



## HOLY TRINITY

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### Preparing for In-Person Worship

Dear Friends in Christ at Holy Trinity Pembroke,

It is so good to be "back" with you after being on leave these past six weeks. Rev. Gillian and I are grateful to you all for your love and support as we have welcomed Lily into our lives and begun our new journey as a family of three. Your cards, messages, telephone calls and care packages have meant the world to us, particularly given the many challenges created by COVID-19. We feel very blessed as a family to call the Parish of the Valley our home.

In Gillian and my absence, Bishop Michael and Canon Susan, together with our parish's re-opening task force, have completed an enormous amount of work in preparation for the long-awaited re-opening of our worship spaces on Sunday September 6th. Special thanks must be extended to our Rector's Warden, George Hodgkinson, who has worked tirelessly as a member of the task force on behalf of Holy Trinity. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to please read our parish's "**Getting Ready to Open our Doors**" brochure, to learn more about what our worship experience will look like this fall.

As the brochure explains, worship in our parish churches will look very different upon our return in September. The wearing of face coverings and assigned seating to allow for physical distancing between members of different households will be mandatory. Moreover, no singing will take place, and communion (bread only) will be distributed to worshipers at Holy Trinity in the pews instead of at the communion rail. Many regular Sunday morning ministries including altar guild, choir, greeters, servers, readers, intercessors, counters, Sunday School and coffee hour will not be operating. Instead, essential tasks will be completed by the clergy, churchwardens and a small group of trained volunteers. **Beginning September 6th, Holy Trinity will only be offering one worship service each week on Sundays at 10am, with a maximum of 50 people in attendance, including the clergy, staff and essential volunteers.** Regrettably, there is insufficient time to adequately clean our sanctuary in accordance with public health and diocesan protocols between 8am and 10am, hence the decision to only offer one Sunday service. Similarly, our Wednesday morning services, together with all other in-person gatherings at the church, including A.C.W. meetings, choir practice, Christian education and fundraising activities will remain suspended during the Amber stage of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa's "**In This Together**" COVID-19 Plan. Like so many of you, I greatly miss the fellowship and holy connections created by all of these beloved activities, and I am eagerly awaiting the day when we can safely begin to re-institute them at Holy Trinity. May that blessed day come soon!



Parish of the Valley

Diocese of Ottawa  
Anglican Church of Canada

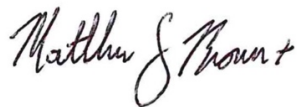
In preparation for our return to in-person worship, each household within our Holy Trinity Church Family will be receiving a telephone survey from a member of the Church Corporation during the week of August 24th. The purpose of this brief survey is to determine how many members of our Church Family intend to return to in-person worship beginning in September, and to assist the clergy team and corporation to plan accordingly.

**Please be assured that no member of our Church Family should feel obligated to return to in-person worship if they do not yet feel ready to do so or are in a high-risk group due to age or underlying health conditions. Weekly online Sunday services will continue to be offered by the Parish of the Valley throughout the fall.** Further instructions for those planning to return to in-person worship will be provided via telephone during the week of August 31st. Should you have any questions about our return to in-person worship please feel free to contact me, the churchwardens, or any member of our Parish of the Valley clergy team.

My friends, our experience of worship this fall at Holy Trinity will most certainly be different, but the infinite grace of our loving God remains unchanged and ever near. Jesus the Good Shepherd assures us, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." ~ *Matthew 18:20*

I look forward to seeing some of you at church on September 6th.

Yours in Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew J. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name below it.

The Reverend Matthew J. Brown  
Associate Incumbent