



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

A People United in Justice and Love

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March 23, 2022

“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.” Psalm 37:3

Dear Friends in Christ,

On March 19, 2022, The Right Reverend Bishop Sandra Fyfe, our diocesan bishop, wrote to parishes regarding recent government changes as we entered into [Phase 3 of the Reopening Plan](#). Titled: [Navigating the “New Normal” -The Lifting of Public Health Protocols Best Practices for Parishes and Clergy in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island](#), the letter outlines guidance for parishes and clergy on how to move forward as most restrictions are lifted province-wide. In her letter, Bishop Sandra writes:

In general, parishes are free to make their own decisions about whether to lift most restrictions (with a few exceptions). I have heard repeatedly during the pandemic that each parish context is different, each church building is different, and the level of what has been referred to as “risk tolerance” is also different. ...While our provincial governments are lifting the requirement to wear masks in most public spaces, they continue to strongly recommend that they be worn. It is important to note that distinction. This guidance has been reinforced by epidemiologists across the country and beyond. ...I strongly recommend that parishes continue to require the wearing of masks in church buildings, to be removed when individuals are in a speaking/leadership role or to receive communion, or when eating while seated, but not while singing.

Bishop Sandra also notes that: The use of the Common Cup is not permitted at this time. The sharing of The Peace should continue in ways that do not encourage handshakes at this time.

With Bishop Sandra’s guidance and by taking into account government regulations and guidance, the parish wardens and I direct the parish that **the following protocols are in place until April 10th** where at that time, a re-evaluation will take place:

Worship:

- All parishioners are required to mask during worship. If you do not have a mask, one can be provided.
- The choir maintains masks while singing.

- We continue to maintain social distancing.
- Parishioners will now be spaced out every two rows instead of three.
- You are not required to sign in as you enter the church.

Changes to Holy Communion:

- As you make your way toward the altar, you will have the opportunity to sanitize your hands.
- The Eucharistic minister whose hands are sanitized will administer the bread wafer in the same way before the beginning of the pandemic. They will offer the wafer from the patent (small plate), and you will receive it in your hand.
- The Common Cup is still not permitted. However, if you wish to receive wine, you will have the opportunity to pick up a paper cup when you enter the church. With this cup, you can approach the eucharistic minister whose hands are sanitized and holding the cruet (filled with wine). The minister will then pour an amount of wine into your paper cup. You are then asked to dispose of your own cup when you leave the church.

Church Gatherings (On Campus):

- In-person gatherings (meetings) can take place while maintaining social distance and when masked.
- There is no requirement to show proof of vaccination.
- Receptions can take place while following the provincial guidelines.

As we maintain these guidelines for a bit longer, I know this will be difficult for some. However, we consider that many of our parishioners are deemed vulnerable to the virus, so we wish to support our community the best we can.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact a parish warden or me.

In Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
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