

December 11, 2020

Dear member of Church of Our Lord:

With in-person worship suspended until January 8th, we're faced with the daunting reality of not being together on Christmas eve and Christmas day. This unprecedented situation is a huge disappointment for our whole church and for me personally. However, our response here at Church of Our Lord is to follow the protocols given by our provincial health officer, and to find other ways to stay connected.

One of these ways is through home communion using "reserved" sacrament. Under normal circumstances we will set aside some of the bread and wine on Sunday morning and send it to the sick and shut-in during the week. Under these pandemic circumstances, we will bless and send communion to every one who wants it, using pre-packaged bread and juice (sorry, but wine isn't available in these packets). I will consecrate these ahead of time and invite you to consume them with the rest of your church family during the online service, December 24th at 7:00pm. This is the best we can do at this time, and it's the best food we could have to encourage us and build our faith as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and watch for his return in glory.

To facilitate this, we need your help in these ways:

- Tell the office how many communion packets you need for your household: 250-383-8915 or office@ourlord.ca
- Arrange to come to the office between 9am - 3pm on December 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23 or 24 to pick up your packets. If there is someone near you who can't get here, please deliver theirs.
- Let us know if you're unable to get to the office and we will arrange to drop your communion to your door.

This could also be an opportunity to extend the invitation to a friend or neighbour who professes faith in Jesus Christ but doesn't attend church.

Why not speak with them and see if they'd be interested in being part of our Christmas eve communion service this year?

In this time of isolation, we are privileged to have the word. It reminds us that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. And, we're privileged to have the sacrament, which is a visible sign of the body and blood of Christ, broken and poured out to save his people from sin and death.

So join your church family as we gather again around the Lord's table this Christmas eve. Come with open ears, a willing mind and a humble heart. Hear the Good News and feed on the bread of life!

In His service,

Rev. Rob Szo
Rector