

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

226 Cornelia Street, Boonton, NJ 07005

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October 3, 2021

## The Sunday Eucharist, Rite II

*Congregational Singing Suspended for Indoor, In-Person Worship in the Diocese of Newark*



Welcome St. John's in Boonton! And today we do still mean the church building *in Boonton!* The Diocese of Newark's decision to resume in-person worship was made county-by-county when the pandemic metrics for each county began to fall to lower levels of infection risk. Such decisions have always been contingent upon those metrics remaining on their downward trend. The Diocese of Newark's policies follow the same logic as those of New Jersey State and federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control: higher risk to the community may require re-imposing appropriate restrictions on public behavior. As before, the purpose is to lower the number of people who get infected by making vaccination as widespread as possible, and lowering transmission through mask-wearing (primarily for the unvaccinated, but encouraged for all), hand-washing (definitely for all), and social distancing (again most urgent for the unvaccinated). But there's a new twist: by driving down infection rates, we are not only starving the pandemic of new hosts to infect, but also denying it time to mutate; we hope to prevent it from "evolving past" the highly-effective vaccines we have created. Because God's house must be open to all, vaccinated or not, please review the following essential protocols and practices that will be in place during this current High Risk Level Orange (the one significant change is #3):

- 1) All participants, including the congregation, must wear masks while in the church, and are encouraged to wear them outdoors as well.
- 2) All participants, except those from the same household, must maintain at least six feet of space between themselves; prayer books or service materials should be passed or shared *only* between members of the same household. The same holds true for physical contact, including at the Peace.
- 3) **Congregational singing is again suspended.** Because singing produces smaller, "aerolized" saliva droplets that travel farther and remain suspended longer in the air, there will be **NO final hymn.**
- 4) At the Offertory, the alms basins will not be passed; instead, at the conclusion of the liturgy, the Greeter will hold an alms basin in the center aisle, into which you can place your checks, cash, or sealed pledge envelopes, as you exit the building. Please also see on the penultimate page of this Order of Worship instructions for making your offering via electronic transfer.
- 5) The Eucharistic bread and wine will be kept on the credence table in the chancel from the beginning of the liturgy, rather than carried up from the back.
- 6) While the public health emergency lasts, the People will receive communion only in one kind, the bread. At the time of the communion,
  - a. Please stand and remain at your place in the pew, the Celebrant will come to you
  - b. If you wish to receive, please hold your hands out in front of you, right hand over left
  - c. The Celebrant will drop the wafer into your hands to avoid physical contact
  - d. Please wait until the Celebrant is at least six feet away before lifting your mask to consume the wafer. Communion on the tongue is not permitted at this time.
  - e. To receive only a blessing, please stand in place with your arms crossed over your chest
  - f. Those attending via the Zoom livestream will be led in the Act of Spiritual Communion.
- 7) The Clergy will not greet the People at the church door, nor will there be an actual, or virtual Coffee Hour until further notice.
- 8) The Service Music, such as the Gloria, Sursum Corda, and Fraction Anthem, have been pre-recorded to be played at the appropriate time. These sections are marked as **(Recorded)**. Please do not sing aloud with these. **At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Great Amen should be said by all the People in a loud voice of assent.**

All those who are participating via the live stream of our service are asked to **please keep your microphones muted** throughout the service; however, we encourage you to read the People's responses aloud along with us, wherever you are (see last page for more information).

*Those on Zoom, please keep your mics muted throughout the service; but do read with us the People's responses out loud*  
**The People's responses are in boldface.** *Rubrics (liturgical directions) are in red.*

**The Holy Eucharist, Rite II**  
*From the Book of Common Prayer 1979*



**THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**(YEAR B, PROPER 22, TRACK 1)**

October 3, 2021 10:30am

*Livestreamed via Zoom*



**"Let the little children come to me ... to such as these ... the  
kingdom of God belongs."**



**THE ENTRANCE RITE**

*The People stand as are able as the Celebrant enters and says*

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Hymn of Praise** *Benedictus es, Domine – Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34*  
*Rutter*

**(Recorded)**

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant continues*

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The People sit for the Readings*

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

### **The First Reading**

*Job 1:1; 2:1-10*

A Reading from the book of Job.

