

Regathering with Love and Mutual Care

Report of the Reopening and Regathering Committee on Parish Survey and Draft Regathering Plan

March 28, 2021



St. Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Reopening and Regathering Committee

Kit Arrington

Mike Dillman

Linell Grundman

Jo Ellen Hayden

Josie Jordan

John-Anthony Meza

Joel Wilson

Karen Wiedemann, Chair

Ryan Baugh, Senior Warden

Jim Pitman, Junior Warden

George Meng, Risk Management Advisor

James Rostron, Parish Administrator

Michele Morgan, Rector



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Reopening and Regathering Committee Report

- Parish Regathering Survey results
- Outline of draft Regathering Plan
- What might it look like to:
 - Register for a service
 - Check in
 - Worship in the nave
- Timeline--What's next?
- Breakout Groups
- Q&A
- Concluding thoughts from the Committee

Parish Regathering Survey



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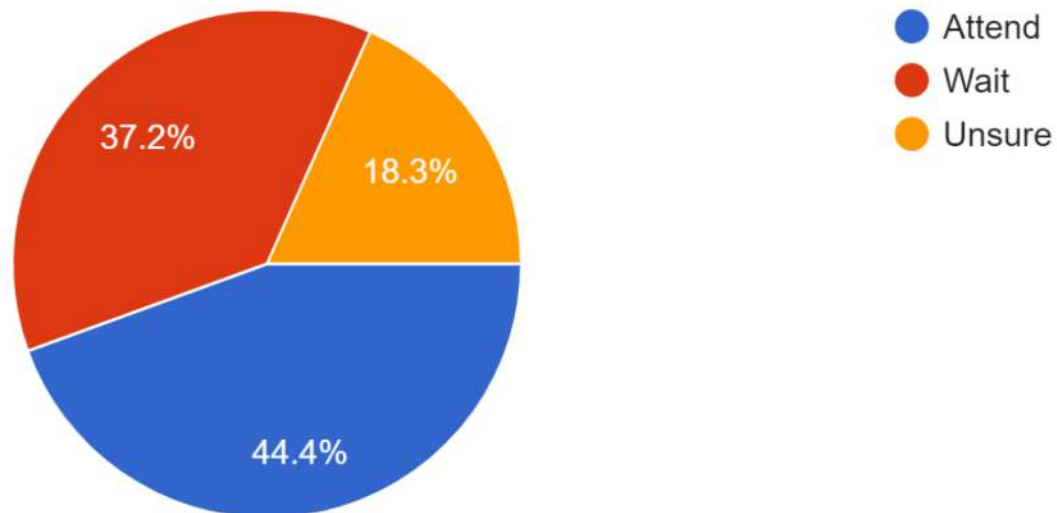
Demographics of Survey Respondents

- ❑ 183 responses
- ❑ 10% of respondents were not attending in-person services before the pandemic (Welcome!)
- ❑ In-person service usually attended:
 - ❑ 9:00 and/or Sermon Seminar 54%
 - ❑ 11:15 38%
 - ❑ 5:00 6%
 - ❑ Thursday 12:00 noon 2%
- ❑ Age
 - ❑ 18-30 5%
 - ❑ 31-50 17%
 - ❑ 51-70

Willingness to Return to In-Person Worship

1. Following Diocesan guidelines and using a conservative assessment of transmission levels, we are considering that at some point in the future w... you consider attending church or would you wait?

180 responses



Most Important Aspects of In-Person Worship

- ❑ Communion (67%)
- ❑ Sermon (60%)
- ❑ Congregational singing (40%)
- ❑ Passing the Peace (36%)
- ❑ Sermon Seminar (30%)

How many people have to be there?

