

October 2020

Dear Trinity Community,

In mid-March when the first stay at home directives began to come out, I don't think that any of us could really imagine that seven months later we would still be dealing with questions about the safety of sharing physical space with others. Throughout these months, the leadership and Staff of Trinity have been faithfully discerning how to best continue the ministries of Trinity while taking heed of the best available guidance from public health officials. For some of you, things may be moving more slowly than you prefer. For others of you, things may be moving more quickly than you are comfortable with. Currently, we are planning to return to in person worship at 10am beginning on November 1st.

Enclosed in this packet you will find three documents related to the planned return to in person worship at the 10am service: The Regathering Covenant, Instructions for Attending Worship in Person, and a Four-Part Regathering Plan. Some of you may be wondering why the covenant is a part of our regathering protocol. The covenant acknowledges that because of the interdependence of each of us as we seek to keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy, we all must agree to abide by certain guidelines.

In the Regathering Plan, you will find descriptions of the public health conditions of each phase as well as descriptions of what pastoral care, worship, work of the staff, and use of the building looks like in each phase. You may notice that based on this document, the resumption of in person 10am worship falls under phase three which is at odds with the current reality that infection and hospitalization rates are going up. While we remain vigilant about health and safety we are also mindful of the deep need of in person worship that some are experiencing. As we are navigating that tension, what we are moving into at this time is more of phase 2.5 rather than full phase three. While in person 10am worship is resuming for now, the remainder of the life of Trinity will remain in phase two. The current plan is to evaluate two weeks at a time whether or not in person worship at 10am remains a responsible option and to communicate as far in advance as we can about what will be happening.

Even as we move toward the resumption of in person worship at 10am, the pandemic still rages on and there are many in our community who cannot, should not, and/or do not feel comfortable returning to in person worship. We will continue to stream the 10am service and are putting in place technology to allow those who remain at home to be active participants as readers and intercessors in the service. We are discerning ways to help us all reconnect with each other, regardless of whether we worship in person or on zoom.

I ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to discern the best ways for us all to deepen our relationships with God, each other, and ourselves. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me by phone (860-986-3289) or email (dlittlepage@trinityhartford.org)

In Peace,

The Rev. D Littlepage
Rector