



Christ Church

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*The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector*

May 20, 2021

Re: **Easing Restrictions for Worship and Church Events**

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write with updated guidelines for worship and other events at Christ Church based on last night's Vestry meeting, and the recent guidelines from the CDC and New York State for fully vaccinated people. **These guidelines take effect Friday, May 21.**

The announcements and studies released by the CDC over the past few weeks have made it clear that fully vaccinated people are far less likely to spread, contract, or get seriously ill from Covid-19, and the lifting of restrictions on fully vaccinated people reflects this.

If you are not yet comfortable being physically present at an in-person event, that is ok. Online worship and meetings will continue: our YouTube livestream and Zoom coffee talk, morning prayer, evening prayer, and Bible studies each week have been a great blessing and a wonderful way to connect.

The guidelines on the next page are subject to change, but I ask that you take them seriously. In particular, it is essential that we all be honest with each other.

Every transition over the past 14 months has been accompanied by understandable anxiety, so please be considerate, kind, and continue to support each other with prayer. Please reach out to me, our deacons, or staff and vestry members if you have any questions or concerns about anything.

In Christ and have a blessed Pentecost!

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector

## **UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP & EVENTS**

Beginning Friday, May 21

### **Masks & Face Coverings:**

- We recommend that all attendees wear a mask for indoor worship and events. Fully vaccinated persons (see note below) may remove their masks once seated – please wear your mask whenever you are not in your pew.
- Fully vaccinated worship leaders may remove their masks while leading worship, preaching, offering eulogies, or reading lessons.
- All persons (over the age of 2) who are not fully vaccinated are expected to wear masks at all times when attending any indoor worship or event. If you are not fully vaccinated, and you do not wish to wear a mask at Christ Church, please stay home.

### **Social Distancing:**

- All persons are encouraged to maintain social distance from others indoors and outdoors. To ensure that this is possible, we will continue to limit our capacity to 70 people indoors. If you aren't fully vaccinated or you aren't sure if a person is fully vaccinated – KEEP 6 FEET DISTANCE.

### **Other Considerations:**

- Refrain from congregational singing indoors – please do not sing along with pre-recorded hymns or the soloist.
- Holy Communion will continue to be offered in one kind (bread), standing, at the rail.
- No food or fellowship activities will take place or be offered in-doors.
- Our ushers will ask all attendees to provide information for contact tracing.

### **NOTE: Definition of “Fully Vaccinated”**

- People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).
- Unvaccinated people refers to individuals of all ages, including children, that have not completed a vaccination series or received a single-dose vaccine. --- “I had Covid” or “I tested positive for antibodies” or “I’ve gotten one dose, so its close enough” does not mean you are fully vaccinated. **Please be honest.**