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason." Then Satan answered the LORD, "Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die." But he said to her, "You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

*Lector*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsory Psalm 26** *Judica me, Domine*

*The Lector begins*

1 Give judgment for me, O LORD,  
for I have lived with integrity; \*

*The People read in unison with the Lector for the remainder of the Responsory*

**I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.**

- 2 Test me, O LORD, and try me; \*  
examine my heart and my mind.
- 3 For your love is before my eyes; \*  
I have walked faithfully with you.
- 4 I have not sat with the worthless, \*  
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
- 5 I have hated the company of evildoers; \*  
I will not sit down with the wicked.
- 6 I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, \*  
that I may go in procession round your altar,
- 7 Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving \*  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.
- 8 LORD, I love the house in which you dwell \*  
and the place where your glory abides.
- 9 Do not sweep me away with sinners, \*  
nor my life with those who thirst for blood,
- 10 Whose hands are full of evil plots, \*  
and their right hand full of bribes.
- 11 As for me, I will live with integrity; \*  
redeem me, O LORD, and have pity on me.
- 12 My foot stands on level ground; \*  
in the full assembly I will bless the LORD.

*The People stand as are able as the Deacon rises to proclaim the Gospel*

## The Holy Gospel

*Mark 9:30-37*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God

belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

*Deacon*           The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**       *The Rev. Barry M. Signorelli*  
*A brief period of silence may follow the homily*

## **The Nicene Creed**

*The People stand as are able as the Celebrant says*  
Let us stand as we are able to affirm our faith, in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*The Celebrant and the People together*

**We believe in one God,**  
    **the Father, the Almighty,**  
    **maker of heaven and earth,**  
    **of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**  
    **the only Son of God,**  
    **eternally begotten of the Father,**  
    **God from God, Light from Light,**  
    **true God from true God,**  
    **begotten, not made,**  
    **of one Being with the Father.**  
    **Through him all things were made.**  
    **For us and for our salvation**  
        **he came down from heaven:**  
    **by the power of the Holy Spirit**  
        **he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,**  
        **and was made man.**  
    **For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
        **he suffered death and was buried.**  
    **On the third day he rose again**  
        **in accordance with the Scriptures;**  
        **he ascended into heaven**  
            **and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
    **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**  
        **and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**  
    **who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**  
    **With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**  
    **He has spoken through the Prophets.**  
    **We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**  
    **We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**  
    **We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
        **and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The People remain standing as are able for the Prayers of the People*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*The Deacon reads the petitions; silence is kept; the People respond as indicated*

*Deacon*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye our Bishop Diocesan; for the people of St. John's, Boonton, and the Diocese of Newark.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We remember especially Joe our President; Kamala our Vice President; the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives; the Justices of the Supreme Court; and all branches of state and local governments.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray for wisdom and fortitude to avert the impending disaster of climate change, and to be faithful stewards of the earth and its resources.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion upon all who stray from your will for us; be merciful to us when we sin against you in thought, word, and deed; and give us grace to repent of our wrongdoings, and to amend our lives, that we may love you above all else, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Help us to recognize our neighbor in everyone we meet, that we see not strangers, but our sisters and brothers, the beloved of God.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We remember especially those afflicted

with COVID-19 and every other illness; and for those oppressed for their appearance or heritage, by reason of economic injustice, or because of those whom they love.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that, with Blesséd Mary the Godbearer and Blesséd John the Apostle, we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

*Deacon* Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant then prays a concluding collect*

*Celebrant*

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*All standing as are able, the Celebrant says to the People*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord*

*The People sit as the Celebrant offers brief words of welcome and any announcements or news to be shared with the parish*

## **THE OFFERTORY**

*The Offertory begins with the Celebrant saying the Offertory Sentence. Please see Note 4 on the Current Requirements sheet regarding the on-site collection of alms. Please also see the penultimate page of this Order of Worship for instructions on how to make a donation to St. John's, Boonton electronically. Your generous support is deeply appreciated.*

*The Deacon then prepares the Table*

*As the Celebrant takes his place at the Altar, the People stand as are able*

*The Celebrant sets apart the gifts of bread and wine with the following words*

Blesséd are you, O Sovereign God, Ruler of the Universe, who has given us this bread for our use. Grain of the earth and work of human hands, ✠ it will become for us the Bread of Heaven.

