

Stages for Reopening Christ Church Cathedral

Updated: May 2, 2021

This working document is intended to provide guidance about the plan for gradually and safely reopening Christ Church Cathedral for in-person worship. Our primary goal is safety, motivated by our Christian responsibility to care for one another and act as responsible stewards of God's creation.

The purpose of setting out separate stages with varying layers of precautions is to allow us to move back and forth among them as CDC and medical guidance, government orders, and other circumstances change. We will abide by all national Church and diocesan guidelines, including Guidance for In-Person Gatherings for the Diocese of Missouri (along with any updates), the City mandates, healthcare precautions and may undertake additional safeguards that are appropriate for our congregation and circumstances.

STAGE 1 – REMOTE WORSHIP ONLY

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP**
 - No people in the Cathedral building for worship.
 - Clergy and all liturgical ministers conduct and stream the service remotely from their respective homes.
 - Communion will not be offered.
 - Music is performed remotely.
- **BUILDING USAGE**
 - Only essential personnel (Dean Kathie and others at her discretion) allowed in the building.
 - Outside groups not permitted.

STAGE 2 – ONLY LITURGICAL MINISTERS IN THE BUILDING

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP**
 - No in-person gathering for worship in the Cathedral building, apart from clergy and essential liturgical ministers (fewer than 10 people) who may conduct the service from the Cathedral building, observing physical distancing, wearing masks, temperature taken upon entry, signing in . The service will be streamed online from the Cathedral building.
 - Communion will not be offered.
 - Music is performed remotely or by limited in-person groupings.
 - No in-person coffee hour or other fellowship events.
- **BUILDING USAGE**
 - Only essential personnel (Dean Kathie and others at her discretion) allowed in the building.
 - Outside groups not permitted.
 - Weddings and funerals may be held at the Dean's discretion, observing all precautions of this stage.

STAGE 3 – LIMITED IN-PERSON CONGREGATION

- SUNDAY WORSHIP

- There may be multiple services in the cathedral to accommodate appropriate physical distancing, and outdoor services with precautions in place.
- The service(s) may be streamed online from the Cathedral building.
- In-person attendance for each service in the Cathedral building will be capped at 50 persons. (Note: these numbers may change as CDC, Diocesan guidelines, medical guidance, STL City and government orders, and other circumstances change.)
 - Online registration is via ACS. Opportunities to register online will be distributed as equitably as reasonably possible.
- We will observe the following precautions. Individuals who do not meet these screening requirements upon entry and throughout the service will be asked to leave:
 - Anyone (fully vaccinated or not) must stay home if they:
 - are feeling ill, are running a fever, or are exhibiting any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), or
 - have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, or
 - have been in close contact with someone in the past 14 days who was ill or has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.
 - have attended an event or been present anywhere where precautions were not observed.
 - All attending in person are required to wear masks at all times. Bandanas, loose cloths, gaiter-style masks, and masks with valves or respirators are not permitted.
 - No person will be permitted into the building for worship without having verifiable contact information provided through online registration for that particular service. This is for contact-tracing purposes and to allow for prompt notification should we later learn that someone that had attended a service in person has later tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. .
 - The Nave space will be set up to ensure that all congregants will be properly physically distanced. Family units or households sheltering at home together may sit together if they previously registered as a group; otherwise, family/shelter units will be escorted to a designated location. Note that while family units or households may register together as a group, each individual person (and not each family or household) counts as one slot out of the 40 slots reserved for online registration.
 - Children are to remain with their parents or guardians at all times.
 - Entry will be unavailable at the start time of the service. All are advised to arrive early enough to allow for safe spacing and the screening process. Arriving 30 minutes before the start of the service is suggested.

- Entry and exiting the building will be restricted and clearly communicated. The other doors will remain locked. There will be an accessible entry.
 - Hand-sanitizer stations will be dispersed throughout the Nave and congregants will be encouraged to use them at least when entering and exiting the Nave.
 - Hymnals and BCPs will not be used. Bulletins will be placed on seats ahead of time and attendees will deposit them in the blue recycling containers as they exit the cathedral.
 - All will be instructed to leave the building promptly to allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting, especially if there are multiple services.
 - LITURGY
 - Clergy and essential liturgical ministers (fewer than 10 people) conduct the service from the Cathedral building, observing physical distancing and all other precautions outlined above.
 - Communion may be offered (at this time bread only).
 - During the sign of the peace, all will stay at their seating area and may offer signals of peace from their place without moving about the Nave.
 - For individuals wishing to make an offering, we strongly recommend giving online. The collection plate will not be passed. There will be a stationary collection plate.
 - There will be no congregational or choral singing; there may be one or a very small number of musicians performing, but there will be no large-group singing; we will participate in the liturgy through alternatives to singing.
 - No coffee hour or other fellowship events.
- BUILDING USAGE
 - Aside from Sunday services, only essential personnel (Dean Kathie and others at her discretion) allowed in the building.
 - Outside groups not permitted.
 - Weddings and funerals may be held at the Dean's discretion, observing all precautions of this stage.

STAGE 4 – UNCAPPED IN-PERSON CONGREGATION, WITH PRECUATIONS

- SUNDAY WORSHIP
 - Our normal 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM morning services will resume.
 - There will be no extraordinary restrictions on the number of congregants allowed into the Cathedral building for worship for each service.
 - Physical distancing will not be required.
 - Online registration and limitations on walk-ins will not take place; we will not be checking for verifiable contact information.
 - All normal entry and exit points will be available for use.
 - Congregants are not required to wear masks but may do so if they prefer.

- Hand-sanitizer stations will be dispersed throughout the Nave and congregants will be encouraged to use them at their discretion.
- LITURGY
 - Clergy and essential liturgical ministers (fewer than 10 people) conduct the service from the Cathedral building.
 - There may be changes to whether and how communion is distributed.
 - Congregants will not be required to stay in place during the sign of the peace, but they may opt to offer signs of peace from their place or otherwise offer non-contact signs of peace.
 - There may be changes to how we participate in liturgical music.
- BUILDING USAGE
 - The building will be open to the extent it was prior to the pandemic, subject to change.
 - Outside groups will be allowed to use the Cathedral building at the Dean's discretion and with the required signed Hold Harmless Agreements on file.