

March 24, 2021

SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD:

A Word from the Bishop about Singing

(and also about Books of Common Prayer and Children's Formation)

Beginning with Palm Sunday, congregational singing is now permitted for **OUTDOOR** services. Members of the congregation must continue to socially distance and should wear their masks even while singing. Congregational singing should be limited, when possible, to fewer verses in hymns, antiphons only for the Psalm (while a quartet/octet may sing the verses), and/or a brief version of the *Sanctus* or *Agnus Dei*. ***Singing is still not permitted for indoor services.***

It is now also acceptable to move **BOOKS OF COMMON PRAYER** back into the pews for use. Use should be limited to one service only and if a book is used during one service and another service is taking place that same day, that book should be removed from the pew and replaced with a different prayer book for the next service. However, in churches that have only one service per Sunday, the Books of Common Prayer may remain in the pews from week to week.

Regarding **CHILDREN'S FORMATION**, the Health Advisory Panel is encouraged by a recent study from the CDC that has reduced the physical distancing requirement for children from six feet to three feet. They still note, however, that physical distancing with adults should remain at six feet. While Children's Formation is currently on hiatus, the panel will begin exploring safe ways to resume Children's Formation hopefully to allow for Vacation Bible School this summer. Please stay tuned.