



## CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Diocese of Niagara

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*“Miren qué bueno, qué bueno es! Miren qué bueno, qué bueno es!*

*Miren qué bueno es cuando los hermanos están juntos.*

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is! Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

**How pleasant and harmonious when God's people are together...” Pablo Sosa**

September 25, 2020

Dear friends,

You are welcome! Whether to our ongoing digital worship services or the soon to be resumed, in-person Sunday worship services, you are welcome!

I am writing on behalf of our Reopening Working Group to share with you the good news that our plan for resuming in-person worship services has been approved. With this permission, we are able to add on-site in-person worship to our ongoing digital worship “gatherings.” Starting on Sunday, October 11 – Harvest (and national) Thanksgiving, barring any significant change in public health restrictions, we will be able to gather with up to 50 persons at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in-person worship services.

Thanks to the strong number of responses from the August survey of our intentions, we learned that:

- Two-thirds of the 104 people who responded are looking forward to being present shortly for in-person worship somewhere between weekly and a bit more than monthly; and,
- One-third of those who responded are not feeling ready to return yet.

With these results, our desire to continue to offer digitally accessible worship (where God's people are together virtually) was strongly reinforced. And, in light of the limit of 50 worshippers (including all worship leaders), we are planning to offer two Sunday morning services.

Our digital presence continues through:

- audio-visual recordings of readings, sermon, prayers, instrumental music in our Eucharist with spiritual communion services (premiering on Sunday mornings and accessible via the Cathedral's YouTube channel, Facebook and the Cathedral website [www.cathedralhamilton.ca](http://www.cathedralhamilton.ca)); and,
- the audio podcast of Evening Prayer (being released for listening on Wednesdays and accessible via our website [www.cathedralhamilton.ca](http://www.cathedralhamilton.ca), Facebook, Spotify and Apple podcasts); and
- the Thursday morning Centering Prayer group (email [dguenter@gmail.com](mailto:dguenter@gmail.com) for more information).

However, we need to be careful when using the language of “returning” for in-person Sunday morning worship. There will be many ways in which our experience of Cathedral worship will be the same as it was prior to the pandemic lockdown. But, there will also be many ways in which things will be different. The differences will be much as we expected in August and the reason for them will be the same as we stated then – because this is one way in which we can love our neighbours as ourselves. Our goal is to protect the safety, health and well-being of all participants.

Many thanks to Reopening Working Group members: Michael Bloss, Dale Guenter, Kerry Lubrick, Alison Meredith, Derek Smith, Dan Tatarnic, and John Watts who have worked so diligently to shape our reopening plan. There are 613 commandments in the Bible. There are fewer rules for safe reopening:

**Thou shalt...**

- ❖ view the orientation video which will be available for home use prior to October 11;
- ❖ pre-register Sunday through Thursday for the upcoming Sunday's services (by Eventbrite or phone) and self-screen prior to coming for in-person worship;
- ❖ be willing to come to a service held at a different time if the other Sunday service is fully booked;
- ❖ come together as a family, providing for children and youth in your family (perhaps using resources from Anglican Family Hub [www.facebook.com/Anglicanfamilyhub](http://www.facebook.com/Anglicanfamilyhub)) some quiet activities for use at your family clustered seating in the Cathedral;
- ❖ arrive and line up during the half-hour just prior to the scheduled service time;
- ❖ stay at home if you are sick;
- ❖ wash your hands frequently;
- ❖ stay constantly distanced at 2 meters from others who are not in your "bubble" while entering, proceeding to and being seated at distanced nave chairs, and leaving;
- ❖ wear masks as designed and scrupulously;
- ❖ sanitize upon arrival, at the time of receiving communion bread, and when leaving the Cathedral;
- ❖ stay at your seat and stand, as you are able, to show that you want communion bread brought to you;
- ❖ leave directly after the service;
- ❖ make an appointment to visit the columbarium if you wish to do so; and,
- ❖ take part in our virtual worship community when you are unable to attend in person.

**Thou shalt not...**

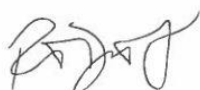
- ❖ engage in congregational singing;
- ❖ cluster in the nave, narthex, link or parking lot;
- ❖ bring food or drink (except water) into the Cathedral;
- ❖ attempt to go to areas of Cathedral Place which are closed off at this time; and,
- ❖ grumble that it was better in the slave pens of Egypt when you realize that there is no coffee hour.

**As is fitting for disciples of Jesus, please;**

- ❖ be hospitable to strangers or visitors from the street community;
- ❖ be patiently accepting of the changes to how liturgy needs to be led and shaped differently;
- ❖ pray for our whole Cathedral (in-person and virtual) community and the wider global community daily;
- ❖ let the clergy know of your and others' pastoral needs; and,
- ❖ continue generously sharing your and the gifts of others given for the common good.

With thanks for your patience and looking forward to God's people being together in both virtual and in-person ways soon,

Yours in Christ,



The Rev'd Canon Terry DeForest  
Rector in the Interim