

# Indoor Worship at VPC: Frequently Asked Questions

April 9, 2021

**Q: Why must we register in advance?**

A: There is limited space available at each service because of social distancing requirements. We also need to know who is attending to make notifications if an infection occurs after a service.

**Q: Will there be music?**

A: Due to the increased risk of aerosol transmission associated with indoor singing even in masks, there will be no congregational singing. We will be able to worship through listening to vocal and instrumental music from the chancel.

**Q: Will the outdoor service be the same service held inside?**

A: The outdoor service will use the same scripture and a slightly shorter version of the same sermon by the same pastor. The most noticeable difference between the inside and outside services will be the ability to enjoy congregational singing during the outdoor service.

**Q: Are masks required?**

A: Yes. We know that masks and social distancing reduce the risks of virus transmission. We are following all CDC recommendations to reduce risk and protect the health of our community. Everyone age 2 years and older is required to wear a face covering, INCLUDING fully vaccinated individuals. For an indoor event such as a worship service, CDC recommends that double masking be considered, meaning a disposable mask under a cloth face covering.

**Q: Why are we being advised to arrive early?**

A: Because of the social distancing requirement, each family group needs to be individually seated and there can be no bunching up or congregating awaiting seating.

**Q: Where should I enter the building?**

A: Please enter the building through the parking lot doors. Only those doors will be open.

**Q: What happens if I forget my mask?**

A: VPC has a limited number of disposable masks which we will make available if you forget to wear yours, but it is highly preferred that all attendees wear their own masks from the time they leave their vehicles.

**Q: Why can't I sit in my "normal" pew?**

A: Worshipers will be seated in order of arrival in a manner reducing risk of pedestrian congestion and intended to maintain necessary social distance.

**Q: How will we be dismissed from the worship space at the conclusion of the service?**

A: To maintain social distancing, there will need to be an orderly, managed dismissal. We will dismiss the Sanctuary from back to front and we ask that you exit the building and move promptly to your cars.

**Q: Do we need to bring our own Bibles?**

A: Yes. Public health guidelines recommend against shared items.

**Q: Can we observe the service from the Narthex if our children are fidgety?**

A: Due to social distancing requirements we cannot have people congregating in the Narthex. Because there will be no childcare, all children must stay with their own family group in the Sanctuary.

**Q: Where are the coat racks?**

A: To help promote social distancing we are asking everyone to keep their coats with them.

**Q: Will hand sanitizer be available?**

A: Yes, please use the hand sanitizer in the Narthex.

**Q: What if I need to visit the restroom during the service?**

A: Access to the restrooms is available. Please note that the exterior restroom doors will be propped open to improve ventilation, to reduce face-to-face “close passes” entering and leaving the restroom, and to reduce touch points. The lavatory area is still private.

**Q: What happens if members of the congregation take off their masks or otherwise do not comply with safety requirements?**

A: Welcome Team members will lovingly remind worshipers about safety rules. VPC’s Session has endorsed compliance with CDC guidelines for reducing risk to our congregation and staff and to slow the spread of the virus in our community. If you do not wish to comply with social distancing and mask requirements, we urge you to worship with us on-line for now.

**Q: Will we have the opportunity to give at this service?**

A: Yes. There will be Giving Centers at the back of the Sanctuary, but we encourage giving online if you are comfortable with online giving.

**Q: Will our indoor services include communion?**

A: Yes, we will have monthly communion using personal kits just as we have been doing outdoors. There will be no passing of communion elements, and your kit must be picked up as you enter the sanctuary.

**Q: Will we be able to celebrate baptisms?**

A: Until COVID transmission rates in our community are significantly lower, we will celebrate baptisms during our outdoor services.