



## CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

May 22, 2020

*A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field." -Isaiah 40:6*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lord has Risen! Alleluia!

### The Magnolia Tree

One of the joys I have at Christ Church is experiencing the beauty of our campus property. On early spring mornings when I arrive at church, I love rounding the corner and seeing our beautiful magnolia tree in bloom!

Magnolias are believed to be the earliest known flowering plants, with fossils dating back to over 100 million years, even existing before bees! Beautiful blooms and delicate fragrances are what I love about these trees. Also, magnolias only blossom for a few weeks in the spring, so their beauty can only be observed for a short time.

I'm not sure about you, but lately, I have been trying to get outside to do some yard work and planting. Or perhaps I should admit, I am taking direction from Julie! That being said, between zoom meetings, phone calls, letter writing, etc. it is nice to experience the growth of this new spring.



*Our magnolia tree in bloom on May 22<sup>nd</sup>*

Lately, I have been reflecting on the nature of the broader church and what our community, will look like post COVID-19? How will the period of separation affect our growth? Will we flower in the same way, or will we branch out into new types of service? Perhaps we may need to modify some of what we currently do? Such a time for self-reflection is important, and that is why the parish council has established two sub-groups of council to explore God's mission, our vision, and how we might accomplish such service with the resources we have. Even though we are not able to meet in person, these groups, along with parish council, continue this essential work online. So please stay tuned for updates from the council as this process involves all everyone, and we look forward when we can come together as a community to discern God's call.

## Community Gatherings

As the days continue without corporate worship in our beloved church, our hearts yearn for personal connection. It is tough not to be able to celebrate Holy Eucharist and come to the table to break bread as a community. Yet, we have been able to establish a community on Sunday mornings with 50-60 people gathering for Morning Prayer. Along with our weekly online messages, Morning and Evening prayer, and the many groups we have which are continuing their gatherings (Alpha, Theology on Tap, Coffee and Conversation, Sunday School Zoom, Book Club, etc.) we are making every effort to stay connected (including letters, and phone calls as well).

As some restrictions in our province are being lifted, some of you may have been wondering if there is a plan in place for our return. At this point, I can only say, *not yet*. The Archbishop and the diocese are in consultation with government officials, and as soon as plans are established, we will be notified immediately. Some churches are doing drive-thru services, with tight restrictions. This has been discussed for us at Christ Church, but there is a consensus that our property is not conducive to this type of gathering, and we also want to take into account our environment, and the idling of automobiles. Therefore, as soon as we are able to gather, be it outside, or in, we will do so, keeping in mind everyone's safety.

With every good wish, let us be of good courage.

In Christ,



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

### A Prayer for Rogation

Creator of the fruitful earth,  
you made us stewards of all things.  
Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness,  
and steadfast wills to use your bounty well,  
that the whole human family,  
today and in generations to come,  
may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord

(BAS, 396.)