



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

June 25, 2020

“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” Corinthians 10:17

“We will never change the world by going to church. We will only change the world by being the church.” -Unknown.

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter seeks to outline our current situation as to in-person worship at Christ Church.

As you know, COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted across the province, and the “Atlantic Bubble” begins on July 3rd. Gatherings of 50 or less are now allowed with social distancing. As I have mentioned before, our task group is examining how our community will move forward and when we will reopen for public worship.

OPENING UP OUR CHURCH:

As we know, the church is not the building. As we collectively live out the Gospel, we are the church. There is no clear date yet for our return, but we are hoping by mid-July as a soft opening date. Due to social distancing, we will have limited seating (a number that is being considered now). We will be moving back to our regular schedule of an 8:00am BCP and 10:00am BAS, as we establish our protocols and have a sufficient number of volunteers who are trained in cleaning and facilitating worship during a pandemic.

THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS:

The great Eucharistic Feast takes place when we are all present. Because we are an inclusive parish, limiting the number of people to worship on a Sunday seems wrong. We seek to welcome all. As such, consideration is being given to when Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at Christ Church. Questions we are called to consider: *Do we wait until there is no limit to celebrate Holy Communion? Does a limited number of seating restrict the sacrament?* These are questions that our parish clergy are considering, and I encourage all of us to reflect and pray on them as well.

In the form of a survey, further questions for parishioners to consider before we come back to worship will be circulated shortly. This will allow us to gather data so we can move forward with worship until restrictions are opened more broadly.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv, DMin.
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth
Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI
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