

## Our Worship Covenant

Beginning July 26, our congregation will begin in-person outside worship. We are excited about this opportunity to worship together, but we all need some “ground rules” to keep us safe while we are together.

As followers of God, we are familiar with the notion of covenant. God made one with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). A covenant is an agreement between two or more parties and the agreement is upheld by all involved parties. Going from God and Abraham in the Old Testament to all of us here at St. Augustine of Canterbury, Aiken during this pandemic, all of us are bound together by our promise to uphold a worship covenant.

This covenant is something that all of us need to abide by in order to have corporate worship once more (regardless if it is inside or outside worship). In Bishop Waldo’s Re-opening Guidelines, he directs clergy to provide his worship covenant for all congregations in our Diocese. The worship covenant includes the following information.

When on the campus of St. Augustine of Canterbury (Aiken) for worship, I will:

- Wear a mask at all times.
- Sit only in areas designated for individual/families worship space (being socially distanced).
- Not physically pass the Peace.
- Remain standing/seated in my place and not moving, unless for the restroom or to receive Communion.
- Receive consecrated bread only.
- Not attend in-person worship (inside or outside) if sick or feverish.
- Adhere to social distancing before, during, and after all worship services.
- If attending a service and later become sick, am tested for the Corona Virus, and test positive, I will alert Fr. Dan immediately.
- Alert Fr. Dan if not attending in-person worship so he can provide pastoral care to parishioners not attending in-person worship.

So this covenant gives us our parameters, or our “ground rules” for worship. This covenant is for all of us to follow, so we can remain as healthy and safe as possible. Part of being in community together is to respect one another and show care for one another. We can do both of these things by abiding to Bishop Waldo’s Worship Covenant.

Remember, if attending the in-person outside worship, please:

- Bring your own chairs, blankets, umbrellas, suntan lotion, bug spray, etc. and make yourself comfortable!
- Dress very casual.
- Know that our restrooms will be open for use if need be.
- The Church will provide water and granola bars/snacks to keep folks hydrated and blood sugars in the healthy range.