

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Uvalde, TX**  
**Attendee Guidelines**  
**During COVID-19 Phase 2**  
**May 18, 2020**

Bishop David Reed and The Diocese of West Texas recently released [guidelines](#) for reopening the churches in the diocese . [St. Philip's](#) has submitted the required documents to the diocese for moving into Phase 2 and returning to in person worship on June 7, 2020. Please take time to look at those in their entirety, but the purpose of this document is to place important information in a more concise form for your easy reference. There will be noticeable differences as we return to in-person worship, and this will help you know what to expect. Please know that these guidelines come from a place of love, responsibility and a desire to be good shepherds of our parishioners and their health and well-being. Should the situation warrant it, the diocese and the parish may have to make changes to these guidelines.

**WHAT ST. PHILIP'S IS DOING TO PREPARE FOR YOUR RETURN**

- Online worship services, Zoom Sunday classes and meetings will continue during this phased re-opening.
- The sanctuary, offices, restrooms, and all surfaces will be cleaned according to CDC guidelines prior to reopening. Offices will be cleaned daily, and the sanctuary weekly.

**WHAT TO EXPECT UPON RETURNING**

- During the week, only the Mesquite St. door will be available for entrance.
- During worship services, only 3 entrances into the building will be available: Mesquite St./office entrance; Getty St. main sanctuary entrance; school/restroom entrance.
- Only the main sanctuary, the office and the hallway leading to the sacristy and main restrooms will be open to the public. Grace Hall, Briscoe Hall, the kitchen, classrooms, nursery, and playground will be closed to the public.
- Closed entrances will be locked and marked in such a way to help the public know they are not being used.
- No food or drink of any kind will be served.
- No Sunday schools, formation classes, or other meetings will be held in person at this time.
- The number of worship services will be kept to a minimum to limit exposure and the need for additional cleaning and volunteers. Sunday services will be limited to 10:30.
- The facilities and sanctuary will be marked in such a way as to help with social distancing.
- Ushers will be available to seat people prior to the service and to assist with dismissal.
- Communion will be in the form of wafers only, and communicants will receive the wafer while standing instead of kneeling.

- Other changes in worship customs to expect for present:
  - No physical passing of the peace
  - No singing
  - No Bibles, Books of Common Prayer, or hymnals in the pews
  - No passing of the offering plate
  - No nursery or playground equipment available

### **WAYS YOU CAN HELP US AS WE BEGIN THIS NEW NORMAL**

- Please stay home if you are ill, especially if you are exhibiting any of the symptoms known to be associated with Covid-19 or if you have had close contact with anyone who has tested positive for the Corona Virus.
- It is strongly recommended that older adults and those who fall into at-risk populations participate in online services.
- Employees, volunteers, and attendees over the age of 10 are required to wear masks while at work, attending services, or volunteering.
- Please arrive early enough to allow the extra time needed to seat attendees and maintain proper social distancing.
- Please refrain from physically sharing the peace, shaking hands, gathering, or lingering in groups outside the church before or after services.
- Consider continuing your gifts and tithes by mailing your checks through the postal service, bank drafts or using the DONATE buttons at our [website](#) or on Facebook.
- Please be patient with employees, volunteers and one another as we faith our way through this new way of relating to one another.
- Please remain open to these changes and know they are intended in love, and help others accept them in a positive light.