



## ***Worship Guidelines - Parish of St. Mary Magdalene***

Praise be to God! We are preparing to worship together again in our church sanctuary on Sunday mornings. It will be good to be together!

We will be doing things a bit differently, as we strive to keep everyone safe in the current environment. The guidelines below explain new procedures we will be following. It may all seem quite different, but still we know we are welcomed into God's presence, as children of God and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Everyone is welcome, but please consider your own health and potential vulnerability. **Bishop Geoff is urging those who are more vulnerable or over age 65 to stay home.** Online worship with the Zoom app will be continuing indefinitely.

We will be meeting at our normal time of 10:30 am, but ask that you arrive 5-10 minutes early for procedures to go through first (many of you will be familiar with them from other public places you go to).

### ***Preparing for worship***

#### **1. Sign up in advance**

Since we are limited to around 20 worshippers, we are asking parishioners to 'pre-register' as early as possible in the week before each service. Once the spots are full we will start a list for the following Sunday.

To register, email Darryl Melnyk at **wpgfish@mymts.net** or call him at **204-275-2309**. Once you are registered, you will receive an email or phone confirmation with a screening questionnaire.

## 2. Self-screening

To protect other worshippers, it is important that you do not attend worship if any of the following apply to you:

- if you are exhibiting any cold or flu-like symptoms **even if you are confident they are caused by seasonal allergies**
- if you have been in contact with someone who is exhibiting these symptoms **or** has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- if you have been out of the province within 14 days of the Sunday you want to attend **or** if you have been in contact with someone who has been out of the province within the same 14 day period

You will be asked these screening questions when you register and then again when you arrive for worship.

### *Arrival for worship*

A new seating format has been arranged to maintain social distancing throughout the service. Please try to maintain a six-foot distance between you and your fellow worshippers. In addition, **all worshippers will be required to wear a mask while in the church building**. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided for you.

- You will be met by a greeter outside the front entrance who will remind everyone to follow the social distancing guides while they wait to enter. The outside greeter will also ask you the screening questions.
- Once you are invited to enter, please proceed to the greeters stand where another volunteer will check you off the registration sheet. You will be asked to sanitize your hands at the automatic dispenser. Please take your time and thoroughly rub in the sanitizer for at least 20 seconds. There will be several sanitizing stations in the church. You are also free to bring your own sanitizer to use in church but please do not share it with others.
- Once the worshippers ahead of you have been seated, you may enter the main part of the church. There you will be assisted to find a seat by a sidesperson. Please use only the centre aisle.
- Please keep your coat and any other belongings with you at all times.
- Worshippers will sit at alternate ends of pews to ensure social distancing. Seats allowed will have been marked by a piece of masking tape on the back of the pew and a bulletin on the seat. People from the same household may sit together.
- A sidesperson will assist with any uncertainty about social distancing.

## *Worship*

Worship will follow the usual format of the liturgy for the Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternate Services, with occasional substitutions from other approved resources. Worship will be somewhat different though.

There will be no congregational singing during the service. (Singing has been shown to be a very good virus spreader!) The Peace will be exchanged only verbally with no movement between pews. Feel free to use a gesture such as a wave, hand on heart, or a slight bow, but no handshakes or hugs.

You are asked to keep your mask on during the entire service except when you receive communion.

Those leading us in worship will do so without a mask. During the Eucharistic prayer, the plate with the bread will remain covered. Where normally all who wish receive both bread and wine, in these days the congregation will not receive wine.

- When it is time for the community to receive communion, the celebrant will put on their mask.
- A sidesperson will let you know when it is your turn to receive communion; they will come to the end of your pew and invite you (one at a time, or in small household groupings) to approach the altar using the centre aisle. You are asked to remove your mask and sanitize your hands before going to the front.
- The presider will place the consecrated bread (we will use wafers for now) on a paper and place it on a table on floor level in front of the altar. They will step back, say "The Body of Christ;" then you take the paper so that you may receive the bread.
- Please take the paper with you and put it in receptacles which will be at the head of the side aisles; you will pass them on the way back to your seat.
- Return to your seat using the side aisles as is our normal practice. Please put your mask back on and re-sanitize your hands before returning to your seat.

After the Dismissal, worshippers may visit a bit from their places in their pew, or move outside if the weather is nice. **At all times people are asked to continue to observe social distancing.** When you leave, please do so (observing social distancing) starting with congregants at the back of the church. You may choose to remain in the pew to pray if you wish. Upon leaving the nave, we hope that weather will be good enough that we can be outside.

## *Cleaning*

The pews and areas in the church that are touched frequently will be cleaned both before and after the service. The upper level washrooms will also be disinfected between services.

## *Questions or Concerns?*

Here is a list of people you can call if you have any questions or want someone to guide you through these steps.

<b>Val From</b>	<b>204-930-7253</b>	<b>revval.marymag@gmail.com</b>
<b>Carol McPhaden</b>	<b>204-253-6349</b>	<b>mcpiper@mymts.net</b>
<b>Darryl Melnyk</b>	<b>204-275-2308</b>	<b>wpgfish@mymts.net</b>
<b>Caroline Olagbuji</b>	<b>204-599-4966</b>	<b>colagbuji@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Chima Chira</b>	<b>204-294-7671</b>	<b>chimachira@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Carey Isaac/</b>	<b>204-255-6895</b>	<b><a href="mailto:cdisaac@hotmail.ca">cdisaac@hotmail.ca</a> (for Carey)</b>
<b>Debra Arsenault</b>		

We welcome any feedback as we seek to fine-tune our process going forward. If any major changes are made, we will issue a new version of this document and share it with everyone.

God's peace and hope be with you all!