



February 23, 2021

Worship News

The worst may be behind us, but we still need to be vigilant. I'm so grateful for the discernment and cooperation that Prince of Peace members have shown through these months. We continue to consider how best we can do worship in these days. For most of us the best option is to continue to participate in online worship, whether at the time of the in-person events or at a better time for one's household.

As the Worship Leadership Team and I have communicated before, "no decision about how to proceed is meant to be final." At the end of November we chose to provide two in-person live-streamed worship services, one at 5:30pm on Saturdays and the other at 9am on Sundays. In the weeks since then we have found that the 9am time was not attractive to more than a few early service attenders. It did cause some late service attenders to go elsewhere because the time was too early for them. As a result the in-person attendance has been lower at 9am, even when we factor in the attendance on Saturday evenings. So we have decided to try something else.

Beginning March 7, the in-person worship service will be held at 10:30am.

This was a time that late service attenders had agreed to when we discussed worship times in late 2019. That discussion was curtailed by the cancellation of in-person worship in March 2020. We have determined that now is the time to try it out while things are still in flux and since 9am has not worked out as well as we thought it might.

The Team and I remain committed to alternating between traditional worship music on 1st and 3rd Sundays and blended music on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays. And to returning to two Sunday services when in-person attendance averages 150 or more for three weeks in a row at the one Sunday service. (On Easter Sunday we plan three services, but more on that in a later communication)

As your Pastor, I am still seeking to balance two things: 1) the severity and dangers of a public health crisis and 2) the need to provide opportunities for Prince of Peace members and friends to praise God together. The current stage of the pandemic still cautions against gathering; the desire of Christians grounded in the Holy Spirit moves toward gathering. Is there any way to satisfy both? I still don't know; though I find myself rejoicing to see folks as they come to in-person worship.

So I'm depending on your own discernment to decide. Our Worship Team will be present on Saturdays at 5:30 and Sundays at 10:30am to live stream services that will be saved to Vimeo for watching at any time during the week.

It is up to you to decide whether to attend an in-person service or not. As more of us are vaccinated, we will all feel more comfortable with gathering together, still masked and still practicing social distancing until health experts indicate those protocols are no longer necessary. We will continue to ask the COVID questions of those who enter Prince of Peace.

The Worship Ministry Leadership Team meets every two weeks to monitor, evaluate, and plan our worship. Brian Poe serves as Chair, with Jane Leeling, Barbara Bryan, Lynn Straw, and Stan Sacha as members and Pastor Gary and Director of Music Michael Rossi serving as staff. Contact any of them with your questions, concerns, joys or praises. Email them through info@poplc.org.

Worship News — Jan. 6, 2021

The Worship Leadership Team and Pastor Rueter have begun a practice of ***Home Communion*** for Prince of Peace, especially for those who are homebound, whether of necessity or by choice to avoid the spread of the virus. The main purpose of these online gatherings is to provide Holy Communion to households at home in an appropriate but brief service. Two such services were held on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 20th, as Pastor Gary sent invitations to several households that he had noticed had not attended in-person weekend worship or midweek Holy Communion.

The entire congregation is now being offered the opportunity to participate in such a service. To participate, households will need:

- A stable Internet connection
- Ability to join a Zoom meeting with video and audio
- Bread and wine available for the Sacrament

Details are laid out in a document of instructions that each household will receive when they request the opportunity to participate.

To indicate your desire for ***Home Communion***, send an email to Pastor Gary at gary.rueter@poplc.org, or info@poplc.org or call the church office at (703) 451-5855, leave your name and best email address. Use the same contacts to request the instructions before deciding about participation, or to ask other questions.

Prince of Peace continues to offer the following:

- An **In-person Worship Service** on Saturdays at 5:30pm.
- A Sunday **In-person Worship Service** is now ~~at 9am.~~

- Both in-person services end with Holy Communion.
- Both in-person Worship services are live-streamed.
- All services are available on POP's Vimeo page, anytime after a services concludes.
- An **In-person Holy Communion** service is held each Wednesday at Noon
- **Noon Day Intercessory Prayer** via Zoom, each Thursday at Noon

The Worship Ministry Leadership Team meets every two weeks to monitor, evaluate, and plan worship. Brian Poe serves as Chair, with Jane Leeling, Barbara Bryan, Lynn Straw, and Stan Sacha as members and Pastor Gary and Director of Music Michael Rossi serving as staff. Contact any of them with your questions, concerns, joys, or praises. Email them through info@poplc.org.