

April 1, 2021

Dear friends,

Today the Province of Ontario directed another lockdown, beginning at 12:01 am on Saturday 3 April, and continuing for 30 days. The Diocese of Ontario has mandated that all congregations return to the Red phase of the Pandemic, meaning that there will be no in-person worship until the end of April.

Sunday services will be live-streamed (you can make connection through the Cathedral website) at 10:00 am through this period. The parish office will be open, and you can contact staff through the Cathedral.

We will observe Maundy Thursday tonight at 7:00 pm, and Good Friday at 11:00 am tomorrow.

We will get through this! The variants of the COVID 19 are currently straining the health care system, and something needed to be done.

Blessings and peace,

David Selzer

The Ven. David Selzer,
Interim Dean

A message from Bishop Michael Oulton of the Diocese of Ontario

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From the Bishop's office

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO
The Anglican Church of Canada

April 1, 2021

Dear Friends,

Today, we begin the great three days leading to the celebration of Easter. The path before Jesus was one of hardship and suffering but the strength of these three days is not found in the machinations of the Roman and Temple authorities which culminated in the cross. The true glory of these days begins in the hushed tones of the Upper Room where Jesus gathered with his disciples. St. John puts the

entire sweep of this final act of Christ in perfect context with the powerful phrase “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”

Jesus stays true to the mission upon which he embarked following his forty days in the wilderness when he entered the Synagogue at Capernum and read from the scroll of the Prophet Isaiah. He declared that the Spirit of God was upon him to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. His declaration brought him into instant conflict but from that point forward he stayed true to his mission grounded upon the solid rock of God’s love.

The heart of these three great days is found in servanthood motivated by love and undeterred in its focus. Jesus washes the disciple’s feet as a sign of servanthood and gives them a New Commandment to love one another as he has loved them. Sandwiched between both of those powerful moments, Judas leaves in the dark of night to effect his act of betrayal. Jesus remains resolute even in the face of betrayal and predicted denial, moving on to save the fears of his disciples with the words “Do not let your hearts be troubled”.

These continue to be troubling times for us all, from our families through to our communities, the province, the country and the globe. Covid-19 has affected our lives for well over a year and while the end may be in sight as vaccines continue to roll out, the presence of variants of concern along with “Covid fatigue” is creating a dangerous combination of events. The old saying is certainly true: “It is darkest before the dawn.”

Today the Province of Ontario has instituted a province wide “emergency brake” shutdown as we are now clearly in the third wave of the pandemic. The [provincial modelling released earlier today](#) that is driving this decision is of particular concern. I am directing that the Diocese of Ontario will move back to the [Red Stage of the “Loving our Neighbours” guidelines](#) of the Ecclesiastical province as of 12:01am Holy Saturday, April 3rd. Throughout the pandemic I have sought to guide my decisions exercising an abundance of caution which in this case means that while the civil province will permit



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Churches to open at 15% capacity, **I am directing that we remain closed as per our red stage guidelines.**

I know that this will be extremely difficult for many especially as we come to the end of Holy Week. While our Churches will be closed, the worship and praise of Almighty God will continue as the community worships through the various on-line offerings and continues to minister within the wider community we are called to serve. I continue to pray that as our civic leaders continue to address the pandemic through the administration of vaccines we will draw closer to the end of the pandemic.

May peace be with you this day as you prepare to celebrate the heart and soul of our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Yours in the faith of Christ,



Bishop Michael Oulton

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