



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

November 26th 2020

“Dear friend, and I pray all goes well for you. I hope you are as strong in body, as I know you are in spirit.” 3 John 1:2

Dear Friends in Christ,

As some of you are aware, Dr. Robert Strang, our provincial Chief Medical Officer, announced yesterday that because of the high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is now restricting gatherings of more than five people. This includes many organizations and faith gatherings. Because of this, for at least the next two weeks, we will be unable to have in-person worship. Our services will be live-streamed on our [YouTube page](#). I wish to thank our staff, technical group and music leaders for their ability to adapt quickly in these changing times. Thank you John Gallant, John MacLeod, Gail Teixeira, Vanessa Turner, Tessa Short, Joey Dowell, and John MacDonald.

Because of recent health guidelines, our rentals have also been affected, along with any church programming. Groups larger than five people cannot meet on our parish property. All previously scheduled Christian education activities will now move online to Zoom. A list of scheduled events can be found at [Zoom Church, Christ Church Dartmouth](#).

Our foodbank will continue to operate under current provincial guidelines. At an impromptu clericus meeting this morning, the Anglican Clergy of the Dartmouth region gathered to discuss our response to yesterday's news. I want to express to you that at this point, many churches, including ours, are planning for a shutdown that goes beyond the two weeks, most likely into the new year. This will affect many of us as we love to gather, especially at Christmas. However, we pray that this is not the case, but we also recognize that we, as Christians, have our part to play as we take care of one another. Let us see what the next few weeks brings us.

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

- **Sunday Worship in person (COVID-19):** no in-person worship. Services will be live-streamed. We are looking at a Zoom option that allows the parish to gather together in zoom as the service is live-streamed. Please stay tuned!
- **Pastoral Care:** All care homes, including hospitals, are now closed to visitors. This includes clergy. Please continue to reach out to the office if you have questions or need to speak with a priest.

- **Christmas Home Communion:** After consulting with the Archdeacon and Regional Dean, Rev. Bonnie and myself feel that for the safety of all, we are unable to offer home communions during the Christmas season. However, we will monitor this, and if we can do so, we will. Our pastoral visitor group and pastoral ministry team are still planning to reach out to all those who are at home (including care homes) and folks who are traditionally unable to come to worship. This year, people will be given a lovely Christ Church calendar, featuring Janice Silver's photography, prepared by the Pastoral Ministry group.
- **Lights of Love Tree lighting:** We had initially planned an outdoor event on December 6th at 6:30 pm. However, at this time, we are moving this to a live-streamed broadcasted event. More information to follow. You can donate and place a light bulb on the tree in memory or in honour of a loved one by visiting: <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/lights.html>
- **Advent:** This year, as a people of faith, we **Lighten the Darkness!** Each Sunday during Advent, we will have a short dramatic play that coincides with a brief reflection. We will examine Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and how they affect our lives and faith. Tune in for these weekly vignettes, which highlights faith in a COVID world.
- **Christmas Worship:** Our Christmas Eve services are still tentatively scheduled to be in-person with limited numbers. However, we will take direction from the province regarding in-person worship. If we are unable to gather, a service will either be live-streamed or prerecorded for broadcast.
 - o 4:00pm Family Service
 - o 6:00pm Holy Communion (BAS) with Choir
 - o 8:00pm Holy Eucharist (BCP)
- **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.

As well, you can now download "[Advent at Home 2020](#)" which is a guide to lighting advent candles each week, including Christmas Eve.

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
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