

Customary in the time of Pandemic

Updated 22 May 2020

"This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other." John 13:35 CEB.

These are extraordinary times. We are attempting to hold together our worshipping communities in ways which would be nearly inconceivable during the compilation of even our most recent *Book of Common Prayer*. What we do, we do for the love of God and the love for each other. Whatever caution we show is borne from a desire to live out that love by keeping our beloved neighbors safe. The Bible consistently advises us to *favor the vulnerable* and do right by them. In the context of our worshipping community, this will include certain sacrifices, including keeping our distance, wearing protective gear, and loving the most vulnerable in our midst in ways other than inviting them to public worship until it is safe to do so. We don't know how long that might be. It will be different - in some ways even painfully so. But (to paraphrase Thomas Merton) we believe that our desire to please God does in fact please God. As we take this next step in the way we worship as a community, we do so not on a journey back to the old way of "doing Church," but on our journey toward full communion with the one who made us, the one who bids us to love one another; the one seated on the throne who said *"Look! I'm making all things new."* Rev 21:25 CEB

Practically, we know that the COVID-19 virus spreads quickly and easily on commonly touched surfaces and airborne in droplets smaller than the eye can see. We know that it has disproportionately traumatic effects on the most vulnerable in our midst. Given these realities, everything we do is aimed at mitigating this spread. We don't look for ways around the rules, or ways to bend them, or special permissions from Church or governmental authorities, because we don't believe that these guidelines are arbitrary or unfair. Together, we must have in mind not the "letter of the law," but rather the "spirit of the law." We must keep our gatherings as safe as possible - not because the Church or the State or the County told us to, but because we are deeply motivated by our love for our neighbor.

"This is beyond doubt a critical period in the history of our country, but I see no reason to despair... Let us be one and we shall not fall!" from Kamehameha IV's speech on the day of his ascension, 13 January 1855

	Phase 0 - no in person worship.	Phase 1 - In person with highest caution In accordance with County and State proclamations with the Bishop's permission
Worship Space Preparations	Zoom/ Facebook Live/ YouTube (live or recorded), etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look now for hand sanitizers, disinfecting products, and masks! • Worship outside, space permitting! (think through Audio/Visual needs). • Go in ahead of time and measure off your worship space (6 ft spacing, side to side, front and back), skipping rows as needed. This will provide the number of worshippers you can safely accommodate. • Mark 6-foot spacing lines with tape on the floor where lines for communion would form. • Remove all items (books, fans) from the pews – no items to be commonly touched. • Sanitize and disinfect worship space before and between liturgies/uses. • Sanitize and disinfect vessels (chalice, paten, etc.) before and between liturgies/uses. • Wash vestments frequently. • Follow pre-opening checklist from CPG [attached below]. • Have extra masks available at entrance. • Communicate your new procedures with your congregation ahead of time. • Post signage about your new procedures and expectations (especially the requirement of masks and social distancing) around your campus. • If possible, continue to share liturgy virtually for the more vulnerable of your community. • Clergy to possibly take on Altar guild duties, especially if the guild is composed of kupuna or those more vulnerable.
Liturgical Participants: Expectations	<p>Best to use technology so participants do not occupy the same room.</p> <p>If in the same room, the very few participants should be very distant from one another and not share books, stands, microphones, seats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting the size of the altar party is best. Invite kupuna to stay home and have younger acolytes (etc.) take part for now. • Masks and spacing (6-foot minimum) • No sharing of bulletins, hymnals, notebooks, etc. • Worship leading and readings from multiple locations with separate microphones best (microphones are important, especially considering masks are to be worn by all participants). • If greeting people as they exit, do so outdoors and without contact.

