



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, NS
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

Dear Friends in Christ,

We find ourselves amid Holy Week. The Lord has come into the Holy City of Jerusalem, he is gathering with his friends in the Upper Room, feet will be washed, bread is broken, and Jesus will ultimately be betrayed, put on trial and will die.

Around the world, we are living the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. We live in times of fear. Some days our isolation is better than others. We make an effort to connect the best way we can, given the circumstances. I'm not going to lie—this is hard. Real hard.

As Jesus encountered the world in his last week, he too found challenge. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he was deeply grieved, crying out, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." (Matthew 26:39). This time of separation from one another will not be forever. This separateness from one another does not separate us from our relationship with God.

Christians for centuries have drawn together in solidarity through prayer. As we continue this week, I encourage us all to pray daily for one another and the world. We remember those on the frontlines, those putting themselves in harm's way to make the world safer. Prayer is powerful, and we should embrace the opportunity in this period of isolation. Philippians 4:6 it says, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Let's have that conversation with God. As Martin Luther once said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Let us breathe at this time.

In my last note to you, I reflected on some of the things that I miss. I know that many of you enjoy our church family and our times together. I am finding out that this feeling has felt for centuries. In my doctoral thesis, I reflected upon the nature of Christ Church and found C.W. Vernon's description of our community very calming. In 1917 he wrote:

Our people have for a hundred years brought their little ones to be dedicated to God and initiated into His Church in Holy Baptism, our young people have re-consecrated themselves to the service of the King and sought the gift of the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer in the apostolic rite of Confirmation; our lovers have stood before the altar to pledge their troth, either to other, in Holy Matrimony; the faithful have knelt in the Lord's House on the Lord's Day at the Table of the Lord to receive in the Supper of the Lord the Lord's gift of Himself to the believing, and have listened to the Word read and the Word preached and joined in the matchless service of the Church according to the beloved use

of our own beloved Mother Church of England. ...How many souls have found comfort, guidance, help, light, and salvation from the public and private ministrations of the Church in the century that is past!¹

Just think of the time we will have when we are in one another's presence again! Until then, let us enter into the narrative of Holy Week. Let us reflect on the great commandment "to love one another." And let us meditate on the cross this Good Friday.

Just an update:

On April 9th there will be an online Maundy Thursday service over Zoom at 6:30pm. Also, we will Zoom a Stations of the Cross Good Friday liturgy on the 10th at 1:00pm. Both of these services will also be prerecorded for viewing on our YouTube channel.

A note regarding Zoom: as some of you are aware, like all technology that is relatively new, or when a platform sees a significant increase in users, security concerns become a reality. You may have read articles online regarding Zoom and some security challenges that it has faced. There was an update to the Zoom application on April 5th and I encourage you to update your account. Also, all of our Zoom meetings are password-protected, so only those with the password can attend. As always, you should make sure you have proper firewall protection on your PC/Windows.

In light of recent news articles that have raised some concerns, churches all across North America and the world are continuing to gather on Zoom. Our churchwardens and other committees and I meet weekly over Zoom at this time. If you are unable to join us via the online platform, you can still participate in the service at home, as videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel for future viewing.

For all our online resources, visit our website, and you can simply click on the tab "Online Resources," which is at the top of the webpage. Our address is of course: www.christchurchdartmouth.com

- To access the times, and directions for our zoom gatherings you can view them here:
 - o <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/zoom-church.html>
- For online prayerbooks and services compline, morning and evening prayer please visit:
 - o <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/liturgies-for-at-home.html>
- For video messages and updates please see:
 - o <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/video-messages.html>
- For my pastoral letters and notes please visit:
 - o <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/rectors-letters.html>
- For online bulletins for our zoom worship please see:
 - o <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/online-bulletins.html>
- For our Facebook page and updates please see:

¹ C.W. Vernon, *The Story of Christ Church, Dartmouth: 1817-1917* (Halifax: Weeks Printing Co., Limited, 1917), 7.

- <https://www.facebook.com/christchurchdartmouth/>
- For our Youtube channel to watch services online and other videos please visit:
 - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnx5_7UORujudCuinOqQw

If you have young ones and people of all ages at home, please explore this link for great ideas on how you can make the most of Holy Week while we are home:
https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/holy-week-at-home-with-kids?utm_source=Anglican+Church+of+Canada&utm_campaign=bab98e6f55-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_04_07_02_10&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6285aca377-bab98e6f55-243923819

Faithfully yours in Christ,



The Rev. Kyle Wagner
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth
Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI
Anglican Church of Canada.