



Dear saints of St. Peter's,

When last I wrote you about COVID, it was with the good news of the rapid decline of cases in our community. Unfortunately, the Omicron variant of the virus has reversed that trend.

Circumstances are different now than they were during the summer wave last year: vaccines are available to every person over the age of four, many of us have received booster shots, and our hospitals are not (yet) overcrowded, as they were before. As such, I am not yet ready to replace our COVID restrictions at this time.

However, as your pastor and priest, I am asking you to wear a mask in indoor public spaces for now – including, certainly, gatherings at St. Peter's. Wearing a mask is an effective way of protecting others in case you are infected and asymptomatic. Wearing a self-protective mask (such as N95s, which remain available at the back of the church should you need one) is an effective way of protecting yourself. But above those practicalities, I ask you, while this wave is on the rise, to wear a mask as a sign of your care for the public health. Remember that our guiding principle continues to be: "Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4).

As we have consistently asked, if you are feeling at all unwell, please stay home and do not attend events at St. Peter's (or elsewhere!) until you recover. We will continue to livestream Sunday worship for those who are unable to attend, and we plan to make as many other offerings available online as we are

able.

If you have questions about my request, please feel free to be in touch with me. As we continue to navigate this pandemic, and pray for its end, I ask for your prayers, and assure you that you remain in mine. I am, as always,

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Joe+

The Rev. Joseph R. Woodfin, Rector

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