

St. John's Port Moody - In-Person Worship Re-opening Plans

(updated September 26, 2021)

Parish Council decided for the parish to begin in person worship of September 19. This document will guide you through the current protocols for in person worship. As we continue to become more comfortable with the experience and are able to identify areas for improvement, this document may change.

Getting Started

The church buildings will be open for both the 8:30 and 10:00am services. Both services will be broadcast via Zoom and/or be livestreamed so anyone not joining in person can attend virtually.

Registration will be required in order for us to limit the number of individuals and/or households in the space to allow for distancing. While the main system for registering is online, there will be a limited number of phone registrations available to accommodate those who are not able to use the online registration system. There will also be a small number of seats reserved for walk-in visitors.

Once you have completed your registration, you will get a confirmation email with a health checklist to review before arrival.

Arriving at Church

Masks are mandatory. Health Canada advises that masks should be 3 layers with an impervious layer to prevent droplet spread. Disposable masks will be available at the door as needed.

At this time parishioners are asked to use only the main entrance facing St. John's Street. This will allow the flow of attendees to be managed, reducing the risk of cross contamination.

Signage with our basic safety protocols and a health-checklist will be displayed at the door, with ushers reminding people as needed.

You will get a paper bulletin from a greeter and be asked to sanitize your hands as you enter the sanctuary. An usher will take you up the middle aisle and show you to your assigned seat. Please do not move around as the seating is arranged to allow 6 feet of distance between parishioners not from the same household.

A collection plate will be placed near the entrance for anyone bringing a donation envelope. Online giving will continue to be encouraged.

The windows in the building will be open, weather permitting, and fans will be on to encourage maximum ventilation so please dress accordingly.

During the Service

At this time, there will not be a choir singing, and congregational singing has been modified to allow for humming along. This may continue to change as we evaluate the process of the pandemic, our protocols and the comfort of the choir. The Music Director will continue to lead music, with distancing protocols.

The readings, psalm, and intercessions will be read from the lectern; the readers will wear their masks at all times. The Gospel will be read from and the sermon will be preached from different locations.

The officiant, leaders, and music director occupying the altar area will maintain an appropriate physical distance from each other where possible.

During the preparation of the Eucharistic elements, the Deacon and Rector will follow the Diocesan guidelines as distancing will not be possible. Only the priest will consume the wine. The bread will be taken directly to parishioners in the pews. For those not attending in-person worship who wish to receive communion, we will arrange ways to do so after the service.

We will share the peace through non-touch methods.

There will be no Sunday School.

After the Service

Please recycle your bulletin at the bins by the door, or take it home with you.

We will not have an official coffee hour after the service, however, groups will be welcome to visit on the lawn after. We ask that distancing is respected.

Washrooms are available directly before and after, and during the service if required. We ask that you sanitize higher touch areas (taps, flushers) after use and wash your hands thoroughly

Volunteers will ensure that higher touch areas in the sanctuary are sanitized, and that washrooms are clean before closing the building.

Counters will wear masks and maintain distance while counting offerings and will wash and sanitize hands before and after counting.

Additional Points

This document may require updating on occasion as rules and guidelines from Fraser Health, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Diocese of New Westminster respond to the pandemic. Parish Council will do their best to keep people updated through announcements, the E-postle and our website.