



June 2020

Dear St Clement's Parishioners,

It is with great joy that we are able to tell you that St Clement's will once again be able to offer in-person worship beginning **21st June 2020**. We look forward to welcoming you to our services.

Although there are still concerns regarding Covid-19, following the advice of the Provincial Health Officer, Archbishop Skelton specified the conditions under which parishes may once again offer in-person worship. Full details of those guidelines are available [here](#).

St Clement's has submitted its application to reopen and permission has been granted by the Archbishop. In order to follow the Diocesan Guidelines, we will need your assistance.

We require volunteers to help oversee our services, and we require churchgoers to familiarize themselves with the necessary protocols.

This letter will cover some important areas:

- Guidelines that we must follow
- Volunteers
- Registration process for the Attendance of Services
- Church facilities and amenities

GUIDELINES

Attending in-person worship is very much a personal choice. As much as we would love to see everyone return, it is important that everyone makes an informed decision regarding their health and vulnerability.

The following **must** stay home for the sake of the wider community:

- People with Covid-19 or who live with someone who has Covid-19
- People who have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 in the past 14 days.
- The sick, including those with the slightest symptoms of sickness, including upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
- Those who have recently travelled outside of Canada or to high-risk provinces.

The following are encouraged to stay home for the sake of the wider community:

- People who live with someone with upper respiratory or flu-like symptoms.
- People, especially the elderly, who have underlying or compromised medical conditions.
- Family members who live with elderly people who are at risk.

In compliance with the Provincial Health Officer's guidelines, the maximum number of people we can safely seat in the church is **35**. This allows for physical distancing. If we feel we need to provide further seating in an overflow capacity, we can use the upper room. However, for the time being we will restrict our numbers to **35** to help manage our protocols. Our seating has been arranged to allow for physical distancing and we ask that you let an usher direct you to your seat.

- **Attendance at the service will require registration.** This is in part to help manage attendance but also to facilitate contact tracing if necessary. We are required to keep a record of everyone who attends worship for 30 days after the service.
If someone arrives without having preregistered we may have to ask them to wait outside until all those who have registered are seated before allowing entry. Please follow [the link](#) in the weekly Good News Gazette. It would be helpful if you could **register by the Friday** before the service.
- **Doors will open at 9:30 a.m.** We ask that you use the main entrance doors (those at the bottom of the ramp and atop the main stairs); do not use any of the other side or office doors. Please do not congregate at the entrance so we can ensure space for others who are arriving, and please aim to be seated by 9:40, when we start the livestream.
- All persons attending will be required to use **hand sanitizer** (which will be provided) upon **entering** and **leaving** the church.
- **Everyone is encouraged to wear a mask.** We will have some available if needed. This is not something we can mandate, but it is strongly encouraged.
- You will be taken to your seat by one of the greeting team.
- Following the service, the fire exit door leading down the ramp will be opened by one of the greeting team. Please stay seated until invited to leave, to ensure we can maintain physical distancing as people vacate the building.
- **Physical distancing** must be maintained at all times within the church and in the parking lot before and after the service.
- In these early days of return, we will not be offering in-person coffee hour or children's church. We hope that these activities will be able to recommence soon.

VOLUNTEERS

We need your help! To ensure our services run smoothly and safely we will need your assistance. Volunteers should not be anyone who would be classified in the high risk-risk group because of age, an existing health concern or any other reason.

Volunteers will:

- Dispense hand sanitizer to all those in attendance, both prior to entering the church and on exit.
- Confirm the contact details of those attending
- Remind those attending of physical distancing requirements as necessary
- Guide/direct parishioners to available pews if necessary
- Oversee the offertory plate
- Distribute the bulletins as necessary
- Assist with the sanitization of the worship space.

If you are able and willing to assist on a regular basis with any of the above tasks, please contact Philippa at Philippa@stclementschurch.ca or 778-838-3132.

CHURCH FACILITIES

Not all our parishioners will be in a position to return to in-person worship just yet, so we will continue to share our service online. We will live-stream the service from our [St. Clement's Church website](#) and Facebook page.

Not all the church facilities will be open to the public.

- The only washroom available for emergency use will be the disabled access washroom near the church office. This minimises the amount of cleaning needed. Please access the washroom through the vestry and upper room. If someone with compromised mobility needs access, they will be accompanied outside by a greeter to the back entrance of the hall. Every person who uses the washroom will be required to sanitize the facilities themselves after use. There will be cleaning products available to wipe down the surfaces.
- The 'crying room'/nursery at the back of church will be available, but the books and toys will be removed for the foreseeable future. Only one family at a time will be able to use it; if you plan to bring your young children to church and would like to reserve this room, please let us know by emailing office@stclementschurch.ca by Friday at noon.
- We strongly encourage the use of masks throughout the church building.

We appreciate that some of these details may appear cumbersome, but we hope these new arrangements will soon become second nature. Together we will work our way through these times and, where necessary, we will learn new ways of coming together to celebrate our faith.

Best Wishes,

Philippa, Phoebe and Philip