



St. Paul's Almonte
September 8, 2021

Dear Friends, here is an update on our plans for the fall.

We started in-person worship on July 11 but now as fall approaches, there are legitimate concerns about what will happen this fall as the Delta variant spreads and the number of new cases continues to rise. And there are also concerns about "pandemic fatigue" setting in.

Be assured that our top priority is the health and safety of everyone who attends in-person worship or other activities at St. Paul's. If you don't feel comfortable attending in-person worship, it is perfectly acceptable to continue worshipping virtually from home. We miss seeing you in person, but we also understand and respect your decision.

For those of you who do decide to attend in-person worship, in consultation with our Service Planning Group, I have decided to implement the following measures to ensure everyone's safety.

For the present, we will continue to:

- **hold outdoor services until the end of September.** This will ensure better ventilation and reduce the risk of transmission. In the event of rain or cold weather, we will worship indoors.
- **hold one service per week.** The service will continue to be a combination of the more traditional *Book of Common Prayer* and the more contemporary *Book of Alternative Services*. This will ensure that we are minimizing the amount of time spent together and therefore reduce the risk of transmission.
- **offer bread only during communion.** This will minimize the risk of transmission from using a common cup.

We have introduced unaccompanied singing (led by members of our Music Team only) while communion is being distributed. Music Team members must be double-vaccinated and wear masks while singing.

In addition to the above measures, which are specific to St. Paul's, we are still required to follow all provincial and diocesan public safety measures.

This means that we will all have to continue to:

- **wear a mask (including when doing a reading and leading prayers),**
- **practice physical distancing from those not in our household, and**
- **sign in with the Greeters for contact-tracing purposes.**

These safety measures apply whether we are indoors or outdoors. We also have a provincially-set limit on our indoor seating capacity.

And please continue to be safe, but do not be afraid. We know and believe that God is with us and will get us through this difficult time.

Blessings to you and your families,

Jonathon +