



## Ministry Report September 2020

With the reopening of our church we have now experienced both Eucharistic and Evensong services. which will continue to be our weekly pattern with 10am and 5.30pm services continuing for the foreseeable future as both in-person and broadcast services combined. I must express my sincere thanks for all the hard work and care that have gone into making it possible for us to gather again for worship. Thank you also to those who have attended our services so far in person and online – and for advice and reflections with regards to how we might do these things better or more efficiently. Please bear with us as we iron out any technical glitches and as we get used to this new way of being and doing.

For the time being we will not be using Zoom for the worship gatherings, for the sake of simplicity and because of the limited resources we have the livestream broadcasts will be our current mode of offering the chance to share in our worship. This decision may change, but for the time being, and for the sake of our technical team (ie Karen Coverett!) we will focus on making the current experience the best it can be.

The zoom coffee hour/Sunday reflections gathering will continue following our livestreamed service. Likewise we will continue to pray daily with our noon prayers, in a mix of live and recorded formats.

All of our worship is available on the Website, and any recordings are also usually saved to our YouTube channel.

### **Volunteers, please!**

If we are to sustain our weekly worship schedule then we really do need a number of volunteers to take some of the strain from the current pool. Readers, interceders, greeters, safety officers, Sacristans, and Vergers are all needed – training for all of these roles will be given. Email [admin@StJohnTheDivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@StJohnTheDivine.bc.ca) to volunteer! Likewise each service will need volunteers willing to spray and offer a clean up to follow, if you are coming to in-person worship please be prepared to lend a hand if asked. Thank you.

### **Pastoral care**

I am very grateful to Stephanie for the work she has done and continues to do in pastoral connection by telephone. Likewise for the team of volunteers that continues to reach out to our community to check in and offer encouragement and support in these times. It is a struggle for clergy not to be allowed to visit care facilities or hospitals unless by direct invitation and then only in very exceptional circumstances. we continue to pray with people by phone, and many people connect via our Facebook page asking for prayer and support there.

### **Episcopal election**

Thank you for the messages of support and the prayers offered for Kevin and myself with regards to our part in the discernment process our Diocese is undertaking in the search for a new Bishop. We continue to be deeply grateful for all the prayer we know is happening, and pray that with the guidance of God's gracious Spirit our Diocese will find the right leader for this time.

### **Signage**

Bill Williamson and I have begun the process of considering signage for the church grounds and will be working on this when I return from my time of leave after the 20<sup>th</sup> September.

I will be away for our PC meeting, I trust it will be fruitful, gracious, and as compassionate as I know this community to be. With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel,

Alastair