



# St Stephen's Episcopal Church

Orinda, CA

## What to Expect when Attending In-Person Worship (updated)

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### **TIME AND PLACE OF WORSHIP**

Sunday morning worship will happen outdoors on our patio and courtyard. For the time being, we will conduct one service at 10am. See below for “parking, registration and check in” and consider giving yourself enough time to arrive and include these factors into your morning.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL and NURSERY**

Children are always welcome at every worship service at St Stephen's. Our Sunday School for children grades K through 5 takes a break for the Summer, but our Nursery will be open for children aged 0 to Pre-K. Check our website or stay tuned for updates about the beginning of the Sunday School year in August.

### **PARKING**

If getting up and down stairs is not a challenge for you, please use the upper parking lot and use the stairs to come down to the lower entrance. Please reserve lower-level parking for people with mobility issues, or for whom getting up and down stairs is challenging. Because of the renovation, we will not have access to the sanctuary building or the elevator. If you are accustomed to using the accessible parking spots near the main church entrance, please park in the lower lot instead – the elevator will not be accessible as a means of arrival.

### **CHECKING IN**

When you arrive at the entrance to the lower campus, greeters will welcome you and ask you to check your name and contact information: this is for contact-tracing purposes, and also to make sure that our database is up to date with your latest and best address, email, and phone number. If you are arriving with children, the check-in station is adjacent to the building where the Nursery is located. Children's attendance will be recorded in the classroom, but you can also help us by visiting the check-in table and making sure we have all your info correct.

### **MASKS**

In accordance with current State and County guidelines, masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated. If you are not yet fully vaccinated, we do ask that you wear a mask for the duration of the service. Masks are available at the Welcome table for those who need one.

### **SINGING**

Worshiping outdoors means we are allowed to sing, and we expect you to do so! The bulletin will include all the music in it (as we have been doing for live-streaming). The choir has been rehearsing and will be leading our singing, and we can't wait to hear all our voices praising God in song!

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

We will celebrate and share Holy Communion. Sacramental guidelines from the Diocese still prevent us from sharing wine from a common cup, so we will bless both bread and wine, but share the bread only. Eucharistic bread will be carried by the presider to the people, who will remain in their seats while all receive. Gluten-free wafers will be available for those who desire them.

### **PARISH HALL AND RESTROOMS**

For the time being, the kitchen is restricted to use by the Altar Guild and Flower Guild. The Parish Hall and indoor spaces are off limits except for choir, altar party, and clergy as they vest in preparation for worship; and as a means of access to the restrooms. Our three parish hall restrooms are all available as single-use facilities, and hand-sanitizer dispensers will be located in the lobby of the restroom area for your use. The Sunday School and Nursery have a shared restroom between them (accessible from both rooms). Hand sanitizer will be on hand in the classrooms as well.

### **HOSPITALITY (COFFEE HOUR)**

For the time being, we are not offering any hospitality or coffee hour after the service. As we develop plans that accommodate both Altar Guild and Hospitality use of the kitchen, we will add back some version of coffee hour to our Sunday mornings. For now, we recommend Johnny's Donuts in Lafayette.

### **COLLECTION PLATE**

We will not take up a collection during the service. We strongly encourage all pledge payments and financial transactions with the church be made by means of credit card or other electronic payment. Contact our parish administrator Liz Haughey to find out about this. If you prefer to bring a check or envelope for pledge payments or other donations, we will have volunteers on hand at the check-in station as people depart to collect contributions.

### **THINGS WE CANNOT CONTROL**

Despite our best efforts, we have not been able to do anything about the wind, the sun, the temperature, the sound of a passing fire engine, or the presence of insects and birds in our worship space. Please come prepared to manage your own comfort level with these variables, which remain outside the scope of our control.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR EFFORT TO REGATHER SAFELY!**