

Worship Service Precautions and Practices

As we proceed, minimizing the risks of Covid-19 is paramount. So, make your own prayerful decision and come back to Hope only when you feel safe and comfortable.

Our sister church, Messiah Lutheran in Danville, will continue to provide an on-line feed each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. of their same service. Please refer to their website <http://messiahlutherandanville.com/> for the Zoom link to the Service.

As we return, we will proceed reverently and cautiously. The cost of gathering at this time is diligence and even a little discomfort. Because there may be issues involving the sun, do not hesitate to bring and wear a hat during the service. You may also wish to bring water, mark the bottle and keep it with you, so that you do not become dehydrated.

Service Notes for a Return to Worship

- If you are sick – especially with a fever or cough – please stay home. This is extraordinarily important!
- The CDC recommends that those at higher risk, which generally include persons 65 years and older or those of any age with underlying medical conditions, avoid public gatherings.
- The Divine Services will be celebrated on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
- Our Services for the time being will be held outdoors at the back of the church. They will not begin or continue unless all attendees are wearing a mask (except children under 2).
- We will prepare for 25 people, the maximum recommended for in-person gatherings in Alameda County.
- You will need to reserve a seat(s) through the Hope website using the Register link. Please register for that week just once and provide the number of people that will be in your group for that Service. Please note that registration is for only one Service, to attend another Service, you will need to re-register for that week using the Hope website. There will be a new link on the website for each week.
- Please feel free to bring umbrellas, hats, and water. Hand sanitizer and mask stations will be available, but it is highly recommended to bring your own.

Service Protocol Before, During, and After the Service

- As you enter the Church parking lot you be directed to a parking space.
- Before exiting your car, put your mask on. Please wear your mask at all times – for the sake of others safety and well-being.
- Please bring and use hand sanitizer. Sanitize your hands before leaving your car and as you enter and exit the Service seating area. Re-sanitize your hands again before receiving the Holy Eucharist at the beginning of Holy Communion.
- Keep a physical distance from others of at least 6 feet at all times.
- The Church front doors will be closed and locked for each Service.
- Walk to the Check-In Station at the front of the Church. Here you will check-in and your temperature taken with a No Touch thermometer. If your temperature exceeds 100.4, you will be asked kindly and respectfully to return home and seek medical attention. If at any time during the Service you are not feeling well, please leave immediately. Kindly wait at a distance for others to finish their check-in.
- After checking-in, proceed down the sidewalk on the front side of the Fellowship Hall and then around to the back of the Fellowship Hall to get to the Service area.
- The handicap restroom will be the only restroom in use for our services. To enter use the open door from the outside Service area at the back of the Church.
- Please observe that the interior of the Church and the Fellowship Hall are closed. This keeps these areas safe and we can avoid having to sanitize these areas after the service.
- Avoid the restroom if possible. Please only one person at a time and kindly wait at a distance for others to exit before entering.
- A single-use Service bulletin will be given to you before going to your seat in the Service area. Please take them with you when you go home.

The Communion Protocol - It Is Different from Our Normal Service

- The Liturgy will follow the form of the 'Brief Order of the Holy Eucharist' as a Service Bulletin. (A sample can be found on the Hope website, Hymns will change each week).
- When we speak or sing together, we will speak softly. The congregation will only sing the Hymn of the day, the Sanctus, and the Agnus Dei.
- There will be a collection box placed near the entrance for those who would like to give their offerings in person.

Please follow these rubrics to receive the Holy Eucharist

NOTE - As the Holy Eucharist involves close contact, please do not feel you must receive it at this time. If you are uncomfortable and do not want to participate, simply cross your arms in the form of an X. The Pastor will then bless you and move on.

- Because what follows is new, we will take our time with it. There is no need to rush.
- Before delivering the elements, the Pastor and the Assistants will sanitize their hands. If contact is made with any communicant, they will stop and sanitize their hands again.
- Stay in your seat. The Pastor and Assistants will come to you.
- Before the Pastor arrives to give you the Body of Christ, please remove any gloves and sanitize your hands.
- Keep your mask on as the Pastor arrives and put your hands out FLAT, your dominant hand under your other hand. After the Pastor leaves, and before the Vicar arrives, lower your mask momentarily to consume the Body of Christ. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.
- As the Assistant arrives, please take hold of the glass that you received on the way into the Service and hold it in front about 8-10 inches from your body. He will pour a small amount of the Blood of Christ into your glass. Once he vacates your space, lower your mask momentarily to drink the Blood of Christ. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.
- An Elder will then come with a cruet of water. Since most glasses have remnants that are in the glass (which is still the Blood of Christ) he will pour in a small amount of water for you to consume what is left in the glass. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.

- Finally, another Elder or Acolyte will come and retrieve the empty glass from you.
- When the Divine Service is finished, please exit the Service area promptly. Maintain physical distancing. Please restrain from handshakes, hugs, or close contact with any other parties other than your own household for now.

As data and circumstances change, we will adjust our practices and gradually move back to the normal rhythm of our Life together.