



Dear St. John's Family,

August 11, 2021

Matthew 25:37-40 reads, *"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'*"

I often think of these verses when debriefing my day in the evenings. Did I feed anyone who was hungry? Who did I visit today? When was the last time I shared my resources with those in need? These are some of the questions I find myself answering regularly as someone attempting to follow Christ. Lately, I've been wanting to add a phrase to those verses. *"When did we protect those most vulnerable among us, Lord?"* I can already hear the answer, *"when you wore a mask during a global pandemic..."*

Friends, as much as we all hoped the Coronavirus would be a thing of the past by now, reality tells a different story. The Delta variant has reared its ugly head and lying in its wake are the most vulnerable among us. People's lives are still being destroyed by this virus and our work is yet to be done as those seeking to love the least of these including the elderly, the vulnerable, and our children.

Due to the increase in cases, we will be reinstating our mask mandates. Regardless of your vaccination status, masks will be worn in worship and anytime while on campus, beginning this Sunday, August 15. Our support groups and anyone else using our space will follow the same guidelines. In addition, please continue to pass the peace and greet one another safely by refraining from hugging or shaking hands. Your vestry and clergy are monitoring the status of Lancaster County closely and will continue to provide updates as necessary. As soon as it's safe to do so, we will roll back our safety precautions. Until then, we need your help to keep our community healthy and safe.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at the office. We would be happy to meet. And as you've heard me say time and time again, please get your vaccine if you are able. We may not be able to eradicate this virus ourselves, but we do have an opportunity to take care of the most vulnerable among us.

I remain faithfully yours,

Amanda

Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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