

St. John's Church Outdoor Worship Guidelines

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, St. John's Church requests that you follow these guidelines in accordance with the national church policy, which are based on guidance provided by federal (CDC) and state (NHDHS) health officials and the Diocese of New Hampshire.

The Usual Rules Apply:

- Stay at home if you are sick, and self-quarantine if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- You are required to wear a face mask, without vents, at all times while on church property. Children under 2 and those who are unable to remove a mask on their own should not wear face coverings.
- Please limit your presence to the defined worship area.
- During your visit, please practice physical distancing, at least 6 feet (1.8 meters) apart.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces.
- Dispose of used sanitizing materials and masks in a trash receptacle.
- *If you feel ill or are concerned that you may have contracted COVID-19 after visiting the church building, please contact the church immediately. You may remain anonymous, just let us know what date/time you visited, whom you may have come in contact with, and what areas of the building you visited. Please call the church phone (603-756-4533 - leave a message) or email: pastor@st.johnswalpole.org.*

Specific requests for outdoor worship:

1. Please bring with you a chair, donation in envelope (church or other), plus umbrella, hat, sunglasses if desired. We will have extra plastic chairs available if needed. Plan to wear your mask throughout the service.

2. Enter the field area from the Westminster Street sidewalk opposite Town Hall. “Ushers/health officers” will be present to guide you to fill the area from the front line to the back, ensuring that all family groups stay at least 6 feet apart. (We plan to have a speaker system, so that all can hear.)

3. Please stay at your seat until the service is over. If necessary, restrooms can be accessed. Unfortunately, we cannot sanitize between each use, but a spray bottle of disinfectant and tissues (for touching doorknobs, etc.) will be available.

4. Unfortunately, at this time we will not be able to engage in a physical exchanging of the peace, singing, or sharing in communion. We are all sorry about this needed practice. Let us substitute good eye contact, a wave, a bow or similar at the peace. Let us hum or tap-percuss to the hymns.

5. The service leaflet (containing the entire service) will be available for pickup as you enter. (BCPs and hymnals can be vectors for COVID spread if shared. Please bring your own or make arrangements with the church office to borrow a set if you wish.)

6. Please exit the area starting with the back row first so that physical distancing can be maintained. Stay in your seat until the path is clear. Keep your masks on until in your vehicle. And for the safety of all, please maintain physical distancing even after the service.

And Finally: Should You Attend?

1. If you have any symptoms or signs of illness- respiratory (cough, sore throat, difficulty or discomfort breathing); gastrointestinal (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) or general (fever, chills, muscle aches, loss of taste or smell), please do not come.

2. If you are in quarantine because of travel (internationally, outside the safe areas within New England, or have used public transportation), please do not come.

3. If you are over 65 and/or have chronic health conditions, you are at greater risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and your decision to come to outdoor worship is a personal one. We support whatever you decide.

4. We are going to attempt to record the 10 AM service and post it to FaceBook and/or the church website (www.stjohnswalpole.org)

If it rains or looks like rain:

We will contact parishioners by 8:30 am on Sunday if it is supposed to rain. We will post a notice on the website, email the parish list, and call individually those parishioners who don't use email.

In case of bad weather, we will hold the service on Zoom instead of in-person outdoors. Even if it is only sprinkling, we will cancel the outdoor worship, as we will be using a sound system which cannot get wet. The ZOOM link will come with the email plus be on the website.