

Dear Trinity Family,

Starting this Sunday, June 27, we will **no longer be requiring masks at worship services**. Please be aware that at this time, under **Executive Order No. 12A**, the state of Connecticut allows all people to be unmasked outdoors, and vaccinated people to be unmasked indoors. COVID-19 numbers in our state have been continuing to fall, and there have been several days recently with no new cases in Litchfield County. In this country, we are fortunate to have a highly effective vaccine available to anyone age 12 and over, and it has been helping to reduce both the spread and severity of infection. So far, the vaccine has also been effective even against circulating variants of the virus. It is with low infection numbers and vaccine effectiveness in mind, along with the opportunity for most of our parish community to be vaccinated, and the fact that we have a large worship space with plenty of open windows, that we are ready to take this next step of dropping the mask requirement for Sunday morning participation.

As we continue to live into the gospel charge of loving the weakest of our ranks, and as we respect the needs of all of our fellow parishioners, there are a few things to keep in mind as we make this transition.

1. We will leave up the ropes in the side areas of the church in case there are any parishioners who still feel safer social distancing. Please be respectful if you see fellow parishioners sitting in those areas that they may be choosing to distance.
2. Services will continue to be live streamed for those who wish to join us remotely.
3. Communion will continue to take place in small groups. We ask that people allow space between the person ahead of and behind them in the communion line and at the rail. Communion wine will continue to be served in individual cups for those who wish to partake.
4. Finally, as masks are optional, some parishioners will probably continue to wear them during the service. Each person should reach a decision here in consultation with their medical provider, their own assessment of the risk to others, and in accordance with their own comfort level. Please be respectful of the choices of those around you.

Please continue to bring your concerns to Fr. Nik or a member of the Vestry. We will continue to do our best to faithfully provide a safe and meaningful space for the people of God to gather in prayer and community.

The Rev. Nikolaus Combs, Priest in Charge
Dr. Jessica Magda, Sr. Warden