



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

For a *few* of us, this COVID-19 Thanksgiving stirs memories of stories heard from parents or grandparents who weathered the Spanish flu epidemic a century ago. For *most* of us, this is *entirely* new territory.

Adversity, though, is *hardly* new to the people of God. St. Paul, who wrote to Christians in first-century Thessaloniki, *did* so as one who suffered shipwreck, brutal persecution, imprisonment and a relentless thorn in the flesh—*firsthand*. *Only* by focussing on the constant, sustaining presence of God, *rather* than his hardships, was *he* able to do what he called others to do: ‘*rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances.*’ The *same* is true for us now.

God willing and the Province allowing, **Sunday 11th October 2020 at 10:30AM** marks the first opportunity St. Paul’s congregation will have to worship onsite together since early March—*itself*, an excellent reason to rejoice, pray and give thanks!

Many hours and much elbow grease from Cheryl Sandey, Irene Flynn and David Dippel have gone into preparing our church home for *safe* re-entry. A commercial sanitizing company is also doing a final spray-down to ensure we are making *every* effort to protect the health of our parishioners.

All these precautions and planning follow strict guidelines set down by our Ecclesiastical Province and Diocese; if we fail to meet these standards, we simply *won’t* be allowed to meet.

In our current *Amber Stage*, older parishioners, others with compromised immune systems and any who feel unsafe congregating in person at this time are urged to worship online from home.

Starting 11th October 2020, The Reverend John VanStone will be coordinating a brief Sunday Service of Morning Prayer via Zoom at 8:30AM. Login information, a downloadable service sheet and a post-service recording will be available on St. Paul’s website: stpaulskingston.ca

We invite any who *cannot* join us online or in person to pray for these endeavours, as we *continue* to pray for each of you. Any who wish to attend our 10:30 AM Sunday Eucharists in person are urged to read and follow the instructions, printed on the reverse side of this page.

Though our present adversity seems strong, our God is *so* much stronger! Together, let us focus on Him and rejoice, pray and give thanks always!

Together with you in His service,

Kris +

Preparing for Onsite 10:30AM Sunday Eucharist, commencing 11th October 2020

Confirm a spot for 10:30 Sunday worship by phoning in names to the church office no later than 12-noon of the Thursday before: **(613) 542-5870**. We *sincerely* regret that non-registrants may have to be turned away at the door.

If you feel *at all* unwell, and particularly if you have any possible symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how slight, please stay home and worship with us online: stpaulskingston.ca

Lingering conversations on church premises *before* or *after* services, much as we crave them, have been deemed *unsafe* at this stage. Please arrive and depart as *directly* and *orderly* as possible, and chat by phone instead.

Know that washroom-use is to be kept to a minimum (as is practical); so, *do* plan accordingly. Only the washroom in the back corner of the sanctuary is to be used. Please follow *all* the posted instructions for handwashing and disinfection after use.

All attendees *must* wear non-medical masks at *all* times.

Plan to arrive 15-30 minutes early (10:00 – 10:15 AM) on Sunday morning, and enter through the accessible Montreal Street door.

Maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) at *all* times, with *no* physical touch.

Your attendance, including name and contact information, will be recorded and confidentially kept for 30 days (and then destroyed), in case of a request from the local health unit as part of Contact Tracing for anyone *potentially* exposed to COVID-19.

Expect to be shown to a socially-distanced seat in the sanctuary in order of arrival, to keep our proximity to each other at a minimum; please understand that we must *willingly* yield our favourite spots to ensure the safety of all. Tithes/offerings are to be placed in the plate to your left (near the pulpit) as you arrive/enter the sanctuary; they will be blessed during the service.

Single-use service sheets will be used and recycled or taken home after the service. For health safety, there will be *no* congregational singing.

Holy Communion will be distributed in *one* kind (wafer *only*) at floor level in front of the chancel steps; approach by the centre aisle and leave by the side aisles. (1) Sanitize your hands, (2) receive the wafer, (3) step to a consuming station in the front corners to the left and right of the altar, (4) eat the wafer and, as necessary, reattach your mask, (5) return to your seat in silence.

Orderly departure will begin *immediately* after the service, in the same order as arrival.

We *most heartily* thank you in advance for your patience and understanding!