

Reflection Sunday June 27th, 2021

It's hard to believe that it's been more than fifteen months since we have regularly gathered in the church building. It has become second nature to wear masks, stay six feet apart and forgo the hugs that were as automatic as breathing to some. We have shared milestones, losses and celebrations virtually. And now, we find ourselves on the cusp of the world returning to being out and about in our communities.

Recently I was watching a movie with my daughter Laura, and she commented that it was 'weird' to see people in a restaurant scene sitting so close together without masks. That made me think about how I am feeling about being out and about more, and about how we as a church family are reacting to the varied choices we have and the feelings those stir up about returning to in-person worship.

Although many in our communities have two doses of vaccine in their arms, the past fifteen months have impacted how we look at things and how we behave. Our priorities and habits have changed. Yet there seems to be a need and longing for some to be back 'together' that needs to be balanced against caution and love for one another, and the desire to ensure no one becomes ill from attending worship in person.

As we approach summer and ease back into gathering in person for worship, please know that parish leaders are doing our best to keep you safe and at the same time keep the community connected. The plan is to have completely returned to in-person worship on Sundays by September 12th. I expect the hand sanitizing, wearing of masks, distancing and registering for Sunday services to continue for the foreseeable future. For those who do not wish to return to in-person worship, it is my plan to offer an opportunity to gather via Zoom in the fall.

Please feel free to contact your Wardens or me directly if you have any questions. Meanwhile, please take time to pray, do some reading and catch up with friends. Take care and stay safe, so that when we are back together, there is no one missing. AMEN