



CHRIST CHURCH

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The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

August 11, 2020

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.



Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

I am very happy to announce that we are resuming weekly Sunday and regular Holy Day celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. These in-person services will be in addition to our YouTube worship video which will continue to be available every week.

Over the past weeks we have offered two outdoor celebrations of the Eucharist (the Feasts of St. Mary Magdalene on July 25 and the Transfiguration on August 6). Those services enabled us to understand the logistics needed to offer Holy Communion in the safest way possible. This past Sunday (August 9), we offered our first indoor Sunday Eucharist since March 8 – the service was not announced because we had no internet or phones last week. As we move into the fall, we will continue offering the Holy Eucharist every Sunday and on each major Holy Day. *Again, these in-person services will be in addition to our YouTube worship video which will continue to be available every week.*

I am trying to ensure that our entire congregation is able to worship safely, that we regularly offer the Sacraments that are an essential part of our faith, and that our entire congregation, both those who are and those are not able to worship in-person, are ministered to as fully and equally as possible.

In-person worship will be a tad different than it was before the pandemic began. Every person over age two, without exception, who is present for any in-person worship service (indoor and outdoor), must wear a face covering throughout the service. Preaching, singing, and reading Scripture in a mask is neither advisable nor practical. The mask makes it hard to project, difficult to be heard, and removes almost all facial expressions. For that reason, in-person Sunday services will generally include the Scripture Lessons, Sermon, and Hymns recorded for the YouTube video. In-person weekday or Saturday services generally will have no music and include Scripture and a brief homily delivered in a mask. I recognize this isn't ideal, but I am grateful that we are able to do what we are able to do, all things considered.

Below is the service schedule for the next week. I've included some details so you know what to expect if you worship in-person.

The Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin: Holy Eucharist, Saturday, August 15, 5:00 p.m.

- This service will be offered outdoors (weather permitting) in the Garden of the Resurrection. The Garden is shady in the afternoon, and so this should be an ideal hour for worship. It will be a said (no music) service with a brief homily. The Saturday service is limited to 16 Spaces (each "Space" can accommodate a single, a couple, or a family). Please RSVP to the Parish office. If it rains, the service will take place in the Church. Masks are required.

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost: Sunday, August 16.

- **YouTube:** This previously recorded Sunday service will go live Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. and remain available online. The timing (the exact same hour as the outdoor Eucharist above) is coincidental.
- **Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.** This service will be offered in the Church. I will lead live collects/prayers, creed, confession, announcements, celebrate the Eucharist, and distribute Holy Communion. There will also be a live organ voluntary on our new Jack Hennigan Memorial pipe organ. A select few parts of the service will be pre-recorded: readings, hymns/anthems, and sermon. After the service is over, we will gather outside for socially distant fellowship. All words and responses will be visible on the TVs in the church. Masks are required. The in-person Sunday service is limited to about 40 people (please RSVP to the Parish office). If we reach capacity, we will likely schedule an additional service for future Sundays. *Please note, that we did this exact service last Sunday, August 9, and it was very, very well received by those who happened to be in attendance (it was not announced).*

2020 has been a strange and challenging year, but we are still in this together. You have been and will remain in my prayers. I am delighted that we can once again celebrate the Holy Eucharist together and partake in Holy Communion. I hope you can join me at one of our in-person services. If you want to come, please RSVP to the Parish Office (marie@christchurchpelham.org – 914-738-5515) by Thursday noon each week.

In Christ,



The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector



O Lord Jesus Christ, who in a wonderful Sacrament hast left unto us a memorial of thy passion: Grant us, we beseech thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of thy redemption; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.