

## What to Expect for Worship in the Sanctuary

As Phase 3 of our Regathering Plan gets underway, responses to some frequently asked questions may be helpful.

- *Can I just show up for worship in person?* No. For Phase 3, each week is assigned to a particular group, who can bring family members as well. You should receive an email invitation from Kim Darling on Monday or Tuesday indicating it is your week to worship. If you do not yet have an assigned Sunday this summer and you wish to worship in person, contact Kim Darling.
- *Will everyone be wearing masks?* Yes, unless they are speaking as part of worship leadership. While rare, it is still possible to contract COVID-19 when vaccinated, but we also wear masks to model safe behavior for our children and those who are most vulnerable and to let them know they do not bear this burden alone.
- *Can I bring my children?* Yes. If preferable, you can reserve the children/family room on the second floor overlooking the sanctuary. To do so, email Kim.
- *Why are we not using temperature checks?* Studies show it does not prevent spread particularly with some being asymptomatic. Instead, we ask attendees to monitor their own wellbeing for any sign that they might be infected.
- *How are we passing the peace?* It's up to you whether you wish you move around the sanctuary to greet others during the passing of the peace or to remain in your space and greet folks from afar. Please choose whether you wish to greet with elbow bumps, a namaste bow, a peace sign or other ways of greeting. Please honor the preferences of others. This is a time when we can model consent.
- *Will we see a projection of those who are joining us by Zoom?* Yes, during certain times of the service, such as the passing of the peace or if a worship leader is participating by Zoom. Zoom squares will not be projected throughout the entire service to allow focus on worship itself without distraction and to honor the fact that we have not asked those joining us by Zoom to agree to being projected into the sanctuary for the whole service.
- *Why are we projecting on the wall and not the screen?* The drop-down screen's dimensions would require us to substantially reduce the size of what we are projecting, and the screen cannot go up and down throughout the service. Because it is visually dominant and we are not projecting for the entire service, we are opting instead to project on the wall as a more aesthetic option.
- *Why are services longer in Phase 3?* As we live into our vision of hybrid worship, transition times within our order of worship will be longer to account for walking up to lecterns. We may be adding in aspects of worship that were previously streamlined out of our service, for example receiving prayers of the people from those in the sanctuary in real time.
- *Can I give my tithe/offering when worshipping in the sanctuary?* Yes. There will be an offering plate on the table on the way out of the sanctuary. Feel free to drop your offering there.
- *Will there be live music?* Yes. On most Sundays, the opening and closing voluntary will be live along with the centering moment and music during communion. On some Sundays, we may also have a guest instrumentalist play live. In Phase 4, we will invite soloists – quartets to sing live for some worship services. At this time, there is no congregational singing in the sanctuary. Please be patient with us as we make use of pre-recorded hymns and/or special music offerings in the interim between John's retirement and our next Music Director being hired. We do, however, plan to have a live musician substitute each Sunday.

- *Can I visit with others following worship?* Yes. If you prefer to visit with others, a brief hospitality time will take place in the sanctuary. Feel free to linger and mingle. If you prefer not to mingle, make your way out of the sanctuary after worship ends.
- *Can I share my feedback about in-person worship?* Please do. Each worship folder will include a brief survey that we ask you to complete before you leave worship and drop into the basket on your way out the door.
- *Will we continue to offer a Zoom option?* Yes. Our commitment to hybrid worship means that we will always provide an accessible way to join worship from afar. This will allow for members who live in other parts of the world to join us every Sunday, for extended family to attend and participate in special services such as Christmas pageants and baptisms, and for those who may be ill or have trouble getting to the sanctuary to join us from the comfort of their home. We give thanks to God for the accessibility possible with hybrid worship!
- *Phase 3: A Holy Experiment:* Please be mindful that Phase 3 is a summer's worth of "holy experimentation" as we look toward Phase 4 beginning on September 12. During the summer we are experimenting with new technological feats to live into our vision of hybrid worship, receiving feedback, adapting, and learning from our mistakes. Thank you for your patience as we learn together, practice new protocols, welcome substitute musicians, and honor vacation time for our pastoral staff this summer. If you have additional questions, please feel free to be in touch with Rev. Amanda or Kim Darling, who leads our Regathering Task Force. We give thanks for the good work of all who have made this Regathering Plan possible, and for all the adaptations worship leaders and staff are making.