

June 30, 2021

COG COVID Task Force Congregational Update

We are happy to let you know of some positive changes at Cross of Glory surrounding our COVID-19 protocols. This is primarily possible due to the large number of people being vaccinated and the relaxing of regulations by the State of Minnesota and information from the CDC. We maintain a more conservative approach while offering new freedoms to the congregation.

What Is New?

- **Masks:** Masks are no longer required *for those who are fully vaccinated*. If you have not been fully vaccinated, we ask that you wear a mask in the church building for your safety and the safety of others. Of course, anyone may wear a mask if they desire.
- **Choir/Worship Team:** The choir and worship team will be able to gather and sing together with minimal physical distancing, provided those singing are fully vaccinated.
- **Food/Drink:** Food and drink can be made available at special gatherings, provided it is not buffet style and servers/workers wear gloves and are fully vaccinated. We encourage physical distance with no shared implements.

What Is the Same?

- **Masks:** We ask that anyone who has not been fully vaccinated wear a mask in the church building.
- **Hand Sanitizing:** Please sanitize your hands when you enter the building at any time.
- **Physical Distance:** We will continue physical distancing in the sanctuary, but this is at your discretion and comfort level. We ask for no hugging or hand shaking, including during sharing of the peace. Every other pew will continue to be taped off.
- **Communion:** Communion will be celebrated in-place in the pews the first Sunday of the month.
- **Offering:** Offering plates will continue to be available in the narthex outside the sanctuary, and you may also send or drop off your gifts to the church or contribute online or electronically.
- **Ushering/bulletin:** Ushering will continue as it was pre-pandemic. Bulletins will be available for those who ask for them.
- **Congregational singing and response:** Congregational singing and response are allowed in services.
- **Greeting and Fellowship after services:** There will be no pastoral greeting line after services. Fellowship and greetings will continue outside following services. We ask that you refrain from hand shaking.

- **Zoom and Recordings:** We will continue to offer our services “live” via Zoom and online recordings as this is still an important part of our church ministry.

These new freedoms are possible due to statistics that say a large percentage of people in the Hennepin County have been vaccinated. We encourage the Cross of Glory community to be vaccinated if possible. If you have not yet been vaccinated and need information, please contact the church office, any of the members of the Task Force, or visit <https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/index.jsp>

We are thankful that God has brought us through a very difficult situation over the last 16 months or so and are grateful for this relaxing of our protocols. We will be re-evaluating protocols again at the end of the summer.

Serving the Cross of Glory community,

The COG COVID Task Force