



## WHAT TO EXPECT FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

With Austin Public Health in entering Stage 4 protocols, UPC is profoundly overjoyed to re-gather as a community of faith for sanctuary worship following this long time of COVID separation. As always, we will continue to stream our worship via Zoom so that those who are hesitant about sanctuary worship can nonetheless continue to participate.

Regardless of your comfort level, we want you to know that there is a place for you at UPC no matter what. We also want you to know what to expect from sanctuary worship so that you can make the best decision for yourself and your family. Some of the sanctuary protocols that follow may change over time as APH hopefully continues to downgrade our local response level. For now, what follows is a brief reminder of what worship at UPC looks like during this time.

1. We'll be vaccinated. During Stage 4, all attendees at in-person events at UPC, including worship, are expected to have been vaccinated, if eligible, in compliance with APH guidelines. For details on this requirement, please consult the UPC Response Reduction Plan, version 2.3, updated January 2022.
2. During stages 4 and 3, we'll be wearing masks indoors. Unless you are under the age of two or speaking in worship, we'll be asking you to wear a mask while indoors, and we'll have some available for you, if needed.
3. We'll be respecting everyone's need for space. We'll be giving you as many ways as we can to set the distance you need from other people. We'll have sections of the sanctuary designated for socially-distanced seating, and we'll respect anyone's desire not to shake hands, hug, or sit too close together.
4. We'll be adjusting some of our liturgy. We won't be passing friendship pads or offering plates for now. We'll be including hymn lyrics and scripture passages in the bulletin, so you don't need to touch pew hymnals and pew bibles.
5. We'll also be adjusting some of our music. We'll sing hymns, but with masks. We'll also ease our way back to full choir participation in worship. Processionals of the Clergy and Choir will be re-instituted in later weeks of our re-opening plan.
6. We'll be serving communion as safely as possible. We will serve communion by distributing self-contained and pre-packaged portions of bread and juice. We'll distribute these elements both from the chancel (for those who wish to come forward) and in the pews (for those who wish to remain seated).
7. We'll be welcoming worshipers of all ages. In lieu of Bridge to Worship, children will remain in the sanctuary through the entire service. However, the "Time With Younger Church" will not require them to come forward.



Additionally, the nursery will be open for parents to use but will be unstaffed for the time being.

8. We'll be parking as usual. We will continue to park in the Co-Op garage as before, and UPC OR codes for the garage are available at the church. You may wish to allow yourself a few extra moments, as the density of residents on west campus has increased substantially.
9. We'll be gathering for fellowship as usual. After worship, we will gather for fellowship in the UPC courtyard (weather permitting), where you will be free to remove your mask if you are fully vaccinated. Pastors will also greet after worship *in the courtyard*, to avoid creating traffic at the narthex doors.
10. We'll be ensuring that our sanctuary is as sanitized as possible. UPC's HVAC system is fully capable of killing 99.9% of all viruses with the regularly replaced UV light filters.
11. We'll continue to worship alongside those who cannot come in person. UPC will continue to use its Sunday morning Zoom link to share sanctuary worship remotely, and to provide Zoom breakout groups after worship for a time of fellowship.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Gaventa", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

The Reverend Matt Gaventa  
Senior Pastor