



CATHEDRAL  
CHURCH  
*of the*  
REDEEMER

OFFICE OF THE DEAN | The Very Rev'd Leighton Lee

604 First Street SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 5H8

TEL 403-269-1905 EXT. 116

[leighton.lee@anglican Cathedral Calgary.ca](mailto:leighton.lee@anglican Cathedral Calgary.ca)

[www.anglican Cathedral Calgary.ca](http://www.anglican Cathedral Calgary.ca)

Dear Friends –

Once again, it's my task to convey to you the recommendations the COVID-19 Task Force made to the Archbishop – recommendations that he supports and which now we are requiring every parish in the diocese to follow.

The news of the exponential increase in the variants is alarming and is going to get worse. We all know the best way to combat the spread of the virus and its more virulent variants is to stay home as much as possible. So as of Monday, April 19, all in person worship services in the Diocese of Calgary are suspended until further notice.

Doing this in no way impugns the diligence and care with which the clergy and worship leaders in the Diocese have discharged their duties. We know that everyone has been assiduous and careful – and we appreciate that. But the threat the virus poses is real, so we must do the right thing to once again help flatten the curve.

Churches are to be closed except to necessary personnel. Wherever possible, parish staff—including clergy—should work from home. The only exceptions to this are 12-step programs which hold meetings in many of our church properties. We're making this exception because attending these meetings is for many people truly a matter of life and death.

This means that worship should be filmed or live streamed with the bare minimum of participants: one cleric, one reader, one cantor (or vocalist), one non-singing musician (accompanist or director) and a camera operator. Remember that singing is considered a high-risk activity and although the Alberta Government is not very proscriptive about the number of singers permitted in places of worship, their guidelines for the public performance of music are. Currently *no* performances (or rehearsals) of music are permitted. This is why we are mandating TWO musicians in total, only one of whom can be a singer.

We realize that these restrictions are difficult. But they are also necessary. Once again, we have the opportunity to be leaders in the community by demonstrating love of neighbour through acts of sacrifice and denial. And we do these things knowing that they are temporary. Our public health officials are urging everyone not to give up now. Brighter days are ahead and the committee believes that we as a Diocese can help them come sooner by playing our part.

On behalf of the Archbishop and the COVID-19 Task Force, I thank you for your understanding and your willingness to take these stricter restrictions seriously. Even more, I thank you all for your faithfulness over the last 14 months. They have not been easy but, in the power of the Spirit, we have met them with resolve, dignity, and grace. Like many generations of Christians before us, we will come through this crisis and when we do, we will again have the great joy of knowing Christ's resurrection, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we could ask—or imagine.

Faithfully yours,



Calgary, 19 April 2021