



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

October 7, 2020

“I am so glad that I live in a world where there are Octobers” - Lucy Maud Montgomery

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” - Genesis 8:22

Dear Friends in Christ,

I pray that you have had a good summer as we move into the fall months. The trees are seeing their leaves drop, and the colours are changing. There is also crispness to the air.

As we begin to move into winter, we do so during the global pandemic. Our church has had to make significant adjustments as we position ourselves to do God's work in our community as we seek to spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world.

I wish to briefly touch on a few areas of ministry in my note.

Pastoral Care: Rev. Bonnie, I, and the members of our Pastoral Visiting team continue to reach out to those who are shut-in at this time. Phone calls, cards, and letters continue to connect us in the midst of our distance. Restrictions on hospital visitations are still in effect. However, if you wish for a priest or member of the pastoral visiting team to visit the hospital, the visitor's name must be on a list of two people who are designated by the family. Please reach out to the parish office if you require pastoral assistance.

Worship: We continue to worship in safety on Sunday mornings at 10:00am. Our liturgy alternates between the BAS and BCP as we recognize the breadth and depth of our Anglican history. Parishioners of the 8:00am and 10:00am service are worshipping together. This has been one blessing of having the one service—members of the congregations are getting to know one another in more significant ways!

A reminder that you need to register to attend church on Sunday. Last week we met the capacity of 60 people. On Sunday's we have also begun to introduce music again as part of worship. At this time, we are moving from one singer to multiple singers socially distanced. Choristers are masked, and congregants cannot sing. Our goal is to safely add additional

voices for we know “singing is praying twice.” A special thank you to John Bogardus, our Music Director and his team, for providing us with music on Sunday mornings.

I also want to thank Parish Council, who has moved the parish ahead by installing a broadcast system that allows us to offer our Sunday services live online, in a professional and stable way. We have been able to do this with the support of our Christian Education Fund and from a generous donation. You can view us online at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnx5_7UORuJudCuinOqQw Again, a thank you to Gail Teixeira and John Gallant for making the technology work!

Music Ministry: After taking time to reflect on the nature of his ministry, John our Music Director has decided to pursue other endeavours as we establish a Music Ministry plan that navigates the difficult waters of this global pandemic.

We give thanks for John and extend his family best wishes. Under John’s leadership, Music Ministry has grown tremendously, and we have accomplished great things. John’s ability as a teacher, leader, and his pastoral spirit has served Christ Church well. His attention to detail, his love of liturgy, and his deep theological understanding of Anglicanism and Jesus Christ, models a beautiful faith.

Christmas: Some of you have been asking about what worship will look like at Christmas. At this time, I am consulting with the wardens and council to see how we will liturgically celebrate the Lord’s birth. We will continue to follow the guidelines of the provincial government in terms of attendance and capacity. We may need to take advantage of the space in our parish hall to maintain social distance. As has been the case, plans could change as we take direction from Nova Scotia Public Health. Online services or prerecorded messages and liturgies are also a possibility in addition to in person worship.

Finances: I want to thank the people of Christ Church, Dartmouth, for the strong support you have provided this community over the last few months. Without your time, talent, and treasure, we could not have gotten this far. Financially we are in a stable position because of the government programmes and support from the diocese. However, we are learning that government initiatives that we have taken advantage of will not be as supportive in the months ahead. I wish to thank our Finance Committee for their tireless diligence in examining our finances as we try and maintain stability. Moving forward, we may need to contemplate our decisions, but this will be carried out in a way that seeks understanding so that we can continue our ministry together.

Vision 2020: A parish-wide survey has rolled out to all the people of the parish. Please respond to this request! The data collected will serve the conversations we will have as we discern what the future of Christ Church will be. Please contact the office if you require a hard copy of the survey, or you can find it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCDARTMOUTH> Please answer the survey as best you

can, every comment supports our plan of growth! The survey deadline is October 12th so you still have time!

Christian Education: Connecting in a COVID world is a challenge. One way we can connect is through educational opportunities. This fall, we again feature our Rector's Readers: Book Club, Theology on Tap sessions, Bible and Book Study: *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath* by NT Wright, and other opportunities. Please visit our website and watch for announcements in our midweek announcements. These sessions will be in person, with attendees masked and socially distanced. Also, there will be an option for people to attend via Zoom.

At this time, I invite our parish to pray for one another. We are fragile right now as we try and navigate our own lives, tender in the way we experience church, and delicate in the decisions we make. Some days we may feel like nothing is going our way. At this time, we need to remember those beautiful words our Lord and Saviour spoke: "Love thy Neighbour as thyself." The German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe said it in another way that perhaps best describes 2020 "Let everyone sweep in front of his own door, and the whole world will be clean."

We are a people of hope, we are a people of resilience, we are a people who holds God in our hearts, minds and souls, as we journey together!

Yours Faithfully in Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
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