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My sisters and brothers in faith;

It has been a time of tumult, to be sure. This past 17 months has been challenging, uplifting, frustrating, amazing and confusing...sometimes all at once. And yet, we continue to gather, as we are able, as Church.

We have had services in the shadow of the Church, in the blazing heat of the sun, in our homes and sometimes, while wearing our pajamas. We have longed for a return to how things once were...to "go back to normal" or "pre-pandemic" ways of doing things.

As you are aware we are reopening our beloved buildings as of **Sunday the 12th of September**. This also coincides with the beginning of the Season of Creation! We will walk together, as a Parish through the four weeks of Creation, World Communion Sunday and Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis of Assisi. For our first in-person Sunday, as it is the second Sunday of the month, we will gather in person at Christ Church Anglican as well as online by Zoom.

This is exciting and delightful news! However, there will still be some restrictions on what we are and are now allowed to do in the Worship Space. **Masks** will be recommended but not required. **Hand sanitizing** will be mandatory, as will **Contact Tracing** (signing in). There will be **no passing of the plate** for collection. There will be **no common cup**.

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As of the writing of this letter (10 August) I do not know if we will be permitted congregational singing or Fellowship time after Worship. We will explore these possibilities as we go.

As I have been doing for the past 17 months, I applaud you for your patience and persistence as we navigate this often difficult waters. I ask for your continued support as we learn to live into what life with COVID will be like. Please know that there will be times when we need to re-adjust how and where we do Worship. **It is imperative that if you are not feeling well, you please stay home.**

We will continue with Zoom Worship as well as in-person Worship, which means we will be utilising technology. Again, the services will continue to evolve as we discover better ways of doing things. Please be patient as we navigate what all this will mean.

Please Note: I will be on vacation from Sunday afternoon (the 15th of August) until the 6th of September. Worship for the next few weeks will look like this:

Sunday 15 August - Worship online, by Zoom, from Knox United Church @10

Sunday 22 August - Worship online, by Zoom, with St. Saviour's @ 11:30

Sunday 29 August - Worship online, by Zoom, for Top Ten 2.0 @ 10:00

Sunday 5 September - Worship online, by Zoom, with Brechin United @ 11:30

Sunday 12 September - Worship IN PERSON AND ONLINE

by Zoom from Christ Church Anglican

As we walk through these new and exciting times together, let us remember that we are bigger than our buildings. We, each of us, in person or online ARE the Church. And together, we give thanks and praise to the one who Created us, Sustains us and Comforts us.

Please find the attached Readings and Services list. Please give it a look and see some of the exciting stuff we are walking into, come September.

In the words of Jesus "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13.34-35, NRSV).

Your servant,