

Aug. 4, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

You have most likely seen the recent news reports noting the increase in cases of the COVID virus in our nation, and the updated CDC recommendations. In some ways it certainly feels like last summer all over again! In light of these happenings, I want to let you know that, for now, **worship services and gatherings at Good Shepherd will continue to be 'mask optional' for those who are vaccinated.** With a vaccine widely available to those age 18 and older and no local or state mandates currently in place, the vestry and I continue to feel that individuals should be able to choose for themselves (and their families) whether or not they 1) come to church in-person and 2) wear a mask indoors. **We do continue to encourage those who are unvaccinated and those who prefer wearing a face covering to please do so.** With the guidance of Bishop Susan and the Diocesan staff, we will continue to monitor the situation and communicate any updates through email. Please join me in saying prayers for those infected with the virus, and their loved ones, that the healing power of Jesus Christ would be made real to them and that they would know his abiding love and presence in the midst of their struggles. As we all continue to deal with these challenging circumstances, I'm encouraged by the words of St. Paul who, from prison wrote,

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

Yours in Christ,
Terry+

W Terry Miller