

# Outdoor October Worship at St. Gabriel's

During the month of October, we will be holding the 5:00 PM Saturday and 10:30 AM Sunday worship services outside. The 8:00 AM Sunday worship will be held inside.

## **Why are we holding worship services outside?**

Being outside allows us the freedom to do a few practices that we haven't been able to do in recent months:

- Celebrate the Eucharist (we'll use bread only, without wine)
- Sing as a congregation
- Gather without limiting the number of people who can attend

Additionally, the chance of COVID-19 spreading outdoors is much lower than indoors, so gathering outside is a safer way to worship during this time.

## **Where will the service be held?**

We will hold the worship at the back of the parking lot, near the entrance to the Good Shepherd Learning Center. That area will be marked off with cones to be a "pedestrian only" area. The easiest places to park are near the cell phone tower and playground, far back from Route 422.

## **What health precautions will be in place?**

As before, if you are attending worship at St. Gabriel's, you are required to wear a mask and keep a distance of six feet between you and non-family members. Homemade masks are available (thanks to Barb Hannevig), and hand sanitizer will be provided. Also as before, the service bulletin contains all prayers and music for the service, so that we are not sharing Prayer Books or hymnals. Finally, the Communion wafers will be individually wrapped in Ziploc bags. Our Altar Guild members wrap them several days ahead of time and let the bags sit untouched to make sure there is no virus on the bread.

## **If I'm not ready to worship in-person, what other options are available?**

We will continue to stream our 10:30 worship service on the St. Gabriel's Live Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StGabrielsDouglassvillePa/live](http://www.facebook.com/StGabrielsDouglassvillePa/live)).

## **What should I bring to worship?**

Please bring a lawn chair for yourself and everyone in your family. If you don't own a lawn chair or would prefer not to use one, you can use one of several plastic

folding chairs provided by St. Gabriel's. Please also bring a jacket, and feel free to bring a blanket or other warm gear!

**What is the plan if it rains or snows?**

In the case of inclement weather, we will gather indoors in the main sanctuary. The worship will be modified slightly to keep everyone safe while we worship inside.

**What will the 8:00 AM service look like?**

At the 8:00 AM service, we will gather in the main sanctuary. We will celebrate the Eucharist (using bread only), but the bread will be distributed at the very end of the service as attendees are leaving the building, in accordance with diocesan guidelines (available at [diobeth.org/protocol-for-celebration-of-the-eucharist/](http://diobeth.org/protocol-for-celebration-of-the-eucharist/)).

**What if I have a question that's not listed here?**

Give us a call at the St. Gabriel's office at (610) 385-3144.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time!