

Dear HTC Family and Friends,

As our nation responds to the novel coronavirus pandemic and the declaration of a National Emergency, it has become necessary that we as a community join in the effort to reduce the risk to individuals and also join our health-care providers in their efforts to “flatten the curve” of new infections. Therefore, effective immediately, Holy Trinity Church will make the following temporary adjustments to our practices.

#### Holy Communion and Other Worship Services

1. Though Holy Communion services will continue, the Sacrament will be distributed by intinction only. The priest will take a Host from the patten, intinct the Host into the chalice, and then place the Host directly on the tongue of the recipient. This method will ensure that the only person touching the elements is the priest and the assistant. You will notice that between each recipient the priest will wipe his fingers on a purificator (towel) which is coated with alcohol as a disinfectant. This method will be demonstrated at both Masses this Sunday and will be mandatory for 4 weeks, after which the necessity of these practices will be re-evaluated.

2. All priests and acolytes serving in the chancel during Mass will wash hands with soap and water as directed by CDC officials immediately before the procession. In addition, a bottle of hand sanitizer has been placed on the credence table so that the Priests and the Altar Servers will sanitize their hands before setting the Altar for Communion.

3. To limit the possibility of sharing infections, we will not shake hands or bump elbows. Instead, I suggest we greet one another with a slight bow or nod of the head. As you all know it has long been my practice to bow in recognition of the image of God born by all people, and it seems to me a respectful way to greet one another. This will be hard for most of us since we are a very “huggy” congregation, but for the short term let's keep a little distance.

4. We ask all our members to exercise “extreme prudence” in attending services. If you are sick with symptoms such as fever, coughing or “flu-like” symptoms, please stay home, contact your medical provider, and inform the priest so that we may add you to the prayers. Furthermore, if you have a condition which compromises your immune system, feel free to stay home knowing that we will be praying with you and for you.

5. We will place hand sanitizer in the narthex for parishioner use when entering or exiting the Chapel.

#### Social Gatherings

1. In keeping with the advice of health-care officials and disease control experts, we will curtail some social gatherings where disease might spread.

2. Coffee hour: although coffee hour with Sunday snacks is a big part of HTC

culture, for the next four weeks we will cease offering food on Sunday morning. The coffee station will remain open for use at your discretion.

3.The First Friday Fellowship remains on the schedule for the month of April. We will re-evaluate that event as we approach the date.

4.Sunday Bible College classes will continue but without food offerings.

5.The tables, chairs and surfaces in the parish hall were treated with disinfectant on Friday and will be treated again each Friday for the foreseeable future.

The Clergy and Vestry are reaching out to many in leadership and authority for advice in our efforts to help all our members in this National Emergency. If you have additional concerns which we have not addressed or advice on how we may better address the situation, please do not hesitate in contacting us through the parish office. We desire your input.

In conclusion, I offer some selections from the Book of Common Prayer.

For Those We Love p.597

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come; knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality p.45

O most might and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee to thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And most especially:

Psalm 4:9 p.347 (Listed as Psalm 4:8 in most Bibles)

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest; \* for it is thou, LORD, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Bradley S. Cunningham  
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Church  
& Lindisfarne Hall Classical Christian School  
Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island, FL