<p>Gathering of the People: Expectations</p>	<p>Consider guidelines and resources on Diocesan Covid-19 page.</p> <p>Beware of “Zoom Bombing” Reach out to those who can't join virtually.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage at-risk populations to stay home • Participate by reading along with the liturgy (rather than speaking) or mouthing the words. • Masks worn throughout the liturgy, including entering and exiting the worship space, which can be more crowded as people are funneled together. • Limit worshiper numbers to match lessened capacity with proper spacing (at least 6 feet). Don't forget to leave some room for visitors. How much that effects your Church depends upon its context, given the congregational and worship space sizes. Some of our congregations have large worship spaces and small congregations and may easily fit everyone even with the new spacing. Some may need to allow for half the normal gathering, some perhaps will have to adjust even more. Ideas to mitigate the size of the worshipping body: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase number of liturgies to spread out congregation (perhaps new times altogether so people don't gravitate to “their” service) ○ Ask regulars to attend every other week (A-M names on the first Sunday, etc.) for the benefit of the whole and to keep everyone safe. ○ Some larger mainland Churches are giving out (free) “tickets” to minimize unsafe overcrowding. ○ Asking for thoughtful cooperation ahead of time is better than needing some sort of “bouncer” or putting people at risk!
<p>Liturgical Notes</p>	<p>Morning Prayer (or Liturgy of the Word for Morning Prayer, as allowed by BCP) is preferred by our Bishop.</p> <p>If Eucharist is celebrated, avoid prayers that refer to “spiritual communion”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music: choral and congregational singing is suspended. Airborne particles can travel over twenty feet when singing, and masks minimize rather than eliminate the release of these particles. For more information, please see https://www.drheathernelson.com/singingandcovid19 . • Individual instrumentalists (playing organ, ukulele, etc.) are permitted, as is a soloist, provided extraordinary distance between them is kept. Keep in mind that wind and brass instruments are nearly as risky as singing. • While the Holy Eucharist is “the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day and other major Feasts” (BCP 13), Morning Prayer or the Liturgy of the Word without Communion (as explicated in the BCP 406-7) may be used for public worship on Sundays at this time. Where Eucharist is shared, not all liturgies even in the same day need to be Eucharistic. • Studies have shown that longer gatherings increase the danger of community spread. Consider ways to avoid longer liturgies (fewer readings, etc.). • No procession through the congregation (though everyone is still to be masked!). • Kneeling suspended – many lift themselves up holding onto the back of pews, etc.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel book not to be passed from person to person. • No physical contact sharing peace. It would be a beautiful thing for people to bow reverently to each other, or in a playful atmosphere, one might shaka to their hearts' content! If these changes are too difficult in your context, you may skip the Peace (as per BCP 360). • Do not "pass the plate" for a collection. Encourage online giving and provide a place for people to leave their offering (calabash, etc.). • All elements (both wine and bread) covered as much as possible throughout the Eucharistic Prayer. • The words normally spoken during reception of the Bread and Wine (e.g. "The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven") to be said to the assembly as a whole before distributing communion, and not spoken as people are receiving face-to-face to minimize risk (airborne particles are lessened, not eliminated, by mask use). • Multiple communion stations can cut down on crowding, depending upon context. • If space allows, distributing communion to the people standing at their seats may be the safest option. • Avoid seating people on pew/row ends where communion lines will form. • Distribute communion at floor level, avoiding stairs, where people would either have to share handrails or use an usher's assistance. • Communion remains valid in one kind. Congregants have the option of receiving only the Bread (wafers) or only the Wine, and the offering of Bread (wafers) alone is authorized when preferred in your context at this time. • Avoid contact when distributing communion – wafers "dropped" slightly into hands, not pressed into hands. • The use of home-baked bread is suspended. The use of wafers lessens personal contact. • Intinction ("dipping" the Bread into the Wine) is suspended. • Purificators must be changed out frequently so that same cloth is not wiping and re-wiping the chalice throughout. • Communicants must not touch the bottom of the chalice as one might to help guide it normally; multiple people touching the same spot could spread the virus.
Other gatherings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee hour is temporarily suspended. Consider other means of (virtual) fellowship. • Other groups may meet in numbers approved by the State/County. Pay special attention to disinfecting/sanitizing before and after such gatherings.

