



September 2, 2020

Dear Prince of Peace Family:

As you have probably heard, in-person worship services will return to Prince of Peace on September 13, 2020 with safety protocols in place. Please see the list on the next page!

The church council has spent a considerable amount of time researching and debating these issues and have not made this decision lightly. Please thank them for their amazing work in leading Prince of Peace through this difficult time.

The decision to resume in-person worship has been made to address those individuals that are feeling disconnected and to fulfill our human need for social, emotional, and spiritual connection. The goal is to provide options. Online worship and Zoom Holy Communion will continue, and you are asked to only come to in-person worship if you are healthy and comfortable doing so.

The safety protocols for in-person worship at Prince of Peace were developed following current CDC and Maricopa County Health Department guidelines. We have also reached out to other congregations to learn more about best practices. We anticipate the in-person worship service will last between 35-40 minutes.

The key for in-person worship to work is for all worshippers to follow the safety protocols outlined by church council. Even with all the planning and preparation, things will not go perfectly. Please pray for patience, wisdom, understanding, and forgiveness!

We look forward to serving you with in-person and online worship. Our goal is to thrive during this pandemic and to continue to point to God as our creator, protector, and savior.

Peace,

Pastor Rick Sherrill



In-Person Worship Safety Protocols **Revised: September 1, 2020**

To keep our worshipping community as safe as possible, please:

- 1. Stay Home if Ill** - Please do not attend in-person worship if there are any signs that you might be sick, or if you are taking care of someone who is sick. Please do not assume you are suffering from allergies or a harmless sniffle! Please act out of an overabundance of caution for the sake of all.
- 2. Wear Your Mask** – Masks or other face coverings are always mandatory on the Prince of Peace campus except for the brief moments when consuming Holy Communion.
- 3. Observe Physical Distancing** –Social distancing of 6 feet or more will be enforced. Pews will be marked accordingly. Families are invited to sit together. Once seated, please stay in your seats for the entire worship service.
- 4. Safely Greet One Another** – We know you will be glad to see many of your fellow parishioners, but please do not congregate in the narthex. Please do not offer hugs or handshakes (a wave and a smile go a long way!)
- 5. Wash/Sanitize Your Hands** – Please wash your hands before arriving on campus and when you arrive home. Hand sanitizer will be widely available, and you are encouraged to use it.
- 6. Forgive the Smell of Disinfectant** - Professional cleaning/sanitizing of the sanctuary will be conducted before and after each worship service.

What to expect when you attend in-person worship:

- 1. Come Right In...The Front Door** – Please enter from the front doors into the narthex. All doors may be used for exiting the sanctuary to avoid social clumping.
- 2. Table of Stuff** – When entering the narthex, please stop by the table to grab a single-use communion kit, drop off any offering and sanitize your hands. Extra face masks will also be available. A single “super-greeter” will be there to welcome you and answer any questions you may have (from a distance!)
- 3. Screens not Bulletins** – No bulletins will be utilized. All worship info. will be projected on the screens.
- 4. Reflecting not Singing** – Live or recorded music will be a part of each worship service. However, hymns will not be sung. Worshippers will be invited to listen, reflects on hymn lyrics, and/or pray.
- 5. Unspoken Participation** – No “call and response” liturgical pieces will be utilized. Worshippers will be invited to whisper the Lord’s Prayer.
- 6. Holy Communion** – Holy Communion will be celebrated in the pews using the single-use communion kits available in the narthex.
- 7. Children’s Message** – We will re-introduce children’s messages as families begin to return to in-person worship. Children will remain in their seating areas and will not be invited to the front of the sanctuary.
- 8. After-Worship Access to Pastor** – The pastor will be available in the front of the sanctuary for greeting and conversation after the worship service. Please maintain social distancing guidelines.
- 9. Related Ministries** – Coffee hour, the nursery, Sunday school and in-person youth meetings will continue to be on hold until further notice.