

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Autumn 2020

These past seven months have been challenging, to say the least. We were thrust into a global pandemic and found ourselves hurriedly reacting to news; to shutter the buildings, to find new ways in which to worship and to support one another without being able to touch each other.

I would like to think we reacted swiftly and appropriately and now, as we are coming through the first wave and bracing ourselves for the inevitable second wave, we are being both pro-active and reactive to the COVID-19 policies as they are being developed and followed.

Both Worship Spaces have been sanitized, measured and adapted to meet the protocols. The seating capacity for both buildings is 27. There are laminated signs up as well as adhesive floor stickers indicating which direction to go. Everyone who attends the Church buildings, either for a meeting or Worship must undergo the same steps...

1. Sanitize your hands.
2. Wear a mask.
3. Sign in, indicating good general health and no COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Sit where assigned and remain seated until Worship is concluded.
5. When departing the building ensure your mask is on.
6. Sanitize your hands.

And after each meeting and Worship the pews and all commonly touched surfaces, door handles, light switches and banisters are sanitised.

For the majority of you, joining us from home by Zoom is the preferred way to worship and that makes absolute sense, especially with the change in the weather. For some of you, without technology, or simply wishing to be back in the Church building, you are joining me in person, which is awesome. As long as British Columbia continues to hold steady as we have been doing, we will continue to offer Worship options in person. However, if we are pushed back into Phase 1 we will rescind in-person worship and will go back to Online worship only.

Christ Church is in the process of acquiring internet so I will be able to offer blended Worship, as we have been doing for a couple of months now, from Christ Church, as well as from Knox United. I'm anticipating this will become a reality in time for Advent.

In the meantime worship will look like this:

Sunday at 10:00 am, we will broadcast Worship from Knox United, where folks are welcome to attend in person, following COVID-19 protocols.

Wednesday at 10:00 am we will meet in-person at Christ Church Anglican, where we will worship together without technology. Effective immediately, Anglican Eucharist has been reinstated for in-person Worship. What that means is we will be able to share the Lord's Supper, in bread only, on Wednesday's at Christ Church. Now, I know it's not the same as it was in March, but it's the best we can do right now. Currently, the Diocese of Kootenay does not permit Virtual Communion.

This is a matter of discussion with both the provincial and national House of Bishops and as this matter is worked through, I will keep you posted.

Having said that, we are in Shared Ministry. Since the Anniversary Service, we have been able to participate in Virtual Communion with the United Church, Pacific Mountain Region. I have been given permission to celebrate Virtual Communion. It is the practice of Knox United, to have Communion on the first Sunday of the month, which we will continue, going forward.

Communion, or Eucharist is an intensely private belief. For some of us, being able to receive it online is almost as good as receiving it in person. For others of us, it's a step too far. Wherever it is you stand on this, that is absolutely valid and absolutely up to you. I am planning to have further conversation with the Bishop about offering drive-up Eucharist. As this unfolds, I will keep you posted.

Some exciting things happening over the next while...

Saturday 7 November, Emma Marie McKinnon (grand-daughter of Gus and Evelyn McKinnon and daughter of Colin McKinnon and Jill Henderson) will be baptised at Christ Church Anglican. This will be a private baptism in order to keep the numbers within our seating capacity within COVID-19 guidelines, but I am hoping to have a photo to share for our Facebook page and website. As Jill's family is Roman Catholic, Father David from Holy Family will be assisting in Emma's baptism. I am very much looking forward to working with him.

Saturday 14 November, Brianna Willett and Curtis Penson (grand-daughter of Tillie Menzul) are getting married at Knox United Church. Originally they were planning to be married in the summer, then moved the date to Autumn 2021, then decided they really wanted to celebrate this year. Their wedding will be a small, private, family affair. I am hoping the photographer will share a picture or two with me that we can share on our Facebook page and website.

Sunday 29 November, we will celebrate a Joint Fifth Sunday service with Advent Lessons and Carols. We will need nine (9) readers, so if you are interested, please let Reverend Andrea know, and she will send you a reading.

As Jesus and his cousin John wandered in the wilderness, it can feel that way for many of us right now.

Rest assured you are in my prayers and I thank you for your prayers.

Together we will continue to celebrate God, worship Christ and be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions regarding any of the aforementioned, please give me a call or send me an email.

Your servant,

Andrea+

