

May 24, 2021

Dear Trinity Community,

We the Trinity Vestry have approved a plan for a gradual re-opening of our building for worship services. Trinity's Re-entry Team (Devon Anderson, Julie Campanelli, Laura Capaldini, Margaret DiMarco) has worked on our behalf since the start of the pandemic to monitor COVID statistics and research re-entry protocols required by the state and the Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECMN). With declining COVID cases in Hennepin and Carver counties, we are now within the case range for safe re-opening as required by ECMN. Written re-entry plans that are required by the state and ECMN have been written and submitted. With that in mind, and in collaboration with Trinity clergy and staff, we offer the following plan for the beginning of our re-opening of Trinity Church:

June 6

- A 'soft-reopening' to be led by clergy and staff with no in-person parishioners, to allow for a practice-run.
- Service will be held at 9:30 and live-streamed over Zoom for the congregation.

June 13 and every Sunday through Labor Day Weekend

- One in-person service, in the Chapel, at 9:30. All are welcome to attend, but space will be limited to 50 and pre-registration on Realm will be required.
- The service will be live-streamed over Zoom.

Although COVID restrictions are being lifted nationally, Trinity church will continue to follow COVID safety protocol until the state case numbers go down, and will include the following:

- a) Masks required, except for Communion
- b) Distancing between family groups
- c) In-person capacity limited to 50 to allow for spacing
- d) Cleaning protocols will be in place
- e) Ushers will be trained to support the maintaining of COVID precautions
- f) Entry to the building will be through the main front doors and exit through the Chapel door

Currently there is no air filtration in the main Sanctuary, therefore we recommend the use of the Chapel only at this time.

With this space restriction, we are asking parishioners to pre-register for services they wish to attend in person on REALM. -- <https://onrealm.org/trinityexcelsior/registrations>

If you are not comfortable using REALM, you may also register by contacting the office 9:30 – 2:30 Monday through Friday at [Office@Trinityexcelsior.org](mailto:Office@Trinityexcelsior.org) or 952-474-5263. **Registration will open on June 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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As we begin again to re-gather, remember this is just a start. The intent is that we will use the summer to learn together what works and what doesn't, and we will adjust as we go along.

Things we are considering for the future:

- An HVAC system that would provide air-conditioning for the Sanctuary, Fireside room, lower-level classrooms. We are in the process of receiving bids for these. Air filtration will be important in providing a healthy atmosphere for all congregants.
- A/V equipment is being explored to allow for live-streaming of services and faith formation gatherings. We will learn from our summer services what may be needed in the future. We do not want to leave members behind if they are not physically able to be with us.

Holding together our community during a pandemic has been a challenge and would not have been successful without the hard work and dedication of Trinity's clergy and staff. We are grateful for their leadership and determination. Without skipping a single Sunday, they re-imagined our worship to be inclusive and spiritually meaningful. This past year we have had an abundance of music with the adult choir, bell choir and children's choir, and of course, Eric's wonderful instrumental music. We have had faith formation, coffee hour, announcements and birthday blessings to share over Zoom. We have shared holidays with outdoor services and even a St. Francis animal blessing, a Palm Sunday parade and a Holy Saturday intergenerational Easter Vigil. Our clergy has made themselves available for pastoral care, and with Rev. Devon only being fully vaccinated as of this month, she immediately reached out to parishioners who have not been able to worship with us this past year. In a few weeks she reached out to over 30 families, bringing communion to whoever would receive her. Without this incredible team of clergy and staff, our community would have lost our connection and relationship with one another at a time when we most needed it. For this, we are extremely thankful.

We ask your patience as we move forward into this next phase of our life together as a community of faith.

Yours Faithfully,

The Trinity Vestry

Sam Wiant, Senior Warden

Julie Campanelli, Junior Warden

Sarah Allcock, Laura Brubaker Julie Campanelli, Ajit Daniel, Margaret DiMarco, Heidi Groven, Sally Hockinson, Steve Roman, Craig Schmidt