

IN-PERSON WORSHIP TO RESUME SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Dear Christ Church,

With the recommendation of our Return to Worship Task Force and the consent of the Vestry, I am able to announce that we will be returning to in-person worship, outdoors, on Sunday, September 27. Beginning Tuesday, September 29, we will also start allowing small group gatherings indoors for limited periods of time.

Our first Sunday service will be at 8:00 am on Sunday the 27th on the front lawn of Christ Church. We will be in touch with more details on how you can make a reservation (reservations are used to limit attendance) for one of fifty spaces available for that service. If we fill those fifty spaces, we will add another, earlier service. Future communications will outline what the service will require of attendees and how we will handle logistics. Online streaming and drive-through communion will also continue for the foreseeable future. Depending on how our outdoor worship works at Christ Church, we will look at add a service at St. Ignatius on Saturday evenings when it is prudent. We are starting small to ensure we can manage the logistics, volunteer training, and safety of coming together again.

Small groups meeting indoors will be limited to ten persons or less. All groups and worship participation will require pre-screening, masking, distancing, and an understanding that access to bathrooms is on an emergency basis only.

In addition, I am announcing a lottery process for a very small number of persons (5-6) to join us in the historic church during the 9:15 am live stream each week. No one will be able to repeat participation in that service until everyone who enters the lottery has had a chance to attend or we have begun indoor worship on a regular schedule.

We will share more details about each of these opportunities, and how you can participate, next week.

Please know that this step forward does not indicate that the pandemic is no longer a concern here in Glynn County. On the contrary, there is still significant risk of transmission of this virus if persons are not following recommended guidelines. Just because we are offering in-person worship does not mean that everyone should attend. Those who are high risk and/or uncomfortable with group settings should consider participating virtually. We are pleased that Glynn County's numbers have improved over the last month, and we hope the trend continues. We will continue to monitor local indications of this virus and its spread closely. There may be a day when we have to suspend in-person worship again, but we hope that won't be necessary.

I thank you for your patience during this pandemic, and I ask you to continue to be patient. What we return to in a few weeks will not be what we left in March, but it will be another measured step in that direction. If we all follow the guidelines and take things one step at a time, we can reduce the risk of another wave of infections in our community, which in turn, keeps our friends and family safer.

Thank you for your continued prayers and faithfulness. Please stay safe, and God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom+" with a small cross symbol at the end.

Tom+