

February 7, 2022

To: Grace Episcopal Church

From: The Rev. Joseph N. Davis, Vicar

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the past 2 years, Covid 19 has changed, and so have we. The recent spike seems to be declining now, but there are still many cases in our state and in the United States. Being vaccinated is still the best defense against becoming sick or being hospitalized with Covid 19.

At Grace Church, we request that you wear a mask, preferably an N95, when inside the building for the church service. We are singing with our masks on. Please maintain a safe distance from people who are not part of your family or group of friends that you came to church with. We are offering communion in both kinds—the consecrated bread and wine—but we are not intincting for now. If you choose not to receive the chalice, please cross your arms at the rail or return to your pew after receiving the host. We are passing the plate at the offertory, but you may give before or after the service by putting your contribution in the plate, and you may give online through the link at our website or by using the code printed on your service bulletin. Readers may remove their masks while reading.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we were recommending people to stay home and watch online. Now we are asking people who are not having Covid symptoms and have not recently been exposed to a person with Covid 19 to attend in person and continue safe practices such as the ones mentioned above. We are continuing to broadcast the service online by Facebook Live and afterwards on Youtube. If we have a sustained downward trend in numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, perhaps we will no longer ask people to wear masks if they prefer not to. That time could come this spring, but we will have to wait and see. We have been patient a long time, and caring for our own safety and one another's has brought good results for our congregation. We continue to wait, watch, and pray for deliverance from this trial. May God bless and keep you all. I hope to see you under the maple tree.

Faithfully,  
Father Joe