



CHRIST CHURCH
VERO BEACH

The Path to Re-Open for Worship and Ministry

by Fr. Keith Allen, Rector

April 30, 2020

The [Great Commandment](#) provides the guiding principle for our decision making throughout this plan. We are seeking to love God and to love our neighbors through every step of this process. The Lord God is worthy to be worshiped through the proclamation of the Scripture, the proper administration of the Sacraments, and a gathered people who are filled with the Holy Spirit. However, God's love of humankind and His command that we love our neighbor necessitates that we worship in a way that protects the most vulnerable and demonstrates their value to us as the Body of Christ.

The goal of being "good citizens" and working in coordination and collaboration with civic and national guidance is also a key element of our reopening process. This means that we will not rush ahead of the guidance of our health officials and government leaders. In doing so, the Church is not relinquishing our constitutional rights, but rather is seeking to follow the Biblical call to demonstrate our faith by being good citizens and obeying those in authority over us. God uses our elected officials for our good and so we will seek to follow the guidance given by these officials.

Throughout this process we are committed to living out our mission to **worship, grow, and reach**. Our plan has three phases, and in each phase there are distinct opportunities for you to engage in all aspects of our mission. Regardless of the phase, it is important that all members of Christ Church invest themselves intentionally in worshipping the Lord, in growing in their faith through study and devotion, and reaching out to others as there are needs all around us.

In accordance with the directives issued on April 29 by Gov. DeSantis, Christ Church has implemented Phase 1 of our Reopening Plan. The timeline for implementing Phases 2 and 3 will depend on the local and state limitations and directives from Bp. Neil Lebar.

PHASE 1

General

- In keeping with CDC guidance, we encourage **all who are 65 or older to consider worshipping online** on Sundays and/or attend either the Wednesday or Thursday services. In addition, anyone who has an [underlying medical issue](#) that makes you more vulnerable to COVID-19 [should stay at home](#) throughout this phase of the plan.
- We encourage all who attend to wear a mask and wash/sanitize hands upon entering the building.
- Volunteer teams will sanitize publicly used areas after each Eucharist service (Mondays and Fridays).
- IF YOU FEEL ILL AT ALL, PLEASE STAY HOME.

Worship

- We will resume Sunday morning Eucharist, Wednesday Evening Prayer, and Thursday morning Eucharist **beginning May 10**. In adherence to prescribed guidelines, **we must limit attendance to 40 parishioners** along with the 10 volunteers for altar and AV support.
- Due to the limited seating in Phase 1, **those planning to attend any of our three worship services MUST call the office in advance to reserve seating**. This temporary reservation system will prevent anyone from being turned away due to overcapacity.
- We will offer Eucharist in one kind (bread only). In addition, we encourage the continuation of spiritual communion for all who have concerns during this phase. Spiritual reception is a valid form of worship during this season.
- We will not pass the plate for the offering, but do encourage online giving or mailing your tithes and offerings to the church office. If you need to leave your check on Sunday morning, there will be a secure collection box at the entrance to the Nave for your offering.
- We will not have physical contact while passing the peace, and ask that you stay at your seat during the passing of the peace.
- We will maintain 6 feet of social distance as recommended by the CDC. Seating will be limited to every other row and families will maintain three chairs of separation between others. (Your immediate family may sit together, but will need to leave three open chairs between you other parishioners.)
- We will limit musicians and vocalists to those in the Altar party and band during this phase.

Grow

- We will offer Sunday School with a **maximum attendance of 40 people** in the Community Center. These classes will be recorded and made available online.
- Christ Church will continue to offer Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Bible Studies and Prayer Support through online delivery systems (live stream, videos, and teleconferences).

Reach

- There will be no Sunday coffee hour or group fellowship of any kind.
- We encourage your continued acts of kindness and generosity to those in need, connecting with people by phone or correspondence, and inviting people to attend online Bible Studies, support groups and worship services with you while we are still limited from large fellowship groups.

*The timeline for implementing Phases 2 & 3 depends on directives from
Bp. Lebhar and Gov. DeSantis.*