

AN UPDATE ON INDOOR MUSIC/SINGING

We had hope that we would get guidance on congregational singing from the CDC. However, it is very unlikely. The last CDC guidance to faith communities was in February 2021 and avoided all elements of worship, including singing.

The latest CDC guidance for singing is that it is safe for fully vaccinated persons to sing in a chorus without a mask. A chorus can be a small choral group or a large choral society. Many choral groups are larger than most of our parishes. Several east coast dioceses have interpreted the guidelines for a chorus to extend to congregational singing and have allowed congregational singing and choirs to resume with varying protocols.

It is our judgment that, with the low rate of covid-19 transmission in the diocese and increasing vaccinations, parishes/missions **may** resume congregational singing with protocols for masking and social distancing, under vestry discretion. Likewise, choirs may resume rehearsals and participation in services without a limit on number of participants. Choirs should follow individual parish/mission protocols for congregational singing.

Questions to think about when making the decision:

- How do we encourage people to get the Covid-19 vaccine?
- Does your community have a high vaccination rate?
- How will you monitor the ongoing status of covid-19 in your community?
- Are you comfortable with congregational singing?