Almost 80% of us had a preference for a minimum number of people we would hope would be present at an in-person service

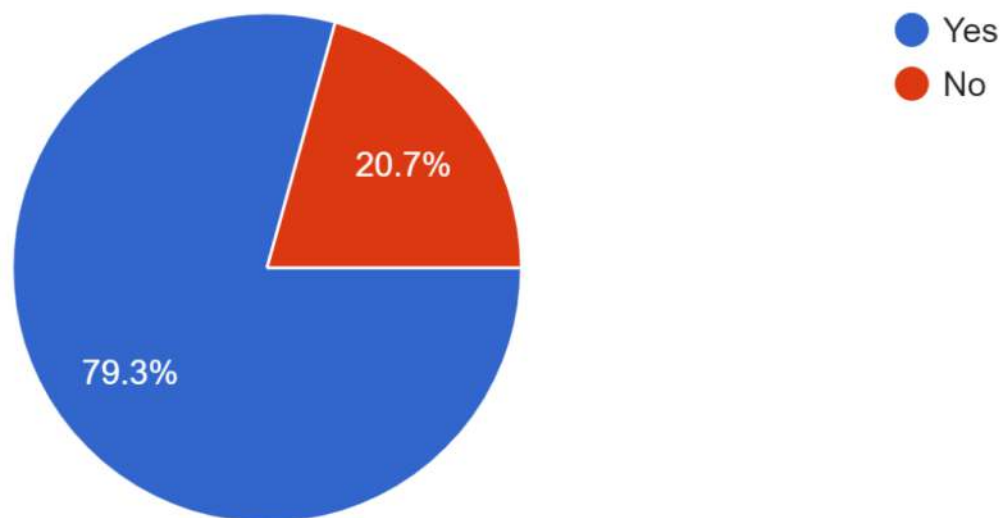
- | | |
|--|-----|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 15 people | 17% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 30 people | 33% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimum 45 people | 28% |

Receiving Communion--Would You Feel Comfortable--?

- ❑ People standing in a circle 6 feet apart, wearing masks except for brief moment to put the host in their mouth, wafers only, no wine, single-flow movement paths to and from altar area, with social distancing from person to person
- ❑ No one leaves their seat, pre-packaged communion wafer & wine packet are given to you as you enter

5. Is the live-streaming of the service important to you after limited in-person worship starts?

179 responses



Regathering Survey Results--What Else Did We Hear?

- ❑ Sunday school--clear that it is really missed
- ❑ Are you going to differentiate between people who have been vaccinated and people who haven't?
 - ❑ Public health guidelines for mixed groups support continued precautions for all
 - ❑ Bishop Mariann has asked that we not make that distinction in worship
- ❑ We miss being in community--coffee hour, pub lunch--and want to be with our St. Mark's family again!

Draft Reopening Plan--Sunday Morning Worship

- Livestream for those not attending in person
- Pre-registration for most seats; a few for walk-in visitors
- Initial limit of 40 people at the service
- Entrance through door from parking lot to Parish Hall
- Masks required
- Social distancing
- Restrictions in the nave
- Bathrooms available for limited use

What about other services?

- ❑ 5:00 pm service will continue via Zoom three Sundays a month
 - ❑ Meet in person outside on the second Sunday of the month
 - ❑ Use courtyard, sidewalk, and parking lot
 - ❑ Limited to 30 people
 - ❑ Zoom would be used to connect with people at home
 - ❑ Masked and distanced
 - ❑ Communion would be bring your own bread & wine
- ❑ Weddings, baptisms, funerals--to be decided on an ad hoc basis

What it might look like to--



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What it might look like to register for a service

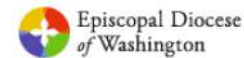
- ❑ 10 am service, initially for 40 people
- ❑ Pre-registration for most seats
- ❑ Register through Realm
 - ❑ Support will be available!
- ❑ Information required
 - ❑ Self-identification (for Contact tracing)
 - ❑ Confirm no symptoms, compliance with Regathering Covenant
- ❑ Please take turns; after attending a service, wait til Friday to sign up for the next one

Website *(coming)* Information for Gathering for Worship

❑ Regathering Information

❑ Sign & Submit:
EDOW Covenant

❑ Registration Link



COVENANT FOR REGATHERING IN WORSHIP

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Washington for participation in the life of my congregation according to the re-gathering phase in which my congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry. The coronavirus is highly contagious, and there is a risk of infection that is beyond the control of the church in spite of precautions that are being taken. I will make my own decision as to my safety in entering the church building, and for the safety of children and others in my care.

In fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant, I will:

Love my neighbor as myself

- Wear a mask or scarf over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking part.
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am healthy and non-symptomatic with the novel coronavirus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant.

Respect the dignity of every human being

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household.
- Maintain a six foot (or more) distance from others in the congregation.
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others, even as restrictions are reduced.
- Immediately notify parish leadership if I become symptomatic, if I am diagnosed as positive for the coronavirus, or if I believe I was at risk of infection when I attended the church.

