

**Dear St. Paul's,**

**Grace and peace to you!**

The Diocese has given us permission to begin holding worship services inside the Church. The next step in our "**Phased Approach To Regathering As Church**" for worship inside the Church will be similar to the services we have held outside in the parking lot: simpler and shorter, mask wearing and social distancing, and temporarily missing some elements we all enjoy - liturgical ministers, singing, sign of peace, communion from the chalice, fellowship. While our worship will continue to be a little different than our normal experience, worship will always be an opportunity to gather together in prayer and offer our adoration, contrition, petition, and thanksgiving.

I am very thankful to my family for helping record our YouTube Sunday Holy Eucharist every Sunday for 33 weeks since March 15, and to L.J. for all the time he has spent editing our videos. The fact that he is a Video & Film Studies Major at GMU has helped us a lot. Since school began, it has been a real challenge figuring out when to record the video.

I am also thankful to my family for setting up outside, for Tim McCormick who has helped with setting up outside, for Tim & Elspeth McCormick for determining our sound system and seating needs both outside and inside, and for everyone who has helped with cleaning up outside. We have held Sunday Holy Eucharist Outside for 19 weeks since June 21 and only had to cancel twice due to rainy weather.

I am thankful to Dr. Pat Avery who has provided prelude and postlude music for all our outdoor services, and most of the music for our YouTube videos. Along the way, music for the YouTube videos has also been provided by: Dave Carson, George Fulda, and Tim McCormick. Tim & Elspeth McCormick have also determined and installed our Church sound system improvements and all the equipment for video and audio to Livestream our Church services. Thank you for all your help!

**When we begin to hold services inside, we will have a different schedule. Sunday Holy Eucharist will be INSIDE AND LIVESTREAM at: 8:30 & 9:30 am & 10:30 AM.** For those who are not able to join us in person yet, we will livestream all our services, and we will be able to record services. Also, we will have a large projection TV on the front porch of the Church Office for anyone who is not ready to be inside, but would like to bundle up and be outside on the property watching the service live and receive communion.

**For those outside,** we will provide some chairs, and you can always bring a folding chair. For outside seating, there is room on the lawn, and in the parking lot. If you choose to be outside and want to receive communion, there will be two options. At the right time, either walk over to Church and enter through the front door to receive communion and then exit through the side door; or after communion for everyone inside, meet me at the end of the handicap ramp at the side door to receive communion.

**For those inside,  
seating will be limited –  
in order to social distance,  
online sign up will be required –  
in order to pick your seat in a specific pew through the Sign Up Genius link,  
and masks will need to be worn by everyone at all times –  
in order to safely gather together.**

Please sign up online - early. In order to view the layout of limited seating inside the Church, please click on the link in the Thursday email or the document on the website called:

**Church Seating Plan.**

**When you sign up, please pick a specific pew  
and enter the names of everyone who will attend that service.**

The pews are labeled:

Choir - Right Side Pew (for 3 - 4 people),

Choir - Left Side Pew (for 3 - 4 people),

Right Side - Pew 1,3,5,7,9,11 (for 1 - 2 people),

Left Side - Pew 1,4,7,10 (for 3 - 6 people),12 (for 3 - 4 people),

Balcony - Right Side (for 1 - 4 people),

Balcony - Left Side (for 1 - 4 people),

Narthex - No View (for 1 - 4 people).

Please enter the Church through the front door and exit through the side door.

Please try to use the bathroom at home before coming to Church.

**For parking,** the main parking lot will continue to remain closed in case we need to move services back outside. Please park in these places: the gravel parking lot along Fayette Street, several cars can park in front of the "Parking Lot Closed" barriers and cones at the driveway entrance to the main parking lot, the gravel parking lot at St. Michael's Academy Preschool, and along the curb on Fayette Street. Please do not block the driveways of any of our neighbors along Fayette Street.

**Please plan ahead AND try to sign up by Saturday.** I want to help you to participate in our services as fully as you are able to at this time: LIVESTREAM or INSIDE or OUTSIDE. Every Sunday morning, I will print off who has signed up, so I will know what seats are still available for visitors. Yes, it is true, we have had visitors at our outside services. If you have any difficulty using the Sign Up Genius, it will be helpful for me to hear from you prior to Sunday morning. Please email or call me so I can assign you a seat at the service you prefer or let you know that the service you prefer is full and that there is room at another service. Please consider switching to the 9:30 am service. I cannot guarantee there will be seating if you just show up, especially at the 10:30 am service. On Sunday morning, I will be helping everyone find their seat, so I will not be able to respond to emails or take calls. If you do not sign up beforehand, and decide to just show up at a service, I will try to find you a seat if there are seats available. But if there are no seats available, then you can watch the service Livestream outside on our property or wait for the next service. If a service is full, there will be a sign outside the front door that there are no more seats available at that service.

**We love the children of St. Paul's and they are welcome.** In order to protect each other, children must stay in the pew with their family. At this time, children will not be able to roam around in the Church.

**There will be no fellowship.** All are asked to leave the property in a safe, physically distancing manner, and not to congregate together. We hope that everyone is able to participate safely.

**The plan is to move services inside the Church.** Of course, being inside the Church requires that the public health factor risk level allows it. If the risk level stays lower, then we will be inside. If the risk level moves higher, then we will be outside - weather permitting. What happens if we need to remain outside in November or we need to move back outside after we start to hold services inside? I will keep you informed on where we will be, either outside or inside. If we need to move services back outside, there will only be two services, and the service times will move later each month: November services will be held at: 9:00 & 10:00 AM, and December services will be held at: 9:30 & 10:30 AM. Our schedule is listed on our website, and in the Thursday and Sunday emails. Announcements regarding: changes to the schedule, meeting inside the Church or outside in the parking lot, or cancellations due to inclement weather will be posted on the website and emailed. We will continue to live with and work through the uncertainty of this situation until there is a vaccine.

**We look forward to seeing everyone! Stay healthy and I hope you enjoy a happy fall season!**

**Peace,  
Sean**

--

**The Rev. Sean K. Rousseau  
Rector**

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Address: 6750 Fayette Street, Haymarket, VA 20169**

**Email: [stpaulsepiscopalthaymarket@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsepiscopalthaymarket@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 703-753-2443**

**Website: [www.stpaulsepiscopalthaymarket.org](http://www.stpaulsepiscopalthaymarket.org)**