

A Plan for Recovery at Holy Trinity Church

Dearly Family and Friends at Holy Trinity Church,

On March 20, 2020, the House of Bishops of the Anglican Province of America suspended public worship in all of our parishes nationwide in response to the Coronavirus / COVID-19 Pandemic. On April 17 Presiding Bishop Grundorf wrote that the clergy and laity of the APA should follow national, state, and local guidelines as Phase 1 re-openings are beginning to occur in some states.

In addition to our Bishops' directions, the State of Florida, under the direction of Governor Ron Desantis, issued stay-at-home orders for all citizens of Florida. That order is scheduled to expire today (April 30) and we look forward to the beginning of a phased reopening of our businesses and society.

Keeping all this in mind, with the intention to care for the most vulnerable among us and also abide by the directions and guidelines of the Bishops and the State, I am offering the following to our congregation as a hopeful path to return to public worship at Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

On May 10th, Mother's Day in the United States, we will begin offering public worship with some careful caveats. Three Sunday Masses are scheduled for 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM. Three Masses will be necessary because of reduced seating in the chapel. Alternating pews will be marked off from seating so that there will be at least one empty pew between each attendee or family. Ushers will be trained to maintain personal distancing between those entering and exiting. There will be no greeting line either upon arrival or departure, no Sunday Bible College (except online), and no coffee or social hour. Everything will be designed to encourage appropriate personal distancing.

To accommodate these temporary changes to worship, **we will all need to make reservations** to attend the worship service of our choice. Reservations will be granted on a first come first served basis and some of us will need to be willing to attend Mass at a different time than we are used to. Please make your reservations by email to HolyTrinityAmelia@gmail.com or by calling the parish office office at 904-491-6082.

When receiving Communion during these services, Communicants will be asked to exercise appropriate distancing at the Altar rail. Stickers have been placed on the rail to mark the guideline distance. Simply position yourself in front of one of the stickers and you will be served. Please remain standing to receive the Sacrament so that you do not touch the Altar rail where others have done so.

Until further notice, the Sacrament will be distributed using only the intinction method. This method ensures that the priest is the only one handling the Blessed Sacrament. When you come forward for communion, the serving priest will dip (intinct) the Body of Christ into the Precious Blood and place it on your tongue. After each person is served, the priest will cleanse his fingers on a purificator soaked in sanitizing alcohol.

We realize that for some of you this is not the usual way to receive Holy Communion but we believe it is the best way to help us assure one another that all reasonable precautions are in place. However, for many of you this is the normal way to receive Holy Communion, and we ask that you conscientiously model this method to others so that all may receive in comfort and worship.

Following are a few additional considerations:

- Please bring your personal Book of Common Prayer to worship. There are no BCPs, Hymnals or Bibles in the pews and only a small number of disposable printed Liturgy booklets will be available.
- Alms Basins will be placed at the entrance to the chapel to reduce contact by not “passing the plate.”
- Face masks and gloves are appropriate attire for those who desire them.
- To further limit possible spread of the virus, we will not sing hymns until the danger is passed.
- Hand sanitizer has been placed at the entrances to the chapel for use before and after the Liturgy.
- All doors will be propped open throughout the services so that no one need touch door handles.
- Bathrooms should only be used if absolutely necessary. Disinfectant spray will be provided and should be used to treat all touched surfaces after each use. Parents, please be sure to help your young children with the disinfectant spray.
- The entire chapel and parish hall has been professionally sanitized and will continue to be sanitized at least once per month for the foreseeable future.
- As you are aware, I firmly believe that you know what is best for you and your family. This letter is not meant to pressure anyone who may feel reticent to leave their home.
- Many of you have good reason to continue avoiding contact with the coronavirus. For those who can not yet return to public worship we will continue to make services available online for the rest of the summer.

I am carefully joyful about this plan to reopen worship. We will need to be prudent, especially in the interest of those who are most vulnerable to the novel coronavirus, yet we can return to worship the Lord. We may all be sitting far apart and wearing masks, but we will proclaim Alleluia! together again availing ourselves of the means of grace.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone, number listed below.

I close with a call to prayer.

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen BCP p.127

Ever your servant in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Bradley S. Cunningham
Rector, Holy Trinity Anglican Church
& Lindisfarne Hall Classical Christian School
Fernandina Beach, Amelia Island, FL

Office: 904-491-6082

Mobile: 904-335-7818

Worship Times Updated 5/8/2020

Times and reservations applicable to 5/10 and 5/17/2020