*People* **Blesséd be God for ever.**

*Celebrant* Blesséd are you, O Sovereign God, Ruler of the Universe, who has given us this wine for our use. Fruit of the vine and work of human hands, ✠ it will become for us the Wine of Heaven.

*People*            **Blesséd be God for ever.**

*The Celebrant, in the name of the community, says the following*

O God, our Creator and Giver of all blessings: accept our grateful thanks for all that your love bestows upon us; open our eyes to recognize your gifts when they appear at times, places, and in ways we neither expect nor understand; then take our thankful hearts, and return again our gratitude as your blessing on Creation; for

*Celebrant*        All things come from you, O Lord;

*People*            **And of your own have we given you. Amen.**

*The people remain standing as are able*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving (Preface of God the Father)

*The Celebrant says*

*People*            The Lord be with you;

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.

*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

*People*            **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### **Sanctus (S-128)    *Matthias (Recorded)***

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your Glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### **Eucharistic Prayer A**

*The People stand or kneel as are able, and the Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify ✠ them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify ✠ us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*The People respond in a loud voice*                    **AMEN.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Host, and a period of silence is kept*

*Then the Fraction Anthem (Recorded) is sung (see next page)*

## The Fraction Anthem (EOM1) *Fletcher* (Recorded)

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

## The Invitation

*The Celebrant proclaims*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Celebrant says to those worshipping online*

Dear Friends in Christ, because of the coronavirus pandemic, some of us are not able to gather together physically, and thus, cannot receive the Blessed Sacrament physically. *But it does not mean that cannot receive Communion at all.* God's love and blessing are without bounds, and God will not deny his grace to any who truly desire to be in communion with him. One need not eat the bread to attend the banquet. Invite into your heart the One who first invited you, and in your heart God will feast with you. I therefore invite those of you who are separated from us by distance, circumstance, or even time, to repeat after me each phrase of this Act of Spiritual Communion, to be truly united with our Maker who welcomes us and feeds us with his unconditional love.

*The Celebrant reads the Act by phrases, those making the Act repeat after him*

**Blesséd Jesus, | I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, | and, since I cannot now receive communion, | I pray you to come into my heart. | I unite myself with you and embrace you | with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. | Let nothing separate me from you; | let me serve you in this life | until, by your grace, | I come to your glorious kingdom | and unending peace. Amen.**

*The Celebrant then receives the bread and wine, then distributes the bread to those present*

*The Celebrant comes to each communicant where they are; to receive, hold out one hand over the other, and the Celebrant will drop the bread into your hand; do not consume the bread until the Celebrant is at least six feet away from you. There should be no physical contact.*

*After all have received, the Celebrant returns to the Altar, consumes any remaining bread, and cleans the chalice*

*The Deacon then cleans the remaining vessels and removes them from the Altar*

*Because Morris County has returned to the High Risk Level Orange, congregational singing is once more prohibited by the Diocese of Newark due to the increased danger of virus transmission through the smaller, aerolized droplets of saliva which are generated by singing and which remain suspended in the air longer than those generated by the speaking voice. Congregational singing will again be permitted when the infection risk level for the county returns to the Moderate Risk Level Yellow.*

*If you or those close to you are unvaccinated and have no medical condition that contraindicates vaccination, please get the full series of whatever vaccine is available as soon as possible. The vaccines are FREE, and protect you, your loved ones, and the entire community. Thank you.*

*The Celebrant then returns to the Altar and says*

Let us stand as we are able and pray together.

*The People stand as are able*

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant then says*

Let us pray together for St. John's in Transition.