Seek and serve Christ in all people

- Trust and support the decisions of our congregational leaders.
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, email, video chat, or mail.

Print Your Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Episcopal Church House | Mount St. Alban, Washington, DC 20018-5094 | 202.537.6535 | 800.642.4407 | edow.org

Why Use Realm?

- ❑ Maintain Contact and Attendance Records with Parish Database
- ❑ Communication Tools with Folks who have Signed-up
- ❑ Increase Parishioner Familiarity and Comfort with Realm




Online Registration to attend In-Person Worship

Welcome Back a Sunday, a Month, on a Day, 2021

34 spots available

Name *

arrington

-  **Katherine Arrington (Kit)**
55 years old
-  **Kit-test Arrington**
-  **Arrington Clare Peterson**
Child
Kit Arrington
22 years old

[Add profiles](#)

Have
301 A Street SE
Washington, DC 20003-3812

We are excited to be coming together for worship again. Due to Covid-19 safety precautions, we will have limited attendance of approximately 40 parishioners at in-person worship. Live-streaming will also continue to welcome everyone online.

As we get started, please plan to sign-up to attend in-person no more than once per month. Reservations will open on Monday for the following Sunday. If you would like to attend more than once per month, check on Fridays for remaining slots which can be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Be sure to provide **contact information for yourself and for anyone you register as a guest**. It is important for us to be able to contact everyone in attendance.

You may find our **Plan for Re-Gathering** on our Website. This plan, which adheres to Diocesan guidelines, and has been approved by our Bishop and endorsed by your vestry, articulates the protocols and procedures that we will practice so safely to gather for worship.

In addition to this plan, Bishop Mariann has provided us, as an expression of our Baptismal commitment, with a **Covenant for Re-Gathering in Worship**. You are requested, after prayerful consideration, to sign it to express your agreement. Please bring it with you when returning to church or by mailing it to the Parish Office.

- By completing the registration process, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, you promise, with God's help and to the best of your ability, to abide by the guidelines of the Diocese of Washington for participation in the life of our congregation according to the regathering phase in which our congregation is authorized to carry out its mission and ministry.

Kit-test Arrington

Registration

Memo

Additional Information

I agree to wear a mask over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings*.
[*Except for briefly removing my mask to take communion bread/wafer.]*

Yes No

I agree I will only attend worship if I am healthy and I am non-symptomatic*
(*symptoms: Fever $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$; sore throat; cough; shortness of breath; chills; vomiting, diarrhea or nausea; pink eye; joint or muscle aches; loss of taste or smell) *

Yes No

I agree to maintain a six foot or more social distance and to make no physical contact with anyone beyond members of my household. *

Yes No

I agree to respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others, even as restrictions are reduced. *

Yes No


In the past 7 days, have you been in contact with a person with a presumed diagnosis of COVID-19? *

Yes No

EVENT CONTACT

If you have additional questions about your registration, reach out to the event contact.

[Email Event Contact](#)



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in Washington, DC

What it might look like to check in for a service

- ❑ Plan to arrive early to leave extra time for check-in!
- ❑ Enter through parking lot door to Parish Hall
- ❑ Confirm registration & Health questionnaire

What it might look like to worship in the nave

- Socially distanced seating in the round
- Bulletin and bagged consecrated communion wafer on each chair
- No congregational singing
- Recorded elements (e.g., virtual choir) will be audio-only
- No physical passing of the peace
- Dismissal by section through the courtyard door
- Offering plate located by dismissal door

Timeline--What's Next?

- Address further input from the parish
- Reopening Plan recommendation to Vestry
- Vestry meeting to consider plan
- Plan submitted for Diocesan approval
- Diocesan approval
- Reopening date announced via eGospel and on Sundays
- Instructions and support available for registration
- Reopening: See you in church!

Breakout Groups



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Breakout Groups

We hope this plan leaves you feeling hopeful about getting back to worship in the nave safely.

- ❑ Please share in small groups your thoughts about returning to worship, with this plan as a beginning.
- ❑ Please develop one or two questions to share in the Q&A session from each group



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Q&A



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Concluding thoughts

Care, Compassion, Connection — No one is safe, until everyone is safe.



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