

Diocesan Administrator
The Very Reverend Mike Sinclair

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THE DIOCESE OF QU'APPELLE *Anglican Church of Canada*

My Dear Friends in Christ,

January 6, 2022

I want to start today by saying how thankful I am for the faithful ways in which each of you have toiled and flexed over the last two years to make sure that the ministries of worship, community, and outreach have continued in the face of ever-changing challenge and opportunity. Much has been demanded of each of our church families. I fully acknowledge the difficulties each of you has muscled through, and remain so fiercely proud of the excellent efforts, creativity, and courage borne out in each of your ministries in this time.

I'd love to say that we are now looking behind us at those challenges, but sadly we are not.

The latest COVID development is that of the Omicron variant, now spreading even more rapidly than its predecessors. Given the alarmingly high rate of community transmission, I am making the decision to suspend public worship in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle as of Monday, January 10, 2022, until Monday, February 7th 2022. Some have expressed a desire or decision to cease worship immediately. If that is the will of your leadership, you have permission to do so if you can communicate your plans to people in a timely manner.

Wherever possible, worship is to continue to be provided online. This is a return to the arrangements that were in place during our last suspension.

- Worship leaders must be masked at all times.
- Worship leaders must be distanced from one another.
- Please do not share microphones.
- Musicians (organist/pianist, cantor) are allowed where space allows.
- Pastoral provision is offered for funerals and weddings, with only small numbers of family in attendance.
- In-person group meetings are prohibited at this time. Please utilise online formats, email, and phone calls.

I know this may feel disheartening. It is my fervent belief at this time that the best way we as the Body of Christ can show our care for each other is to be willing to keep one another safe.

I ask for your continued patience and cooperation.

I ask you to please get vaccinated and boosted, to limit your contacts and wear a mask.

Be of good courage, and know that God's love is always in our midst.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Sinclair'.

The Very Reverend Mike Sinclair
Administrator, Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle