



**PHASE 1 PLANS FOR RESUMING
PUBLIC WORSHIP**
June 2020

Good people of St. Columb's,

Thank you for your continued love and support for our parish as we continue to make our way through difficult times, facing a global pandemic together by remaining connected and worshipping virtually. I am incredibly proud of the efforts that have been made by our people to remain faithful in love and service to one another. May we continue these holy efforts as we transition to resuming in-person public worship while creating a safe worship experience for all who choose to return.

As the situation with the virus develops, please know our plans could change. My hope is that the numbers of cases will drop and more and more parts of our parish life will resume. There is the possibility, however, that we will need to “pull back” and return to virtual offerings. The vestry and I ask for your continued prayers for us and all our leadership as we discern a path forward and make choices that will impact the whole of our flock.

Below you will find our plans for Phase 1 of resuming public worship. These plans are informed by recommendations from our diocese as well as state and federal guidelines. I recognize these plans may take us out of our comfort zone and present a new normal, yet I also know we will rise to the challenge. At St. Columb's, we are a “family of God's people” who enjoy nothing more being together. Therefore, I know we will all be overjoyed at the chance to be together again, even if our plans for resuming make things feel different. I just ask everyone to remember these plans are made for our parish community as a whole that our worship may be as safe as possible and minimize the risk for spreading the virus.

May God be with us for each and every step that we take on this journey, may God find us faithful in our efforts to worship him safely, and may the blessing of God be with us always!

CJ+

STATEMENT FOR OUR VULNERABLE POPULATION

As an extra precaution, we are advising those over 65 and/or those who have medical conditions which make them vulnerable to COVID-19 (see list of conditions in resources listed below) to stay home and join us from the livestream. This is a precaution and not a requirement. Ultimately, each individual is free to choose whether or not they feel ready to return. As a church community committed to the safety of its all its members, we have issued this extra precaution.

PHASE 1 PLANS FOR RESUMING PUBLIC WORSHIP

Overview:

- 50 people maximum per service
- Those over 65 with health conditions making them more vulnerable to the virus advised to stay home.
- RSVP for services online or through the church office
- Members of separate households maintain physical distance of 6 feet between each other
- Wear masks that cover the nose and the mouth
- Wash hands thoroughly and often
- If you are feeling ill, please stay at home. We recommend you to take your temperature at home before coming to church.
- The livestream of the 10:30 AM service will continue

Services:

- Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Saturday
- Holy Eucharist 8:00 AM Sunday
- Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Sunday
- Evening Prayer 6:00 PM Sunday (Outdoor, 20 max)

More Details:

Worship Offerings: At this time, weekend worship will be our only in-person offerings. Other programs such as fellowship, Christian Education, and prayer groups will resume at a later date.

Children: Children are invited to attend worship with their families and maintain physical distancing. At this time, we will not resume Sunday school or children's chapel. Fr. CJ will prepare a message for children at the beginning of worship and at the beginning of his sermons.

RSVP for Services: Links to online registration will be sent in The Cantor each Tuesday and will also be available on our website. Participants can also register for services by calling or emailing the parish office.

- Once the maximum amount of people have registered for a service, registration will close and those who attempt to register online will be notified that the event is full.
- A volunteer will be seated at a registration table at the entrance to the church, checking in those who have registered prior to the service.
- Those who attend without registering before the service will be asked to give their name at the registration table and wait until the service begins to take any available seats.
- Additional seating will be available at the 10:30 service in the parish hall for those who arrive late or have not registered for the service. The livestream will be shown for those gathered.

Worship Space: Changes to the worship space will be made to maintain distancing and decrease the amount of frequently touched surfaces and reusable objects.

- The main entrance to the nave will be left open until the service begins to reduce the number of hands that touch the door handle. The side entrance will be locked and a sign will be posted asking everyone to come through the main entrance.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the narthex before congregants enter the nave.
- Signs will be posted to remind worshippers to wash their hands, wear a mask, and keep a safe distance.
- Pews will be taped to mark seating areas which are appropriately separated for physical distancing
- All BCPs, Hymnals, and other print materials will be removed from common areas to ensure they are not reused.
 - Bulletins will contain the service in its entirety and all Church news, information, and opportunities to sign up for new ministry.
 - Bulletins will be placed in the pews prior to the service.
 - We are looking into making the bulletin available electronically so you can follow the service on your phone or tablet.
- Greeters will shepherd individuals and families as they arrive at the church
 - Parishioners who arrive early will be asked to congregate outside before the service while maintaining distance
 - Once a parishioner and/or family enters the church building, we will ask them to proceed to the next pew available closest to the front.
- The baptismal font will remain empty and be cleaned in-between services
- The offertory plate will be placed next to the baptismal font at the entrance of the church for parishioners to make their offerings as they enter or exit the church.
- A production booth will be set up in the church for the 10:30 AM service to run the livestream. We will do our best not to make it a distraction.
- At the end of the service, clergy will dismiss the congregation by pew, starting in the back of the nave.

Liturgical Changes: Changes to the liturgy will be made to maintain distancing and reduce service times.

- Only clergy will serve at the altar. LEMs, readers, and acolytes will resume at a later date.
- Clergy will not process at the beginning of the service but will enter from the side.
- Omissions to the services will be made where the rubrics allow.
- Clergy will read one lesson, a psalm, and the Gospel reading. The Gospel will be read from in front of the altar without processing into the congregation.
- Offertory plate will be brought to a table at the front by usher and clergy will return to table after saying the offertory sentence.
- The Peace will be offered in place while maintaining distance and offering gestures to one another.
- Announcements will be shortened and congregants will be directed to the bulletin for a full list of announcements.

- Those who receive birthday and anniversary blessings will be asked to stay in place and receive the blessing from their pew.
- Communion will be offered in one kind with clergy bringing the patten to each individual or family at their pew.
- An announcement will be given before the dismissal to remind those in the back pews to depart first.

Music: Following diocesan recommendations, we will limit singing as much as possible in our Phase 1 reopening.

- The choir will continue to prerecord hymns to be offered virtually and played during our worship.
- Our organist will provide instrumental music during the service.
- In-person choir will be comprised of no more than a quartet who are adequately distanced from one another.
- Music and lyrics will not be printed in the bulletin.
- No service music will be sung at this time.

Cleaning After the Service: Our service schedule provides adequate time to clean and disinfect our bathrooms, pews, and frequently touched surfaces.

- We will recruit 4 volunteers from those who attend the service to stay after the service and divide up the labor.
- Supplies for cleaning will be provided, including masks and gloves.

Preparations for Entering Phase 1:

- An announcement informing the congregation of potential plans for reopening was sent on April 26.
- A survey to assess the parish's readiness to resume worship was sent on April 29.
- The results of the survey and an announcement of June 13 as the date services would resume was sent on June 2.
- A test registration for services was sent to the vestry on June 4.
- "Phase One Plans for Resuming Worship" document to be sent to Diocese for approval and parish for review on June 9.
- Video showcasing plans for resuming to be sent to congregation on June 11.
- Services to resume on June 13.

Resources:

- Diocesan Guidelines: http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/3278002/Resuming_Worship_DIOMS-Full_Document-.pdf

- State Guidelines: <https://htv-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/files/safe-worship-guidelines-1589917466.pdf>
- Federal Guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/index.html>
- List of people who need to take extra precautions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

St. Columb's is a family of God's people humbly sharing God's grace, love, and compassion within our community and in the world through God's son Jesus Christ.