CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE – Updated March 11, 2020

Although worship and programming continue as usual at St. Andrew’s, we ask that you follow these precautions to minimize the risk of coronavirus infection:

- Please stay at home if you’re sick. You can worship online.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the crook of your elbow, not into your hands.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, scrubbing for 20 seconds; or use hand sanitizer (bottles are available throughout the church building).
- Wash your hands immediately after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Avoid touching your face (particularly your mouth, nose, and eyes), especially with unwashed hands.
- Regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including keyboards and doorknobs.

In the interests of ensuring your safety, we are making the following changes in our worship:

- We have suspended greeting one another, at the Peace and otherwise, in ways that involve touching hands or hugging. Instead, bump elbows, wave to others, offer a slight bow, or simply greet others verbally.
- Following our bishop’s directive, we will continue to serve both the consecrated bread and wine of Holy Communion, but with these changes in practice: We will serve the wine only from individual cups offered at standing Communion stations, and we have suspended the practice of intincting (dipping the bread into the wine). If you prefer to receive only the consecrated bread, know that Communion in one kind is considered full reception of the sacrament.
- We have suspended passing the alms basins and passing the red sign-in folders to minimize opportunities for touching common surfaces. You may make an offering into standing collection stations or online.
- We have suspended use of prayer books and hymnals. Congregational responses will continue to be printed in the worship bulletin, and hymns are being added to the bulletins, too.
- We have removed the holy water from our baptismal font.

We are also making some changes in how we serve food at church. These fall into two categories:

- At Coffee Hour or receptions, we will serve individually wrapped snacks.
- When we have meals at parish classes and events, participants will no longer serve themselves using common utensils. Instead, someone with well-washed hands will serve you, or the meals will be self-contained.

Finally, we will be intensifying hygiene protocols in our nursery and children’s ministry, and we will monitor recommendations from environmental-health professionals.

We are committed to providing a safe environment in which to worship, and we will continue to discern how best to protect you as we do the work God has given us to do in this complicated moment.

Peace,

The Rev. John Spicer, Rector