (smaller congregation at 8:30am, larger one at 10:00am/11:00am).

- There will be **no access to the building** (church, parish hall, etc.), except in the event of a bathroom emergency. For this purpose, the bathrooms on the first floor of the parish hall will be available.
  - If you need to make an emergency visit to the bathroom, you will find Clorox wipes in the bathroom to wipe down surfaces before exiting.
• **We will continue to stream services online for virtual worship** for those not ready to return to in-person worship and for those who choose to remain at home because they are at higher risk for severe illness (according to health officials, including those 65 years and older and those with preexisting conditions). The 8:30am service will be live-streamed and made available to view for those wishing to worship at a later time.

**What to Expect**

**Before you Arrive**

• You will be invited to **RSVP** for worship each week to help us know what to expect and to ensure that our gatherings remain at an appropriate number for both services.

• **If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have had known exposure to someone who is positive for the virus, please stay at home and worship with us online.** If there is any question as to symptoms or exposure, we ask that you err on the side of caution, also taking into account any recent travel.

• **Face masks** are an expectation for all, including children over the age of two as recommended by health officials, so please bring yours with you.

• Dress comfortably for being outdoors. Bring along your water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray as needed, and most importantly, **bring your chairs**.
• **Bulletins** will be made available ahead of time for you to bring up on your device or print before you leave home. Don’t forget to print yours if that is your preference!

**Welcome & Arrival**

• An usher will greet you at your car as you arrive (in the roundabout area before you pull up to the main parking lot). Please put your face mask on (and have those in the car with you do the same) before the usher approaches your car.

  ○ The usher will take the temperature of everyone in the car and ask a list of questions pertaining to symptoms and exposure.

• After this process, you will pull up to the main parking lot to park. Please maintain 6 feet of distance from others arriving for worship.

  ○ Greeters will assist in guiding you to the seats available on the outdoor chapel benches or in setting up your chairs at an appropriate distance from others.

  ○ **For those with mobility issues** who would prefer not to gather on or near the grass, there will be several parking spots reserved in the west parking lot (the one you can see from the windows in the Narthex). You may choose to put your chair directly on the pavement or to pull into one of these spaces and remain in your car.
Worship

- For our responses and prayers offered in worship, and for our joyful noise in song, **along with wearing your face mask, we ask that you be aware of your volume and speak and sing more softly than feels normal to reduce the spread of droplets.**

- **At the Peace,** we will remain in our seats and greet one another with a bow or peace sign.

- **Offering plates** will not be passed during the service. We encourage you to give online and will also have offering plates available where you may leave your offering upon arrival or as you depart.

- **The Eucharist** will be shared in bread alone. Remain in your seats. The clergy will come to you. Please fully extend your arms (no bend at the elbow) toward the priest; the priest will do the same toward you to ensure appropriate distance is maintained.

Dismissal & Leave-taking

- As the service concludes, please continue to maintain 6 feet of distance from those not in your household. The ushers and greeters will invite worshippers to leave in a staggered way so that distance is likewise maintained.
For Families with Young Children

- Please know that children being both seen and heard is a blessing we welcome. Children are an important part of our life together, and we know that the realities of social distancing are particularly difficult for our youngest members.
  - We are not able to safely offer the nursery or Children’s Chapel at this time, so please bring any comfort or activity items for your children that will assist in their being present for worship.
  - Please ensure that your children remain with your household, maintain appropriate distance from others, and wear their mask if they are older than two.
  - If your child needs to make an emergency bathroom visit, we ask that you please accompany them.

If Someone Who Has Attended Worship is Diagnosed with COVID-19

- We expect that the church be informed of the diagnosis as soon as possible, both to best address the pastoral needs of the parishioner and to ensure the most efficient cooperation in the contact tracing efforts of the Knox County Health Department.

- We will follow the instructions of appropriate health authorities and the guidance of the Bishop’s office in our communication to the parish and in determining whether in-person worship should be suspended for a time.