



June 17, 2021

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, Bishop White issued a new, and very limited, Pastoral Directive that coincides with Governor Beshear lifting nearly all COVID-19 restrictions in the Commonwealth as of June 11th. In this most up-to-date Directive, only the use of the Common Cup is restricted and all “extraordinary measures” for distribution, such as those we used on Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Easter must end by June 20, 2021.

In conversation with the Restart Task Force, I believe it is now time to make a few changes to our own protocols here at Christ Church. First, beginning this Sunday, nearly every pew will be open for seating. For those who are unvaccinated or not yet comfortable with maskless interactions, two **physical distancing sections** will remain. The pews marked with white bows will be reserved for those individuals and families who wish to sit alone, maintaining 6’ of space between their bubble and others. I ask that you respect those who desire to continue this level of precaution by giving them their space. Second, also beginning this Sunday at 10 am, **masked congregational singing** will begin. From my vantage point, up front, I know several of you have been muttering along to our hymns the past few weeks, others are humming, still others hope we never sing again. So, for those for whom singing is an integral part of worship, pack a mask, and put it on to join Deb and Tyler in raising praises to God with joy and wonder. Masks are only required while you are singing, the rest of the service, they are optional. Finally, to facilitate congregational singing, Books of Common Prayer, Hymnals, doodle cards, offering envelopes, and pens will return to the pew racks. Visually, this is another step along the path to a full return to **Church in the Pews**.

It has been a long sixteen months, and even as we know the pandemic is not over, I give thanks for your patience, support, and perseverance in the face of unparalleled challenges.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.