

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.

The cost of gathering at this time is diligence and even a little discomfort. Therefore, we will proceed reverently and cautiously. Because there may be issues with keeping the Church heated, you may want to bring a coat so that you do not get cold during the Service.

Service Notes for a Return to Worship in the Sanctuary

- 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 indoors in the Church Sanctuary. They will not begin or continue unless all attendees are wearing a mask (except children under 2).
- We will prepare for 41 people, the maximum recommended for indoor Worship 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 bring hand sanitizer. Sanitizer and mask stations will be available, but it is highly recommended to bring your own.

Worship Service Protocol - Before, During, and After the Service

- As you enter the Church parking lot select a parking space that is not next to another car if available.
- 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 Sanctuary. Re-sanitize your hands again before receiving the Holy Eucharist at the beginning of Holy Communion.
- Keep at least a 6 foot physical distance from others at all times.
- The outside Fellowship Hall doors will be closed and locked for each Service.
- Walk to the Check-In Station that is at the outside front of the Church. Kindly wait at a distance for others to finish their check-in. 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.
- After checking-in, proceed as directed by the Elder or Usher. Please pay attention to the directions given for seating in the Sanctuary. It is important to remember that you need to keep a minimum physical distance of 6 feet from anyone outside of your group.
- Note that the Handicap restroom will be closed for these inside Services. The restrooms in the hallway from the Sanctuary are the only restrooms open and available during the Service.
- Please observe that the hallway down to the Handicap restroom and the Fellowship Hall is 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 at the Check-in station before going to your seat for the Service. Please take them with you when you go home.
- There will be a collection plate placed near the entrance for those who would like to give their offerings in person.

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, the verses will change each week).
- There will be no singing for the inside Service. When we speak, we will speak softly. The congregation will only speak the Sanctus and the Agnus Dei.

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, you do not have to participate.

- Because what follows is new, we will take our time with it. There is no need to rush. Please keep a minimum physical distance of 6 feet at all times.
- Before the start of Communion, 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 until directed to go up to receive Communion. Please follow all directions given by the Elder and Usher(s).
- Please remove any gloves and sanitize your hands.
- Keep your mask on as you walk up to receive the Body of Christ. Put your hands out FLAT, your dominant hand under your other hand. The Pastor will place the Eucharist on your hand.
- Now move to the next station. Before arriving at the next station, lower your mask momentarily to consume the Body of Christ. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.
- Please take a glass from the tray on your way to receive the Blood of Christ. When you arrive at the next station hold the glass in front of you about 8-10 inches from your body. The Assistant will pour a small amount of the Blood of Christ into your glass.
- Now move to the next station. Before arriving at the next station, lower your mask momentarily to drink the Blood of Christ. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.

- At the next station, an Assistant will pour water into your glass from a cruet. 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.
- Now move on and consume the water. Please cover your mouth again with your mask.
- Finally, place your empty glass into the bin at the end of the line and go back to your seat.
- When the Divine Service is finished, please exit the Sanctuary in single-file-order. Maintain physical distancing from others outside of your group. Please restrain from handshakes, hugs, or close contact with any other parties other than your own household.

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