

Dear Friends,

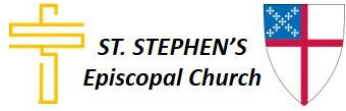
I know some of us are eager to worship together and some of us are still concerned about staying home as a precaution against the Coronavirus. Because it has been several months and our infection rates in Arizona are still increasing, the Bishop has recognized that a full re-opening does not seem to be happening anytime soon. Therefore, we have been given guidelines to have in-person worship for groups of ten (10) or fewer people together.

- 1) If anyone feels sick, they should not attend in person and should seek out testing for the virus if they have symptoms associated with the virus.
 - a. If anyone just does not feel comfortable attending in person due to rising infection rates, let us know and feel free to remain home and watch our FaceBook Live service.
- 2) Masks are required for everyone who attends in-person.
 - a. If you need one, a mask will be provided at the door.
- 3) Maintaining social distancing of 6 ft or more is absolutely necessary.
- 4) Sanitizing hands upon entry and exit of the worship space is necessary.
- 5) Attendees should avoid each other or touching things in the church as much as possible.
- 6) Sit in one of the designated seating spaces only -- to preserve the spacing requirements.
- 7) No singing during the service for in-person attendees.
- 8) Communion will be bread only.
 - a. Communion elements of bread and wine (wine for priest only) will already be on altar.
 - b. Follow the directions of the priest for when to come forward to receive the bread.
 - c. Remain standing, extend hand and arm fully, move to the side 6ft., lift mask, eat bread, replace mask, return to seat.
- 9) Offerings should be placed in the plate upon entry or exit from the service.
 - a. Offertory will not come forward during the service.
- 10) There cannot be any fellowship time before or after the service at the church. You are asked to please exit to the parking lot following the end of the service.

In addition to these requirements, we have tried to schedule people to attend on certain days. For Sundays this means that some of the available spaces are occupied every week by our Music Director, Mike; our cantor, Cheryl; and our videographer, Mark; in addition to the priest. Unfortunately, that means we have fewer seats for congregation members. And as more of our members decide to come back in-person, we may have to go to a once a month schedule to allow more people more opportunities. Currently we have more openings on Wednesdays at 9:30am, if people would like to attend during that time slot.

Attached is our current schedule that we will attempt to work from as we begin to have in-person worship again. Please, only come to church on the dates that you are assigned. If we have more than 10, and it is not your week, we will have to ask you to leave.

If we have unexpected visitors show up, we will ask our members (starting with vestry/leaders) to give up their seats for the visitors, showing them hospitality. We don't expect this to happen but it could.



ST. STEPHEN'S
Episcopal Church

2750 E. Cardinal Dr., Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

We realize this is not “normal” worship, this is not optimal worship, this is not our preferred way to worship. We are not living through normal times right now and this is the best we can do at this time. This allows some of us who would like to have limited in-person worship to be able to do so and to also try to remain safe while worshipping.

Please follow the recommended precautions and protocols wherever you are and stay safe. Pray for us to come through these dangerous times together and that a treatment and vaccine will be coming soon.

Peace,

The Reverend Allison Cornell
Rector
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church