



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

March 25, 2020

A CALL TO PRAYER

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter is just an update since my last pastoral note to our beloved parish. I want to briefly provide you with information on where we are in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our public worship spaces are closed, the wardens and I have met remotely to discuss what liturgy might look like going forward. We are working on the assumption that our time apart will continue for some time. Archbishop Cutler wrote to the diocese today saying:

It seems clear from comments made by government officials in the past few days that restrictions on gathering will continue past April 3rd, 2020. I am now requesting clergy and parish leaders to plan for a suspension of gatherings for worship for at least two months. This will mean that our observances of “the journey from the glory of the triumphal entry to the glory of the resurrection, by way of the dark road of suffering and death” will need to take unconventional forms.

As previously mentioned, we have begun to implement alternative worship experiences, and we will continue this in light of the Archbishop’s comments.

Our online worship experience has been positively received. I want to thank John Bogardus, our Music Director, Gail Teixeira, John MacDonald, Tessa Short, Joey Dowell, Debbie Fice, and Rev. Bonnie Barid for working tirelessly as a group to make these liturgies happen. To date, we have about three to four more to be released.

After our first attempt at these videos, we realize we are not in a position to continue the productions in their current form. With the recent requirement of not gathering in groups of five or more, we take the virus threat to our health seriously, so we are making alternative arrangements. Also, we have learned that the amount of time and resources required to create the worship experience is beyond what we can offer right now. However, what we have produced does show what we as a community are capable of! Therefore going forward, you will see Morning and Evening Prayer along with Compline services and Sunday reflections posted on our website and Facebook groups periodically. Myself, Rev. Bonnie, Debbie, and The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke will offer these services.

We are also establishing Zoom communities, which is an online platform that allows users to connect through audiovisual. We are looking to form groups that can check in on one another as we move forward in this time of physical isolation. Details about upcoming gatherings will be distributed shortly. In the meantime, please visit: zoom.us to download the application to your

computer if you can. I also want to assure folks that Rev. Bonnie and her fantastic pastoral team are continuing to reach out to Parishioners, who do not have an internet connection.

Our Food Bank also continues to operate with modifications in conjunction with Feed Nova Scotia. We will do our very best to keep this ministry going as long as we are able.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support, your prayers, your notes and your love. Our staff at Christ Church are uplifted by your support as we continue to serve God. I want to thank parishioners who have contacted the parish office to adjust to PAR (Preauthorized Remittance) giving and to those whose circumstances allowed them to make changes to their offering. Please know that we recognize your support, and that we recognize we are in uncertain times, and that any additional support one gives is very much a gift from God.

At this time, I encourage us to pray for another and pray for the world indeed. I also ask parishioners that have Prayer Books at home (Book of Common Prayer or Book of Alternative Services) to make use of this great resource. As we are isolated physically, we can join together through our faith in offering morning, midday and evening prayers. If you do not have a prayer book at home, you can access them online at

<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>

Let us be of Good Courage!

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyle +".

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