



# St. James Anglican Church

## Weekly Update - May 27, 2020

### From Rev. Kerri

On the feast of Pentecost, when we celebrate the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, you will hear the biblical event takes place “when they were all together in one place.”

Hmm. Cause for pause....

We continue in our social distancing responsibilities. We continue to worship in ways that for many of us feel less than fulfilling. And we continue to wonder silently and aloud when we'll be able to come together and what that might look like when we do.

I know personally, from speaking with you, and from the media, isolation is starting to wear thin. Our anxieties are shifting from fear of illness to a burning desire to get ‘back to normal.’

I preached on Easter about the very powerful forces that will try to convince us all to get back to normal and how those forces will come at us with everything they've got. That they are preparing now, how they will be ready, and how they will come at us hard. I acknowledged we want the feeling of normalcy, to feel good again, to get back to the routines of life.

We very much are feeling that pressure now. Some of that pressure is even created BY us. And yet, we no longer have the guarantee of “normal” being what we return to.

Here's is what makes God's pouring out of God's “Spirit upon all flesh” at Pentecost so beautiful—that very Spirit will cause God's children to prophesy, to see visions, and to dream dreams! Yes, this is a time of chaos and disorientation, perhaps also a time of loss and grief. But creativity, ingenuity, new life, risk-taking, insight, understanding...that is all rebirthed out of those dreams and visions.

As we celebrate the Holy Spirit in our midst, let us renew our faith in how that Spirit provides us all the gifts, services, and activities we require to step boldly into our new normal. God activates them in us and we can stand ready to dream, vision, and prophesy what and who we are; trusting that wherever the Spirit blows us, we remain God's people.

Rev. Kerri

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### Episcopal Consecration

Bishop-elect Shane Parker is to be consecrated this **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. You can watch the livestream [here](#).

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### Church Closures

I know you are anxious for word on when we can expect the easing of restrictions on public gatherings.

I receive weekly updates from the Bishop's office noting specifically that the Ontario House of Bishops are in continual consultation and keeping provincial and federal regulations in mind as they develop guidelines for moving forward. Further, bishop-elect Shane Parker is also in consultation with an epidemiologist who will help our Diocese prepare new standards around public worship.

As guidelines are developed and shared with the clergy, I will share them with Corporation and with the congregation at large. For the time being, please know that Corporation is having ongoing discussion to plan forward for various phases of restriction-easing. This includes how we can fit people into our worship space safely and responsibly while respecting social distance guidelines that may be given; protocol around the Eucharist; the inclusion or exclusion of singing; and cleaning procedures.

For the moment, the Church building itself remains closed. Clergy have been advised not to celebrate the Eucharist at the moment (i.e. through online worship streamed to you at home).

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### **Sunday Worship**

For the last ten weeks I've led worship live via Facebook and recorded through YouTube. Starting this Sunday, we will pre-record the worship service and it will be made available on Sunday morning by 8:15 a.m. We are attempting this 1) to include additional people in the liturgy (through readings and the prayers, as well as the sermon); and 2) to work out some of our technological kinks.

I am particularly grateful to Stephen Hellard for taking responsibility for filming; to Ellen Badcock for musical accompaniment which I know folks are missing terribly; to Caitlyn Hellard for editing; and to Sam Hills for making our bulletin accessible. Stephen and Ellen are naturally 10:00'ers and they've been showing up every Sunday by 7:30 a.m. to ensure we're set up, rehearsed, and ready to go live on time. I'm sure the ability to take advantage of the Sabbath will be well-received on their end!

Additionally, with Douglas Frost's support, Corporation is exploring ways to stream our worship service with better technology than my iPhone and iMac during and post-Covid isolation. Stay tuned!

8:15 a.m. - Morning Prayer on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).  
See [bulletin](#).

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### **Pastoral Care - Parking lot and laneway pastoral visits**

Not being able to visit and see each other in person is a huge strain on our community (me included!) and especially those in our parish who live alone!

I am now available [by appointment](#), for in-person, outdoor, at-a-responsible-distance visits in one of two ways:

#### **Sunday mornings: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the church parking lot.**

I will book appointments for 20 minute intervals. Parishioners will remain in their cars (with cars parked five spots apart, minimum) and I will come to your window, remaining the required 6-foot distance.

OR

#### **Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in your laneway, weather permitting.**

To ensure everyone's health and safety and to respect and allow time for multiple visits, I ask that you wear a mask and that you [call \(613-875-4210\) or email \(priest@stjames-manotick.ca\) to schedule a visit](#).

Please do not simply show up on Sunday morning in the parking lot, as it will interrupt the flow.

I know it sounds very strict and regimented. But we are indeed living in interesting times. I want to be able to see your faces and hear how you're doing. But my priority is to ensure all of our health and safety as we reach out to connect in new ways.

### Coffee Hour

Join Rev. Kerri and other parishioners [via ZOOM](#) for conversation and catch up time on **Wednesdays at 11:00-12:00.**

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### Book Study

Our next book study is Richard Rohr's *Immortal Diamonds*. We meet to discuss it on **Wednesday, June 10 at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

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### Liturgical Vestment / Robes

I've been asked by a couple people during isolation why I choose not to vest for worship. On a Sunday morning when we gather in the church to celebrate the Eucharist, you generally see me vested in my alb, stole (sign of my priesthood) and chasuble (sign of Eucharistic celebrant). When leading Morning Prayer or liturgy of the word, as I'm doing currently, no vestments are necessary as a sign of my office, but if I were to vest, I would wear a cassock and surplice.

So why do I not vest? Officially, simply because I would not wear an alb, stole and chasuble for Morning Prayer. I do not currently own a cassock that fits me well, nor is it necessary for the service.

Unofficially, on a more personal level, I would say my decision not to vest at all stemmed from trying to match the medium in which I am leading the worship, which is online. Less formal, less pomp or circumstance is what felt appropriate given I am largely in the sanctuary on my own (save Ellen and Stephen). I feel sensitive to not appearing to be "playing church" while everyone else is at home.

On another note, my colleagues and I have also received feedback that the more relaxed worship attire allows parishioners to see us as relatable, and that during this time of crisis and isolation, a toning-down of formality is appropriate.

I do appreciate the feedback and the questions, please keep it coming! I'm aware what is comfortable for some, is simply not for others. We're all walking through this by the seat of our pants!

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