March 12, 2020

Dear Cathedral Family,

I am writing to inform you of recent updates from the Diocese regarding the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the United States. Bishop Field has issued a Pastoral Directive to the Diocese concerning the passing of the peace and use of a common cup at our services. The bishop shared that cases have been documented in both Kansas and Missouri, meaning we need to take common sense precautions to minimize the risk of spreading this virus:

- If you are feeling sick, please stay at home.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer with a high alcohol content
- Avoid making contact with your eyes, nose, or mouth with unsanitized hands

For the liturgy, the Bishop adds the following:

- Please minimize contact with others at the passing of the Peace. Friendly waves, elbow bumps, making the “peace sign,” etc. are all encouraged over physical contact.
- While bread and wine will both be consecrated at the Eucharist, only the bread will be distributed at the Altar rail. The wine will be available at separate stations as you return from the rail if you wish to receive it by drinking from the cup. Intinction, either by you or the Eucharistic Minister, will not be permitted.
- You may skip the wine all together. Receiving only the bread at the time of communion is a full and sufficient participation in the Sacrament.

I will reiterate these points during the announcements at each service. Also, all clergy and Eucharistic Ministers will be using hand sanitizer throughout the service. When we feel the threat of spreading this virus is over, we will return to normal practices.

In the meantime, the Presiding Bishop has issued a statement and his office has compiled a comprehensive list of resources to help everyone navigate this situation. [https://episcopalchurch.org/concerning-covid19](https://episcopalchurch.org/concerning-covid19)

I appreciate your patience in this matter and your willingness to participate. Please continue to pray for all those affected by this virus.

Faithfully,

Dean Andy+