

Office of the Presiding Bishop

Christ Holy Sanctified Church of America, Inc.



Eighth in Succession

May 23, 2020

As you have heard by now, President Trump issued an executive order opening houses of worship (synagogues, mosques, temples) effective May 22, 2020. While I applaud the president's actions wanting to ensure that churches are not passed over during the various phases of re-opening the country, I respectfully caution Christ Holy Sanctified Church pastors to be mindful for the safety and well-being of members of their congregations – their concerns, their emotions - and the fact that everyone's physical condition, age, and their level of faith are not the same across the board.

According to a news report by Live Science, "A COVID-19 super-spreader unknowingly infected 52 people at a choir practice in Mount Vernon Washington, in early March, leading to the deaths of two people, a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report finds." It was determined that singing perhaps propagates the spreading of COVID-19 because of the droplets that are airborne. Coupled with the fact that the choir members were not wearing masks or distancing themselves at least 6 feet apart.

Each area of the country is different; therefore, use wisdom and understand the COVID-19 statistics (the data) and the recommendations for your city, county, or state. Talk of the plans for opening your church over with your congregation or staff members. This includes the church's activities and ministries (choir/praise rehearsals, kid's church, small group gatherings, etc.) and understanding that people are mostly stationary within the sanctuary for a longer period versus being active. Personally, I do not like wearing a mask as it makes me feel like I am suffocating; however, I understand that this is not about me. It is about the safety of others, which may include the life or death of an individual. Where I live, wearing masks and social distancing is still required while in public. In other areas, masks and social distancing are not required. This past week, we are hearing that some areas of the country are starting to see an uptick in COVID-19 cases and deaths, for whatever the reasons.

My prayer is that God would lead each of you as you do your best for the upbuilding of the Kingdom. If your church is not quite ready to open to the public or some of your family or congregants do not feel comfortable being around others at this time, you have nothing to be ashamed of nor should you feel that you or your church somehow lack faith or courage.

Continue to be encouraged – God understands.

Because of Calvary,

Bishop Craig E. Brown
Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle,
Christ Holy Sanctified Church