What can I expect if I choose to return to public worship at All Saints on July 5th?
How will the worship experience differ from the ways we have been accustomed to worshiping?

**Entering the Church/Sanctuary**
1. The main doors at the front of the church will be the only doors opened for entry into the church. All other doors will be locked from the outside and marked with do not enter signs, and directions posted to access the front main entrance.
2. Worshipers must wear a mask when entering the church. Congregants are encouraged to bring their own masks.
3. Upon entering, worshipers will proceed to an usher for seating. The usher will offer a single use worship bulletin. There will be no physical contact with the usher. (No handshakes or hugs).
4. If a worshiper arrives without a mask, the usher will offer him/her a disposable one to be worn during the service.
5. The usher will direct worshipers where to sit in the nave. Worshipers will sit by household. Some pews will be marked off and not used for seating. Individual households should be approximately 6 feet apart from other households.
6. Conversation with other worshippers should take place outside the church, observing the 6 feet social distance guideline. It is best to leave masks on when conversing with others.

**During the Service**
1. The offering plate will not be passed in the pews during the service. There will be an offering plate at the doors leading to the narthex. Worshipers should place their offerings in the plate either upon entering or leaving the sanctuary.
2. Ushers will provide direction about available seating for the service.
3. Once in their designated pew, worshipers will wear masks for the duration of the service, with the exception of brief removal to receive Communion.
4. Those participating in worship leadership will follow the guidelines mentioned above re: wearing of masks.
5. There will be no group choral singing during the service. Music will be provided by individual instrumentalists, 1-3 vocalists well-spaced apart (wearing masks), and/or pre-recorded music played during the service. It is appropriate to hum along with any music, if desired.
6. To reiterate, the offering plate will not be passed. Worshipers will leave their offerings in the designated plate in the narthex upon either entering or exiting the church.
7. There will be no physical contact at the passing of the peace. Worshipers are asked to remain in their pews, and wave or nod greetings from a distance.
8. **No one is required to partake of Holy Communion by receiving the consecrated bread and wine. A prayer for spiritual communion will be printed in the bulletin for those desiring to ask for God’s presence while others are receiving the bread and wine. It is totally acceptable to offer this prayer in the silence of your heart.**
9. The procedure for receiving Holy Communion during the service is as follows:
   a. The priest and altar server, wearing masks, will sanitize their hands before making any physical contact with the communion bread, wine, and serving vessels.
   b. Worshipers will come to the altar rail to receive Communion. Social distancing will be observed as communicants move forward (monitored by an usher). Household units
will move to the altar rail together to receive communion. As communicants approach the altar rail, if they wish to receive the wine, they should pick up an individual disposable cup from which to receive the consecrated wine.

c. The priest will distribute to each communicant an individual small paper cup containing a consecrated host. Communicants will consume the host, and then extend their individual cup (plastic) to receive the consecrated wine, which will be poured by the altar server. After receiving either bread only or both bread and wine, communicants should place their used cups in the designated disposal receptacles positioned at the front of each side aisle.

d. If worshipers need to receive Communion from their seat, the usher will inform the priest and the worshiper will be served in his/her seat.

**Exiting the Church after Worship**

1. Worshipers will check their seating area at the end of the service. Bulletins, any used paper products, wrappers, should be gathered and disposed of in the garbage cans in the narthex.
2. Masks will be worn until exiting the church building.
3. The usher(s) (wearing a mask) will dismiss the congregation by rows. All worshipers will wait to be dismissed.
4. Exit from the building will be made through the church’s front doors. All other doors will only be used in the event of an emergency.
5. There will not be a receiving line in the church after the service. Those who wish to speak with the priest may do so outside, with both priest and congregant wearing masks. 6 ft. social distancing will continue to be maintained outdoors. All persons should refrain from making physical contact.
   a. Weather permitting, the priest will be outside at the foot of the front steps to greet worshipers after the service.
   b. In inclement weather, the priest will remain off to the side in the Narthex for those who desire brief personal conversation.

Even though we have been careful and thoughtfully opted to resume in-person worship, please know that the decision to attend worship during a time such as this is not a test of your faith in God, or a test of your faith in the priest or the lay leadership of the congregation, or a test of your support for All Saints Church, or your love for Christ and Christ’s Church. We recognize that some of our brothers and sisters will not be ready to resume worship in July and may not be comfortable attending a public gathering for some months to come, or even until a COVID-19 vaccine is available. We simply want to provide opportunities for worship for folks who are comfortable attending public gatherings at this time. The entire worship service will continue to be video recorded weekly and posted for viewing on the church’s YouTube and Facebook pages.

In these days, let it not be fear which motivates us. Faith and faithfulness is our motivation. This present time asks us to be wise and patient. What is proposed here are procedures and practices we ask you to follow to stay as safe as possible, and to remain faithful to our calling to love God and neighbor, to walk humbly before God, and to face our days with courage and hope. Our practice of worship will be different for the time being. But we can do this, God being our help. God has been walking with us through this strange and difficult time, and will continue to do so. May you continue to know and experience God’s love, and find courage and strength in the One who holds the whole world in gracious hands.
Yours in Christ,
Carenda 🌿