*Celebrant and People*

**Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, and so guide  
the minds of those who shall choose a priest for this parish; that we may receive a  
faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*The Celebrant blesses the People*

May God bless you with discomfort: discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart. **Amen.**

May God bless you with anger: anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace. **Amen.**

May God bless you with tears: tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their sorrow into joy. **Amen.**

May God bless you with foolishness: foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy concludes with the Dismissal, on the following page*

## The Dismissal

*Deacon*            Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!  
*People*            **Thanks be to God!**

*Please follow the directions of the Greeters to exit the building safely and expeditiously*

*Due to Diocesan guidelines for reducing the possibility of infection, the clergy will not greet the congregation and visitors as they exit the building.*

*If you are a visitor, Welcome! Please make yourselves known to the Greeters, and if you let us know how to reach you, one of the Clergy or Vestry will follow up to thank you for worshiping with us today.*



### *Announcements*

*To all who are visiting with us today, or watching this live, or on-demand:  
thank you for being with us in prayer—you are most welcome, always!*

*To support the mission and ministries of St. John's Episcopal Church, Boonton, NJ,  
go to our website, <http://www.stjohnsboonton.org> and scroll to the  
middle of the page to the "Electronic Giving" link on the right side.*

*Your generosity is deeply appreciated!*



### *Leading and Supporting our Worship Today*

The Rev. Barry M. Signorelli  
*Supply Priest; Celebrant and Homilist*

The Rev. Deacon John H. Van Dine  
*Deacon and Intercessor*

Ms. Sandra Lee Schubert  
*Lector*

Mr. Robert H. Gangewere, Jr.  
*Organist & Director of Music  
Recorded Organ Music*

Mr. Zachary Morehouse  
*Recorded Vocals*

Mr. Bruce Parker  
*Zoom Administrator*

**Please Note: We have now resumed our regular in-season  
schedule of worship services:**

**Sundays, The Holy Eucharist at 10:30am**

*In case you were wondering...*

### **Why does my mic have to be muted? And why should I read aloud at home?**

One of the truths online worship has taught us is the difficulty of reading in unison when the people are not all in the same room. Individual voices travelling through the circuits and switches of the Internet will not all arrive at the same time. Yet unison reading is at the heart of our corporate worship, our “common prayer,” as though all our voices are blending into one as they rise to the ear of the Almighty. But we know that: 1) when God leads us into a wilderness, we will lose some things that give us familiarity, comfort, and meaning; but 2) God is *always* with us, leading us to something new, helping us see new solutions for new problems.

We believe God has led us to the following solution for this problem: only the mics of the clergy and the lectors (readers) will be active during the service. All others will be muted throughout. But this does not make the Office something to be “watched;” participation is expected of each of us, to contribute to “the work of the people” (which is what the Greek origin of the word “liturgy” means). The sections appearing in **boldface** are the People’s responses, and you, as the People, should read them, *aloud and with intention*, along with the speaker.

Even though you won’t hear your fellow worshipers’ voices blending with yours, you will still be reading in unison, even though each one is in a different place. You may not hear those voices joined, but God does, for separation by space, and even by time, means nothing to the One who is everywhere, always. If you are new to streaming worship, it may at first feel awkward to read aloud whether you are alone or with others; you will grow used to it. Try to remember that the very act of reading the same words at the same time as everyone else folds you in with the rest and anchors you in the community’s “common prayer.” And don’t forget, in worship we are always surrounded by the “Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven;” and even though we can’t hear them, what honor and glory to know that our voices are added to theirs!

### **What is “spiritual communion”?**

Long-standing practice in the Episcopal Church has offered a means for the faithful to receive Holy Communion spiritually when it cannot be received physically. For example, in the service for the *Ministration with the Sick* in the Book of Common Prayer, the following rubric is given:

*If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth. (BCP, p. 457)*

In these challenging times, many people may find themselves unable to receive Holy Communion physically due to illness or suspended worship gatherings. We are using a venerable resource from the (Anglican) Saint Augustine’s Prayer Book (*Forward Movement, 2014*) made available by Forward Movement Publications.

Forward Movement is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that inspires disciples and empowers evangelists. With offices in Cincinnati, Ohio, Forward Movement has been serving the Episcopal Church since 1935 by producing resources such as *Forward Day by Day*, books, apps, pamphlets, conferences, courses, and more. Visit [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org) to learn more.

*Adapted from the Forward Movement website*