



## St. Paul's Anglican Church

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Rector: The Venerable Clara Plamondon

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Mr. Don Gillett  
*Rector's Warden*

Mr. Tony Browning  
*People's Warden*

Mrs. Alicia Vanin  
*Facility Coordinator*

For Immediate Release – A Pastoral Response to the CO-VID 19 Situation

March 13, 2020

Dear Members of St. Paul Anglican Church,

As you are aware of the recent change of status of Coronavirus to pandemic status, we as a parish and as a diocese continue to seek the advise of Public Health authorities and are making every effort to fully cooperate and do our part to reduce the risk to everyone who comes through the doors of our churches.

This is certainly not a time to panic. Rather our goal is to be proactive and intentional in some of our practices over the next while. I want to reassure you that these are TEMPORARY measures and we will be able to resume our normal practices as soon as this situation is resolved.

In addition to the directives below, what is most important is to protect each other and to stay healthy. If you fall into the category of someone who is vulnerable (over 60 and/or with health issues) you are encouraged to take extra precautions as needed. Choosing to stay away from public gatherings including church services may be the best option for some of us. Let's work hard to support those who may need to remain at home by staying in touch and praying for them.

Under the direction of the Public Health authority and our diocese we are implementing the following practices effective immediately:

1. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home. We will miss you, but we must all do our part to reduce the risk of passing on potential illness to others who may be particularly vulnerable.
2. Please wash your hands with soap and water when you come into the building and when you leave. We are told that although hand sanitizers are helpful, washing of hands with soap and water is far more effective.
3. We have suspended handshaking at the door and during the peace. A friendly smile, nod or brief bow are all good alternatives.

4. We will not be distributing wine with the common chalice during communion. The benefits of the sacrament are fully realized in either of the elements of bread or wine. We will be distributing bread only at this time. Again, I reiterate – this is a temporary measure.
5. We ask that the offering plate not be touched by those in the pews. The Greeters have been instructed to be the only ones to hold the plate and will be washing their hands before and after they handle the plate/money and bulletins after the service.
6. We are asked to temporarily suspend coffee hour after services and will not be able to offer social events such as potluck meals. The issue is needing to reduce the amount of physical contact and to maintain social distancing. It is difficult to do that when we are gathered around tables and sharing a meal/snacks/coffee.
7. The pastoral care team and communion visitors have been instructed to suspend all care facility visits/communion/hymn services. It is important that we reduce the possibility of passing on a bug to others who are vulnerable or for visitors to be exposed to an illness and then become the carrier back to their homes and parish. It means that we will need to work hard to stay connected with folks by phone/email or by written notes in the mail.
8. We are already regularly wiping down and disinfecting public areas such as handrails, doorknobs, light switches, tables and counters on a regular basis and will continue to do so.

As new information is made available, we will provide you with an update as soon as possible. I also want to say that we need to be prepared for the possibility of further restrictions. Parish leadership is actively monitoring the situation and are looking at possible alternative ways in which we can ensure as little disruption as possible and to maintain contact with parishioners during this temporary situation.

The most important message I offer is to encourage all of us to pray for each other, our community and our world. Let's make an extra effort to stay in touch with folks around you – not just fellow parishioners, but also your neighbours and friends. A phone call/email or note will go a long way. Together, we are doing our best to minimize the spread of this virus. I am grateful for your willingness to make that happen.

If you have any questions, please call or email the office and someone will respond to you as soon as we are able.

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clara Plamondon' with a large cross at the end.

The Ven. Clara Plamondon  
Incumbent, St. Paul Anglican Church