

May 27, 2021

Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

I am happy to inform you that we have received new worship guidelines from Bishop Skirving and Diocesan House which will go into effect for our congregation this coming Sunday, May 30, 2021 (Trinity Sunday). If you would like to read these guidelines in their original form, you may click on the following link: <https://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org/guidelines-for-public-worship-may-26-2021/> What follows are how these guidelines will change our worship here at Trinity Church.

1. **You may sit where you choose when you come to worship or forum.** There are no longer limitations on capacity or requirements for social distancing.
2. **Face masks: All may, some should, none must.** It is an individual's choice as to wearing a face mask and there are different comfort levels with being around others with or without a mask. **Some persons should wear a mask - those who are not vaccinated and children under the age of 12.** None must wear a mask but as Bishop Skirving wisely notes, ". . .we can certainly hope that those who should wear a face mask, will do so!
3. If you come to worship and would be more comfortable viewing the service from the Undercroft, **we are happy to bring communion to you there just as we do for those in the nursery.**
4. **We will continue for now to serve only bread** in the pattern we have established in the last few weeks: I will come down the central aisle with the paten and serve you where you are standing as opposed to bringing people forward to the altar rail.
5. **We are allowed to sing again and there will be hymns and congregational singing!**
6. Be gentle with each other passing the peace; we are all navigating in new waters, so to speak, so some persons may still wish to bump elbows, gently bow, while some will simply touch hands. These are individual choices which are cued through body language.
7. Need to be baptized? We can do that.
8. We will hold a social hour after worship one Sunday each month over the summer with food and drink. We'll ask everybody to pitch in with a little something that can be served individually and safely. **Our first social hour will be on Sunday, June 6, 2021.**

I look forward to greeting all of you on the stoop out front after worship and hope to see you soon.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

Stephen+

