



DIocese OF CALEDONIA

200 – 4TH AVENUE WEST, PRINCE RUPERT, BC V8J 1P3

Tel: 250-627-1107

E-mail: admin@caledoniaanglican.ca

COVID-19 UPDATE #15

11 March 2022

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

Dear Friends:

Today is the second anniversary of the World Health Organization's declaration of a global pandemic. These past two years have been difficult. The best way I can find to describe this experience is as a world-wide death. This has been a seminal moment of the past century like assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria or 9-11. CoVid hits much closer to home while having global shared experience. The whole world has been mourning losses of family, friends, and the pre-2020 norms. Thanks be to God that we are at a positive transition point in this pandemic.

As of today, **masking is optional** in most public spaces in British Columbia, including in worship. Feel free to continue masking as you feel comfortable and everyone, please respect the decisions and comfort of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Additionally, we are allowed to return to full seating capacity for worship. Summer Camps are permitted, this is exciting as Camp Caledonia has three camps planned for this summer!

In this time of transition, we need to remember to be kind and gracious to one another. Changes are difficult. Not everyone will feel comfortable unmasked. Please be respectful of each other, especially when it comes to personal space. I will continue to mask in public. Recently people have shared with anxiety about being unmasked in public. The fact that I interact with people across the Diocese, I feel that this is one way I can keep others feel and be safe.

We look forward to celebrating Easter in-person for the first time in three years. On April 8th, Vaccine Passport requirements will be lifted and as such we can enjoy fellowship hour and parish meals. We can begin to plan for a grand celebration this year! For Easter, I suggest we gather and enjoy hot cross buns, coffee, and peeps.

For parishes with a Mission Action Plan, this is an excellent time to review them. There will be opportunities for wider community outreach and disciple making. While planning may be tight for Ministerial joint services during Holy Week, post-Easter celebrations may be possible. As we beginning to transition to the next phase of the pandemic, allow yourself to be

excited and dream what might be possible for renewed in-person ministry to advance the Kingdom of God.

Presently, the following protocols remain in place:

- Eucharist in one kind only,
- no physical sharing of the Peace (except with those in your bubble),
- no Fellowship Hours or Parish meals without Vaccine Passport checks,
- all parish rentals must include a Safety Plan and proof of insurance

Please know that you are in my prayers daily. I give thanks for your ministry, witness, and perseverance through these two years. Now as we begin to move into this next phase, my prayers continue as we gather more fully.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David TJ Lehmann". The signature is stylized and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning.

The Right Reverend David TJ Lehmann,
Bishop