

Worship Committee Annual Report

2020

Worship at St. Matthews during 2020 provided numerous opportunities to participate in the worship of our Lord. From Weekday Morning worship lead by Fr. Tommy to Centering Prayer on Tuesday evenings to Wednesday with the word and Services at 8 AM and 10:30 AM on Sundays. These activities occurred on campus until after the Second Sunday in Lent when the Covid risk resulted in the closing of the church campus. As soon as the campus was closed, our technology committee stepped forward with Fr. Tommy and started streaming Sunday morning prayer services from the Coil Chapel. We would like to thank especially Kyle Osborne, Jim Stallings and Amanda Livermont and their team for setting up and maintaining our links to our Web-page, Facebook, and YouTube.

Initially during these Covid times, daily worship went on-line. The daily office lead by Mtr. Liz and Fr. Tommy included Monday evening prayer, Tuesday morning prayer, Wednesday healing service, Thursday morning prayer, Friday Compline and Saturday evening prayer. Parishioners were invited to signed up for leading some of these service and we thank them for their service. This schedule ran from March through the end of May. In the beginning of June the number of daily office services was reduced to Monday through Friday and by Advent to just Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The Worship Committee during the early days of the pandemic went from a monthly meeting to a weekly meeting. We reviewed directives from the Bishop and Regathering Protocols Plans provided by the Diocese. The Committee discussed the limitations and opportunities for both inside and outside worship and created a framework for each service. This information was forwarded to the Reopening Committee for Phase 1 Worship.

The committee determined all aspects of flow for on campus services. From providing on-line registration for the events, Sanitizing Surfaces, Use of restrooms, Parking, revised responsibility for Vergers and Welcoming Committee, Health Screening, Health Signage, Social Distancing Signage, Designated seating, Layout of outdoor worship space and foot traffic flow.

The results of the Worship Committee's efforts and subsequent to the submittal of the Reopening Committee Phase 1 Worship certification to the Diocese by the Vestry and the Bishop's approval for on site outdoor services, we had an outdoor trial run 10:00 service on October 4th using the Pavilion and installing a couple fabric tents. Outdoor services were held with parishioners, weather permitting from October through the end of November. During October, the service was Morning prayer and by November, we transitioned to Communion that included a blessed wafer in sleeve that was given by tongues. No wine was allowed per Diocese directives. As the weather turned colder in December, services returned to indoors without parishioners being allowed on campus. Sunday services were zoom services from the Coil Chapel at 8 AM and live-streamed from the Sanctuary at 10:45 with limited numbers of alter party and technology group only. After the 10:45 service a drive through communion was offered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Warren Drury Chair