Pre-Re Open Cleaning/Sanitation Suggestions

A number of online sources have reported that the Covid-19 virus has varying life cycles on surfaces. The Cleveland Clinic suggests the following as a guide for surface life span of the virus

Glass – 5 days
Wood – 4 Days
Plastic and stainless-steel – 3 days
Cardboard – 24 hours
Copper Surfaces – 4 hours

The CDC also provides some guidelines for regular cleaning and cleaning when infection is present. The following links will provide you with the CDC information

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM26911

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Cleaning-and-Disinfection>

If there has been the presence of the Covid-19 in your building within the past 5 days, before re-opening, you must, at a minimum, complete the following before re-opening...

1. Consider delaying your opening by 1 week.
2. Hire a reputable cleaning company to complete a full cleaning of your facility with an emphasis on the use of disinfecting solutions.
3. If hiring a company to clean is not feasible, please...
 - a. Clean your facility using disinfecting solutions and materials.
 - b. Use gloves at all time during the cleaning process to avoid potential exposure and cross contamination.
 - c. Highly concentrate on those areas that will have high usage, (ie: door hardware, restroom facilities, water fountains, water coolers, kitchen facilities, etc.)
 - d. If disinfecting cleaning solutions are not readily available in your area, the CDC recommends a cleaning solution of 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) of bleach per gallon of water or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.

Check List: Reopening of God's Church Facilities

Prayer: Lord, please bless this church facility as we reopen them - may they bring in and keep more souls for You, in Jesus name.

<p>Life Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Confirm employees/volunteers health <input type="checkbox"/> Smoke detectors <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon Monoxide detector <input type="checkbox"/> Exit signs <input type="checkbox"/> Exit door hardware <input type="checkbox"/> Fire extinguishers, proper date <input type="checkbox"/> Sprinkler system <input type="checkbox"/> Check first aid supplies and equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Check for pest infestation <input type="checkbox"/> Check all gas powered equipment & operate <input type="checkbox"/> Clean out ice machines and sanitize <p>Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm systems <input type="checkbox"/> Alarm Sensors <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Disinfectant – electronic sprayer <input type="checkbox"/> Deep clean inside facility <input type="checkbox"/> Clean carpet and floor tile <input type="checkbox"/> Check condition of furnishings and equipment <p>Heating, Ventilating Air Conditioning HVAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Service for summer/winter operation <input type="checkbox"/> Change filters – use MERV 11 (HEPA) if possible <input type="checkbox"/> Clean ducts <p>Electrical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise breakers – ten times <input type="checkbox"/> Check lighting inside and out – replace with LEDs <input type="checkbox"/> Check outlets for ground and GFCCI 	<p>Electronics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> P.A. system <input type="checkbox"/> Computers, internet, surge protectors, screens <input type="checkbox"/> Printers - exercise them <input type="checkbox"/> TVs, screens, projectors, cameras <p>Plumbing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Flush water lines <input type="checkbox"/> Check water heater, flush, test pressure relief valve <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise all valves <input type="checkbox"/> Check water meter and backflow preventers for leakage <input type="checkbox"/> Restock restroom supplies <p>Church Exterior Envelope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect roof parapet, penetrations, drainage <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect exterior walls, doors, windows, penetrations <p>Church Exterior Grounds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Driveways, parking lots – cracks, holes and striping <input type="checkbox"/> ADA access & signage <input type="checkbox"/> Way Finding – signage <input type="checkbox"/> Trees, Plantings, grass/green landscaping <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation systems <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect and sanitize playground <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect fences and property boundaries <p>Vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitize Vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> First aid kit, safety equipment, spare tire <input type="checkbox"/> Proper air pressure in tires <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect vehicle conditions and safety <input type="checkbox"/> Review vehicle maintenance records
---	---

NOTES:

___ Is your church facility inviting the people off the street to come and join you in worshipping the Lord?

Questions: Jack Rutledge, call or text 480-818-8925 or email jrutledge@cpg.org