



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

November 19th, 2020

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” - Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Again I pray that you are well as we find ourselves in the middle of November! The days are getting colder, and those warm morning coffees and teas seem to provide that extra comfort that we may need!

As some of you may know, Dr. Strang the province's Chief Medical Officer, announced on Tuesday that we are starting to see a community spread or local transmission of the COVID-19 virus once again. This means that as a community, we need to be extra careful, cautious, and kind to one another as we begin perhaps one of the longest winters in recent memory.

Please see the following updates regarding the mission and work of the church:

- **Sunday Worship in person (COVID-19):** we continue to monitor what health experts say regarding in-person worship. Please remember to social distance when in the church (6 feet apart) masked. Please make sure that you do not congregate around the entrances of the church. If you have something pressing to discuss, please have your conversation outside of the church, safely distanced. There are markers on the floor of the church to indicate spacing. Also, the choir is in the process of purchasing special masks for singing as they continue to provide us with wonderful music leadership. Under the guidance of Tessa Short our music leader, members of the choir are beginning to practice and prepare for the Advent and Christmas season!
- **O Christmas Tree:** For the last couple of years, I have thought that it might be nice to have a Christmas Tree visible on our church campus. After some discussion, Christ Church will see a tree lit in front of the church this year. As the darkness grows deep in winter months, we all could use a little more light in our lives. This tree allows one to remember or honour a loved one as you will be able to purchase a light bulb, with the donation going to support the parish's ministry. On December 6th at 6:30 pm, we will gather outside the church for a tree lighting ceremony, carol sing, and a blessing as we light up our beautiful tree. With this lighting, we wish to become a beacon of light in the downtown core, so people will know that we are a place of safety and light. We aim to make our community that much brighter! *Please stay tuned for further details!*

- **Advent:** our theme for this advent is coming together, and our planning team has embarked on an ambitious ministry! Each Sunday during Advent we will have a short dramatic play that coincides with a “short” reflection. We will be looking at how Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love affects our lives in a pandemic world.

- **Christmas Worship:** As mentioned last week in church, our Christmas Eve Services are as follows:
 - o 4:00pm Family Service
 - o 6:00pm Holy Communion (BAS) with Choir
 - o 8:00pm Holy Eucharist (BCP)

We will also have our traditional candle lighting at each service as we sing “Silent Night” together. The 6:00pm service will also be live streamed.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic we are only permitted to have 80 people at each service. We recently made adjustments to the inside of the church so we can now accommodate more people. As such, registration for these services will be live online on December 1st. You will need to register to attend Christmas eve service. You can also call the parish office starting on the 1st to register. People will also need to register if they are planning to attend the Christmas Day service at 10:00am on the 25th

- **Family Ministry:** as we have been unable to gather for children’s ministry in person, this Advent season, families in the parish will receive a packet with directions and materials to create a Jessie Tree. This tree explores the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’s birth. In my Advent letter, I will also include an advent lighting guide that folks can use at home.

Yours Faithfully in the Light and Hope of Jesus Christ,



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