



**THE BUILDING IS CLOSED  
BUT  
CHURCH IS STILL HAPPENING!**

**Sunday March 22, 2020**

Dear Friends,

I hope and pray that you and your families are managing well during the current coronavirus outbreak. I am writing to follow up on measures that we are taking at St. Paul's to continue our ministries during this time when we are unable to gather in person.

**Moving Our Services On-line**

I've been trying hard to move services online to provide you all with a semblance of normalcy in a difficult time. And it's been a storm of ridiculous unforeseen technical challenges, requiring me to re-record the entire services multiple times due to: moving and knocking over the music stand; holding the phone and sending it flying (now I know not to make any sudden movements when shifting positions); people phoning and texting me while I was recording (forgot to turn the phone to do not disturb); having a coughing fit half way through the video (now I have a glass of water beside me); realizing that my phone doesn't record past thirty minutes and getting cut off mid-sentence; my phone dying even though I arrived with a fully charged battery (had to go home and get an extension cord and then find an outlet that actually works and accepts a three- pronged plug); and, to top it all off, a dying fly landing and then falling into the chalice right before I was about to drink from it! Thankfully, these are lessons learned for next time. After all this, I saw an email from our bishop. It contained new guidelines for online services which stated that Eucharistic services must be held with at least one or two other people present. So I am not able to use the videos I had recorded - but at least I am ready for next week.

Given all these challenges, I have decided to begin with a simple prayer service and work up to a full Eucharistic service if the technology works well. *Links to online services will be available on our web site soon.*

**Worship Resources**

In order to help you to continue worshipping during this time when we are not meeting in person, there is a new section on our website with links to resources for worship. You will be able to download electronic copies of our prayer books, see the weekly readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, and look up various Bible readings.

You can follow along watching the video or by following along with a prayer book. If you have a prayer book at home, the service of Holy Communion is found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) beginning on page 67, and the service of Holy Eucharist is found in the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) beginning on page 185. You can find links to digital versions of our Anglican liturgical resources on our website at: <https://www.stpaulsalmonte.ca/sunday-services/>

### **Staying In Touch, Staying Connected**

During this time when we are not going to be able to meet in person, it is more important than ever to stay in touch with each other. We will be phoning most people on our parish list, starting with our regular members.

I am also asking all our members to reach out to their family, friends, neighbours, and fellow church members during this time. It is important to pay particular attention to our members who may already have been somewhat isolated and lonely before the outbreak. The current mandate to practice social distancing and self-isolation, while necessary in the fight against this virus, can pose particular hardships for those who are living alone, those who are sick or who are caring for a sick loved one, those without transportation, those struggling financially, and those with mental health challenges. Please do whatever you can to help out during this time. And please don't be afraid to ask us for help if you need it.

The key message that we want to stress is that church is definitely not closed! We are continuing our ministries in different ways, but we are still very much here and still very much able and willing to serve you and our community.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and do not be afraid.

Blessings to you and your families,

Rev. Jonathon +