



# Anglican Parish of St. John The Evangelist

*Conception Bay South*

July 7, 2020

Dear Parishioner:

I write at this time to inform you of the re-opening plan for our churches within the Anglican Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. In late June we received a document from the diocese entitled Many members, One Body which gives great detail to the new regulations and rules in place in order for us to return to public worship. You can read the full document here <https://anglicanenl.net/home/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Many-Members-One-Body.pdf>

Our church buildings can re-open for worship on Sunday September 13th. However, we want to ensure that you are aware of the regulations in place and how worship will look a little different for the unforeseeable future. We welcome your feedback and would like to know, given the regulations in place if you would like for the church to open and you plan to return to public Sunday worship or if you would like to see our Sunday services remain online for the foreseeable future until we reach the next level with less regulations in place.

The following outlines how our worship services and worship experience will look as of September 13th. Our maximum number of people we can have in the church will be 50 people. You will need to register for the Sunday you wish to attend prior to the date by calling or emailing the parish office:

- When you register you will need to provide your name, phone number, and the date you wish to attend, along with who from your household or bubble will be attending with you.
- Upon arrival you will be checked in with the Greeter and asked to sanitize your hands. It is recommended you bring your own mask but we will have non-medical masks available.
- The facilitator will then seat you with the members of your household. Seating will begin in the pew furthest away from the point of entry and continue to the point of entry. You will remain in your pew throughout the service.
- Singing is not permitted due to the increased risk of spread of the virus.
- The bathrooms are available for use if necessary and hand washing is required following the use of the bathroom.
- Following the service, you must remain seated, the facilitator will inform you when it is time for your household to leave.
- Our worship books have been removed from the church and a copy of our liturgy and bulletin will be placed in the pew for your use. We will ask that you take that with you when you leave to dispose at home.
- No physical touching outside of your household is advised, so we will ask that you greet one another with a wave or a nod.

- The offering plate will be provided at the entry/exit if you wish to make an offering, the plate will not be passed around as is custom.
- There will be no nursery, Sunday school or coffee hour following the services, Children are asked to remain in their pew with their caregiver throughout the service.
- Because our building has to be thoroughly cleaned between each service, we will only be able to offer one service per Sunday, which will take place at 10:30am rotating between the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services.
- Communion will take place but in one form only (the bread) you will not be able to come to the altar rail but Reverend Jolene and Deacon Lisa will administer the bread to you in your pew. We will disinfect our hand and don a mask before proceeding to the nearest designated pew. Those wishing to receive should hold out their hands and the host will be placed upon the hand without making contact between the presider's hand and the communicant's hand. If contact should occur the presider will need to disinfect their hands once more before proceeding any further. For those who wish not to receive, they should fold their arms across their chest at which the presider may bless them by either holding their hand over the head (without touching) or making the sign of the cross over them (without touching) Placing the host within the communicants mouth is NOT permitted.
- there are many regulations around Baptism and if you are considering having your child Baptized it is best to contact the parish office and speak with Reverend Jolene to go over the guidelines that are in place.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada defines a vulnerable individual as anyone who is an older adult (over the age of 60); at risk due to underlying medical conditions or; at risk due to a compromised immune system from a medical condition or treatment. People within the vulnerable population are not prevented from participating in public gatherings, yet they should understand the increased risk they assume in doing so.
- Please note that we can and will perform funeral liturgies in our church building with a maximum of 50 people. We understand that these regulations may be difficult to comprehend at is a lot to take in right now. We are doing our best to ensure your safety when attending public worship or gatherings and working hard over the summer months to meet the necessary regulations and guidelines.

We would like to know your thoughts and whether you will feel comfortable/safe attending public worship with these measures in place come this September or if you feel continuing with our online worship services until we can relax some of these measures is the best option. Please check the box that best reflects your thoughts/opinions at this time and return to the parish office via email at [sitetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sitetopsail@nfld.net), placing this form in the drop box or through mail. We must receive this form back by Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We thank you for your time and consideration and wish you every blessing over the summer months.

I feel comfortable returning to public worship with these guidelines in place come September.

I do not feel comfortable and would prefer continuing with online worship for the foreseeable future

Every Blessing,

*Reverend Jolene Peters*

Reverend Jolene Peters, BA, MDiv  
Rector