

## St. James' Episcopal Church

11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854 www.stjamespotomac.org ~ 301-762-8040 ~ office@stjamespotomac.org

## **Covenant for Regathering in Worship**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I promise, with God's help and to the best of my ability, to abide by the state, county, diocesan and parish guidelines for participation in the life of my congregation. The coronavirus is highly contagious, and there is a risk of infection that is beyond the control of the church in spite of precautions that are being taken. I take responsibility for my decision to enter the church building, regarding my safety and the safety of children and others in my care.

In fulfillment of our Baptismal Covenant, I will:

Love my neighbor as myself

- Wear a mask over my nose and mouth at all times in church buildings including congregational singing, except momentarily to receive the sacrament or lead worship through an assigned speaking or singing part.
- Only attend worship and receive communion if I am healthy and non-symptomatic with the novel coronavirus or any other transmittable disease that could compromise the health of another congregant;

Respect the dignity of every human being

- Make no physical contact with people beyond the members of my own household.
- Maintain a safe distance from others in the congregation.
- Respect any requests for distance, masking, cleaning, to ensure the safety and comfort level of others, even as restrictions are reduced.
- Immediately notify Church officials if I become symptomatic, if I am diagnosed as positive for the coronavirus, or if I believe I was at risk of infection when I attended the church.

Seek and serve Christ in all people

- Trust and support the decisions of our congregational leaders.
- Stay connected with others in my community by telephone, email, video chat, or mail.

*Please note: Participation is at your own risk.* In consideration of allowing me to enter the premises, I agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the Church, its officers, members, employees, and volunteers against any claims arising out of infection with the coronavirus, irrespective of negligence or gross negligence on the part of such indemnified persons. I accept fully the risk of access to the premises, understanding that the coronavirus is highly contagious, and that infections may occur despite precautions.