



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Encinitas, California

FAQ about our Campus and Worship during COVID-19

Q: What are the current Sunday worship offerings?

A: St. Andrew's currently offers:

- Outdoor Worship in the Sun Yard at 8:30 am, without music or congregational responses (reservations required);
- Online worship broadcast at 10am, but available anytime throughout the week;
- Drive-In Church at 10 am (reservations required).

Q: Where can I find the Sunday worship bulletin?

A: On our worship [webpage](#).

Q: What's the difference between the two bulletins?

A: The 10am bulletin is used for both online and Drive-In worship; the 8am bulletin is the same liturgy, but without congregational responses or music.

Q: Why haven't we resumed indoor worship?

A: Although the Governor has approved indoor worship in limited capacities, our Bishop, like most Episcopal bishops, prefers to err on the side of caution. Her main goal is helping us find creative solutions to gathering in-person while keeping safe those most vulnerable to COVID-19. Additionally, if we meet indoors, there will be no congregational responses or singing as those are among the most risky behaviors for expelling aerosol droplets into the air.

Q: When we do gather indoors, what limits can we expect?

A: The guideline is 25% capacity or under 100 people, so we will be able to seat about 93 people in staggered, distanced seating, all wearing face coverings. However, since we usually have somewhere between 125-175 people at the 10am service on any given Sunday, we would need to offer multiple services with thorough cleaning in between, and certification of multiple air exchanges in the HVAC system. We currently cannot meet those requirements in terms of equipment or staffing (including volunteers). Another solution being considered would restrict each household's attendance to twice a month.

Q: Why can't we just leave it up to each person to decide whether they feel safe enough to participate or not?

A: Unfortunately, there will be those of us who will have unknowingly been exposed to the virus, and others who are in the high-risk group, but choose to attend. Following the recommended guidelines reduces the chance of us becoming a cluster outbreak.

Q: Why do we have to refrain from congregational responses and singing?

A: Choral and congregational singing, as well as speaking vigorously are among the most dangerous activities because they generate a larger number of infectious aerosol particles over an extended period of time.

Q: Can't we wear our masks and sing/respond?

A: Singing or call-and-response activities could undermine the efficacy of masks, even outdoors, as they are likely to become saturated with moisture more quickly and serve as a less effective barrier.

Q: Why can't we have communion?

A: Distributing communion presents many logistical challenges. First, and foremost, whether individual cups are used for wine or a bit of wine is placed on hosts and placed in individual serving containers, the risk of contamination by touch is high. For that reason, our bishop is not allowing the distribution of wine. We do have a mechanism to safely deliver hosts, but this system will require more volunteers and will not be allowed for use at Drive-In worship. Additionally, we are required to keep any worship service under 30 minutes to mitigate the risks of congregating in one area for an extended period of time.

Q: What's the purpose of Spiritual Communion?

A: Because there are those among us who feel a deep sense of loss in not receiving communion, we display the elements and join together in the prayer of Spiritual Communion to help alleviate the pain.

Q: Why aren't we using the full Eucharistic Prayer?

A: The health experts recommend that gatherings of this size be limited to 30 minutes; praying the full prayer and distributing communion would put us well past the time limit. The elements held up as part of Spiritual Communion have previously been consecrated using the full Eucharistic Prayer and are kept in reserve.

Q: Why can't we have drive-through communion, have communion at home, or bring our own bread and wine to be blessed (in-person or online) and consumed?

A: Our Bishop joins many others who remind us that communion is just that: a communal act, so communion should not be received in isolation.

Q: Why can't we take communion to the sick and homebound?

A: All of our parishioners who are sick and/or homebound are in high-risk categories and would not be able to safely receive an outside visitor.

Q: Why aren't there more restrictions on things like people shopping if there are so many on worship?

A: Shopping and other essential activities don't involve a large body of people congregating in one place for a long-period of time; additionally, people aren't typically singing or speaking vigorously in stores.

Q: Why are we re-starting the Showers of Blessings and Saturday Meal programs if we can't go back to church?

A: These activities don't involve a large body of people congregating in one place for a long-period of time; additionally, people aren't typically singing or speaking vigorously at either of them.

Q: How long will online worship continue to be offered?

A: One gift of the pandemic is moving forward with technology that was past due. The intention is to continue offering an online worship—whether recorded ahead of time or live—as standard operation for years to come.

Q: Why do we need a reservation for any of the in-person worship services?

A: We have to ensure we don't exceed our capacity, which would put the gathered at risk. Reservations also help the planning teams know how many people to expect and better

plan. Even the parking lot has a capacity limit so that vehicles can be staggered, which also ensures better visibility.

Q: How can newcomers get involved in parish life?

A: Even ~~in~~ while we're "Staying home; Staying safe" the best ways to get connected and grow spiritually is by joining small groups. Send an email to our [Director of Christian Education](#) and she'll let you know what groups are currently meeting. Also, if you're not yet receiving our weekly eBlast, our [Parish Administrator](#) can get you added to the distribution list.

Q: Can I access any of the campus buildings at this time? Will any office staff be there?

A: All of our campus is closed at this time. Although staff members regularly go to the office to collect mail, etc., all church business is being handled remotely. If you have a general inquiry, you may send an [email](#) or leave a message at 760-753-3017. Church business hours are Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm.

Q: Are there opportunities to help neighbors who are in need?

A: Yes. Both our Showers of Blessings and Saturday Meal program are in need of volunteers. Contact the respective ministry lead: for Saturday Meals, contact Gigi Miller either by text (760-420-4438) or [email](#). For Showers of Blessings, text or call Allan Dorsey (310-600-2305).

Q: Can I meet in-person with my small group on campus, if we are under 10 people?

A: You can only meet in groups of 10 or less on campus if you are distanced, have on face coverings, stay outside, and use your own chairs (*the picnic tables should not be used since the have not been sanitized*).

Q: Are there Sunday resources for children?

A: Yes, there are resources for your children. Send an email to our [Director of Christian Education](#) and she'll add you to the distribution list.

Q: How is Coffee Hour being handled?

A: Although we can't have Coffee Hour on campus, there is currently a Zoom Coffee Hour each week at 11am. Watch your Saturday eBlast for the link. If you're not yet on our distribution list our [Communications Director](#) can get you added.

Q: Is Youth Ministry continuing?

A: Our high school youth group meets virtually on Wednesdays, and middle school groups are periodically meeting via Zoom; in-person activities are being created for smaller groups. Confirmation classes will begin in October 2020 with an orientation meeting on 9/13/20 at 11am. Contact our [Youth Director](#) for more information.

Q: What do you have going on for Young Adults?

A: Our Young Adults group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month for a Bible Study. Contact [Rev. Richard](#) for more information.

Q: How can I make a financial contribution or pay my pledge?

A: You can make a pledge or increase your pledge by clicking [here](#). Pledge payments can be set-up as bill pay through your bank, or made by clicking [here](#) and scrolling down to choose "Pledge Payment" or by mail. Other donations can be made [here](#) or mailed to the office (890 Balour Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024).

Q: Who can I contact if I need any help or prayer during this time?

A: If you would like to be prayed for by our prayer team, send an email to: prayer@standrewsepiscopal.org. Other requests for assistance or pastoral care can be directed to [Mother Brenda](#).