



Saint James' Anglican Church

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Good evening everyone,

Today the Premier issued a lock down starting December 26 at 12:01am for 28 days. Premier Ford said that a province-wide lockdown as soon as possible was important given the public health advice, science, and situation in hospitals.

The Diocese of Ottawa will be returning to Red (the equivalent of Lockdown) on Dec 26 at 12:01 a.m. The Bishop left individual parishes to decide how they wish to proceed between today and December 26th.

As such, I made the difficult decision that St James will enter Red / Lockdown as of today. This means that the in-person Open House, as well as all worship services scheduled for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are cancelled. The church will remain closed until the lockdown is lifted.

The recommendation was that we all remain at home as of today unless it is essential. As much as we love Church, particularly at Christmas, I do not believe we should assume any potential unnecessary health risks under the current circumstances.

I appreciate that closing down again, and especially missing the opportunity to worship at St James together in person this Christmas is heartbreaking for many of you. I hope you will trust the decision was made with heavy reflection, in consultation with Corporation, the liturgy team, and administration, and with the health and wellness—spiritual, physical, and emotional—of all of those within our community.

A Christmas worship service will be broadcast on Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. I can assure you that despite being online, it will be jam-packed with music, candlelight, and a special treat from St James' Choir.

At this very disappointing and difficult time, please know I hold each of you in my prayers: that you will have a safe, healthy, and joyous Christmas as we welcome light into the world that no darkness can ever overtake.

Be well,

The Rev. Kerri Brennan
Incumbent

Please note that the Church Office
will also be **closed** during this lockdown.
(Phone messages & e-mails will be
monitored as Sam works from home.)

If you have a pastoral emergency,
please call me directly at 613-875-4210.

If you have questions or concerns,
I am always available by phone, email or ZOOM.

The Rev. Kerri Brennan

