

-Letter to the congregation-

September 25, 2020

Greetings in the Name of the Risen One!

I am writing to let you know that Metropolitan intends to resume in-person worship services beginning on Sunday, November 1st. We will offer our Water's Edge service (with Communion) at 9:00 a.m. and our Traditional service (with variations of our numerous choirs) at 11:00 a.m. Keeping in compliance with COVID-19 protocols, as outlined by our Provincial and Municipal governments along with our United Church of Canada guidelines, we have done our very best to offer a safe, clean environment with clear instructions. I am grateful for the leadership of our Executive Administrator, Cat McIntyre, in guiding this process.

Prior to attending Church, we ask that you do a self-screening to ensure the safety of all. Self screening information can be found at: <https://covid19checkup.ca/>

Attending Worship

Entrances: The Dufferin Street tower doors (both entrances) and the Parking lot door (near the ramp) will be open 30 minutes prior to worship. On your arrival, please maintain social distancing while entering the building. Hand Sanitizer is available at every entrance.

Mask: You will need to wear a mask (unless you're exempt for medical conditions) while inside the building.

Contact Information: An Usher will collect your contact information—Name, Address, Phone Number and Email address. For the Nov 1st services, please bring this information on a piece of paper to Metropolitan. Contact information is only necessary per 'Bubble.' For example, one account per family. It will be kept for 30 days, then destroyed.

Pews: Available seating is clearly marked (not roped off) for you/your group to sit. Yes, I am aware that your favourite pew may not be available; thank you for your understanding. Please leave enough space for others to sit in the pew—while maintaining a 2-metre distance. You must wear your mask while inside the Church building.

Washrooms adjacent to the Great Room are available. One-person usage at a time is appreciated.

Elevator is available. Maximum of two people per usage is appreciated.

Worship: Those leading worship are not required to wear masks in the chancel due to the greater physical distance from others in the Sanctuary and to facilitate better communication. During the service, we will enjoy the tremendous music by listening rather than singing. In accordance with health authorities, congregational singing is not permitted; music will be provided by soloists and instrumentalists.

Children: Students' and teachers' health and safety have always been—and will continue to be—at the forefront of all decisions and practices in Children's Ministry. That thought process is more evident today as we need to make decisions that will have a positive effect on everyone involved. As much as our families and teachers value the spiritual fellowship and education the children in our traditional classroom receive each week, the risks associated with bringing adults and students together in a classroom outweigh anything else. When Church reopens, our usual Sunday School routines will be suspended indefinitely. Children's Ministry parents and children are invited to the 11:00 a.m. service each Sunday. Children will sit with their families in the pews, while respecting social distancing protocols. An activity Ziploc packet will be available for children to pick up in the Great Room (close to the cookie table) each Sunday. It will include a small booklet of age-appropriate activities with crayons and a pencil included. These packets are for the children to take home and not to be returned. This was a difficult decision to make. We have definitely missed the enthusiasm, energy, and smiling faces of the children. We can't wait to see you when you return to Church. *Liam Maharaj, Director of Christian Education*

Offering plates will be available at the entrances, as will our Ushers to offer assistance. PAR is the most reliable and convenient form of making an investment in Metropolitan's ministry. If you are not on PAR, we would ask that you consider this option. If giving an offering by envelope or cash, please place your gift in the offering plate. Finally, we are excited to announce that Metropolitan will soon be accepting e-Transfers! Details to follow.

Following Worship: We ask that you follow the direction of our Ushers and make your way out of the Church building in a safe and timely fashion so that we can clean the area prior to and following the services. There will **not** be a social time with coffee nor cookies at this time.

For those not yet ready to return to the Church, Sunday worship will continue to be broadcast live at 11:00 a.m. on CJBK radio 1290 AM or live via Metropolitan's website <https://metropolitanchurch.com/> We are moving quickly towards being able to livestream!

For up-to-date information, please register for our Congregational weekly email at admin@metropolitanchurch.com

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Church office at: admin@metropolitanchurch.com

Sanctuary Renovation Study Update: Although COVID-19 has slowed their Sanctuary Renovation Study down somewhat, the Steering Committee has continued their research and has agreed upon a schematic design which incorporates both proposed church and concert layouts. Currently, an acoustician's recommendations are being considered by our knowledgeable sound team at Metropolitan. Also, a firm cost estimate of the complete proposed project is being developed. In the very near future, the Committee intends to expose the latest schematic design for our Sanctuary and more broadly consult with the congregation on a fully costed and detailed proposal.

Thank you for your ministry in these difficult times. Your commitment to the Gospel message of hope, compassion, generosity and love is making a tremendous difference. Thank you.
Yours in Christ, Jeff

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