

Greetings,

As you are likely aware, a province-wide lockdown is set to come into effect within a matter of days. This, in addition to Niagara shifting into a red coding yesterday. Previously, we had communicated that our plan was to proceed with in-person services on the 24th and 25th.

Since then, however, church council has made the difficult decision to cancel in-person Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

While churches are still technically able to meet through to the 26th, council decided that it was important to work with the intent of the measures that have and are set to soon come into effect. There was a growing sense that the situation is at a critical point, and that it is not worth sacrificing the safety of our community or our wider community over.

As we would with other service cancellations, we ask that you please help us to spread the word, particularly by phoning friends and family who do not have email.

We continue to urge you heed Public Health guidance, as we enter into these holiday weeks. Take precautions and limit in-person social contacts to your immediate household and essential supports. Seek attention and stay home if you are feeling ill. Take care of yourselves, and take care of one another.

Recordings of our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be posted online, including our “virtual” Sunday School play. Sermons prepared for these services will be sent to those who receive mailings.

We appreciate your understanding and support. While we join many other churches in making this decision, these have not been easy conversations, and this does not come without a shared sense of disappointment. We pray for God’s grace, as you reflect on Christmas in a smaller and quieter way this season.

Submitted on behalf of church council.

“We’ve been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we’re not demoralized; we’re not sure what to do, but we know that God knows what to do; we’ve been spiritually terrorized, but God hasn’t left our side; we’ve been thrown down, but we haven’t broken.” – 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
(The Message)