



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

March 25, 2021

Dear Clergy Siblings in the Diocese of Virginia,

As we see the light at the end of the tunnel of this pandemic time, we continue to pivot and adjust with new information. In light of what we are hearing and seeing this week, I write to let you know of a simple but significant adjustment to our COVID-19 guidelines. Effective today, March 25, 2021, congregations may gather indoors, according to the plan they have submitted and that has been approved, when the rate of new infections per 100,000 on a 7-day rolling average is 25 or below. In other words, **you may exercise your approved plan for indoor worship when your county is in the Green, Yellow or Orange zone** according to the [Brown School of Public Health metric](#) that we have been using during this time.

If you have an approved plan in place, you do not need to seek any additional permissions or submit any new materials. If you have not submitted a plan, please follow these [guidelines](#). It is unlikely that the Regathering Task Force will be able to review and approve any newly-submitted plans before Easter. Congregations without an approved plan may worship outdoors according to these [guidelines](#) during Holy Week and Easter.

Governor Northam has adjusted attendance caps on gatherings, increasing the limit for outdoor gatherings to 100 and indoor to 50. This guidance does not supersede our diocesan protocols. The maximum numbers you may include in outdoor or indoor worship are those in your approved plan.

God bless you as you lead your congregation in this most holy season of the year. God bless all as we continue in this season of change and hope.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff  
Bishop Suffragan and Ecclesiastical Authority