

Singing & Liturgy During the Season of Covid19

The CDC indicates that a primary way the Covid-19 virus spreads, is through respiratory droplets from an infected person (CDC Guides). These particles travel many feet from the person and can further spread through air movement. Face masks and 6' distancing reduce the risk of spreading the virus through common conversation. Singing or loud speaking spread these particles even farther. Therefore, congregational or choral singing is prohibited, even when masked. By following specific practices, congregational unison speaking, and very restricted solo singing is possible. Outdoor settings are a lower risk environment than indoor.

Congregational Unison Speaking – can only be safely practiced when all persons are wearing face masks, are distanced at least 6', and in a softly spoken voice. The Lord's Prayer or other suitable liturgy which is commonly spoken in a soft voice may be included in a service of worship. It is recommended that if congregational unison speaking is a part of in-person worship, congregants are briefed on speaking in a soft voice, the officiant creates a quiet mood, and there is no musical background which may encourage louder speaking.

Worship Music – Congregational or choral singing is strongly not recommended due to heightened risk of spreading the virus. Instrumental (non-wind) or recorded vocal music is encouraged. If solo or duet singing greatly enhances the worship experiences, it can be included by following these specific practices and procedures:

- All worshipers are wearing face masks.
- Singer must be distanced at a minimum of 12' from all other non-household persons, including an accompanist or sound tech.
- Microphones are to be used to amplify and reduce the vocalist's need to raise their voice. Single use microphone or sanitize between users.
- The singer wears a face mask.