



CHRIST CHURCH  
DARTMOUTH

An Inclusive Church Welcoming Everyone.

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

January 7, 2021

*Kingdoms rise And Kingdoms Fall. But you go on. -U2 "October"*

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

Dear Friends in Christ,

**A** happy Epiphany and new year to you and yours! I pray that you had a holy Christmas, one that was no doubt different, but one where Jesus was celebrated.

I write to you today in the aftermath of the events of January 6<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday, the world saw the United States capital under siege by domestic terrorists and supporters of the current American President. Society will forever remember the images of pipe bombs, nooses, angry mobs, the lack of police presence, and the death of four individuals.

Bishop Michael Curry of the Episcopal Church said yesterday:

The events at our Capitol today are deeply disturbing. We believe the actions of armed protesters represent a coup attempt... Today's protesters pushed through police barricades and forced their way into congressional chambers and ... [are] threatening the safety of lawmakers, their staff and others who work in the Capitol complex. This threatens the integrity of our democracy, the national security of our nation, the continuity of government, and the lives and safety of our legislators, their staffs, law enforcement and all who work in the Capitol." "We are a democracy with longstanding institutional norms that must be honored... foremost among them following the processes laid out in the Constitution and federal statute to facilitate the peaceful and orderly transfer of power.

Many clergy and laity in the United States and around the world are speaking out against the violent actions, racism, white supremacy, and intolerance that has become normalized in the United States. Famed Lutheran Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber wrote, "On today, the Feast of the Epiphany, I am reminded that an insecure ruler named Herod was so threatened by the birth of Jesus that he tried to overthrow the result by putting a hit out on a toddler."

There is such a variance as to how those in leadership treat their citizens. The lack of response to the demonstrations in Washington is quite frankly, scary. It is not just because of a lack of security, but rather how one group of citizens are treated, compared to others. Such a response only highlights the absence of love and how people are treated based on how they look or what community they come from.

And of course, as is often the case, it comes down to leadership. On May 29, 2020 the American President said in response to the Black Lives Matters (BLM) protests, “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.” Yesterday he said to his followers, “Go home. We love you. You’re very special. I know how you feel.” With just two weeks left in his presidency, the American President has been banned from Facebook and Twitter.

I write about these political events in the United States, not just to join the chorus of condemnation but also to highlight that we in Canada need to remain vigilant against all evil. Our nation has communities of people who hate, people occupied with the knowledge of conspiracy theories, and filled with disdain for democracy and decency. We in Canada have a history of white supremacy and residential school systems. We are not immune. For whatever reason, people who hold particular views have been affected by something, and society needs to recognize this and make change. As Christians, we have a responsibility to love, and to call out injustice when it occurs.

This Sunday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and we reflect on our Baptismal Covenant, which asks the following two questions:

- *Will you seek to serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?*
- *Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*

We in the Anglican Church of Canada are seeking to enter into dialogue with our neighbours. This includes conversations about systemic racism. Recently our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nichols has appointed a [Dismantling Racism Task Force](#).

At this time, we pray for peace and an end to such events in America. We pray for a peaceful transition of power.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst say unto thine Apostles, Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: Regard not our sins, but the faith of thy Church, and grant unto it that peace and unity which is agreeable to thy will; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, 1962)*

#### **A few updates regarding the mission and work of the church:**

**Worship:** On Monday, our parish executive met and I discussed with the wardens our current situation in regards to COVID-19. Starting Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> we will gather together in person and online, at 10:00am. We alternate between both Anglican liturgies, the BAS and BCP (the 10<sup>th</sup> is BAS). This schedule is temporary and may change based on direction from the province and diocese. For the next, while our schedule is:

January 17th: Book of Common Prayer (BCP)  
January 24th: Book of Alternative Services (BAS)  
January 31st: Book of Common Prayer (BCP)  
February 7th: Book of Alternative Services (BAS)

All services are with Holy Communion. The choir and congregation sing when masked.

**Parish Visioning:** On January 6<sup>th</sup> The Ministry Vision Sub-Committee –Vision 2020 released a letter to the parish [Summary Findings of the Holy Cow Congregational Assessment Survey](#). I encourage all parishioners to read this letter as we move forward in our period of prayer and discernment.

**Social Justice:** Concerning our relationship with the Elizabeth Fry Society and Coverdale, it was hoped that a move-in date for residents would be around the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month. It does not look likely that this transition will be made by then. Currently our groups are waiting for the city to issue permits so we can make the necessary changes so the hall's third floor can be a welcoming environment. We are not particularly worried that this process will be held up much longer, but I just wanted to let you know that the time when residents arrive may be delayed. Also of note, parish council tasked Parish Executive to establish a membership of parishioners who will be our liaisons with our new partners.

Please pray for me as I pray for you.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kyle Wagner".

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner  
Rector