
Modifying the Familiar - Addendum

Good Shepherd Protocol for the Administration of Holy Communion and Ministry Roles during COVID-19 Restrictions

FROM THE RECTOR AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, ST. CATHARINES - SEPTEMBER 9, 2020



GOOD SHEPHERD
ST. CATHARINES

Anglican Network
in Canada

Introduction

Over the past few months, we have suspended the administration of Holy Communion at the directive of our Diocesan Bishop. However, recently these restrictions have been lifted. Consequently, GSC will commence Services of Holy Communion Sunday September 13, 2020. At the moment, in order to reduce risk potential, we will administer Communion only once a month until further notice (alternating biweekly with our Service of Morning Prayer).

As we phase ourselves back into Sunday Services at the Church, our Communion services will be temporarily modified to accommodate current and up-to-date restrictions and precautions around the Coronavirus outbreak.

As it stands, these modifications will either change or suspend the role of various ministries during Sunday services. They will also bring about a slight change in the way we deliver the Sacrament.

These limitations and modifications are temporary, until we can safely move back into a “normal” Liturgy and Service. The modifications are an addition our Best Practices plan, which, among other things, aims to limit physical contact between people and the facilities.

What follows is an addendum to our Best Practices Policy. It addresses specifically how we will administer Holy Communion and who will be affected by our current modification to the Communion Service.

The Service – Communion

The term we like to use in this process is “modifying the familiar.” That is, making necessary changes while still recognizing what we do in worship together. With that in mind we are taking strides to both ensure your health and safety, while at the same time keep the Sacrament as familiar and sacred as possible.

The Liturgy, although shortened, will contain most of the elements that are both necessary and familiar. However, there will be noticeable changes in the way you receive.

What will I see?

Instead of a single paten and a shared cup, the bread and the wine will already be prepared and on the Lord’s Table. You will find in the center of the Table plastic, clear cups, each containing a single wafer of Bread. On either side of these, you will see a tray of individual cups, each filled with wine. These elements will be covered until the time of the

Prayer of Consecration. You will also see a small chalice with wine, and a paten with the Host.

At the time of the Eucharist, Rev. Jim will take his place behind the Table for the Prayer of Consecration. He will be masked for this portion of the Service. Using his own chalice and paten, he will proceed with the Consecration as usual, blessing the elements and recounting the Lord's Supper. He will partake of the wine from his own chalice. This chalice will not be shared. He will partake of the entire Host. Unfortunately, it will not be shared with clergy and Mathew for obvious reasons. When these prayers are done, Rev. Jim will invite you to come and receive and he will return to his seat on the riser.

What will I do?

To avoid a lineup and ensure safe distancing, Communion will be received "one row of pews" at a time beginning on one side, front to back, and then the other, front to back; two to four people at a time, maximum. Don't worry, you will be given explicit instructions as we proceed on the day.

After cleaning your hands with the sanitizer provided in your pew, proceed up the centre aisle of the church. Please maintain the six-foot distance between you and others. Initially, our Greeters will help each pew navigate the procession. Please uncover your mouth when you have reached the Table.

When you approach to receive, take one cup of bread (from the centre of the Table). Consume it and place the empty plastic up in the receptacle below. Then, take a cup of wine from Table and drink it. Drop that empty cup into the same receptacle. Sanitize your hands with the sanitizer provided at the front of the church as you return to your pew. Please refrain from socializing.

After all have received, Rev. Jim will consume any remaining bread and wine.

After Communion we will quietly recite the Lord's Prayer. Rev. Jim will bless the offerings, bless the congregation followed by the dismissal.

Dismissal must be orderly and safe for everyone. Upon dismissal, the back pews will exit first, working our way up to the final pew at the front. A Greeter will help you sanitize your hands as you exit.

Please leave the church as quickly and safely as possible. Please refrain from socializing.

Ministry Roles

Clergy

The leading of the service shall be limited to the Celebrant/Priest only. This includes the Service of the Word (beginning), the Eucharist, and the Ablution. The Comfortable words and the Confession may be said by a deacon or other person masked from the front of the church. This temporary measure is taken to limit hand-to-surface contact and maintain good physical distancing.

Sides-people

As we implement Best Practices on Sundays, the role of the Sides-person is extremely important. It has been expanded to assist us in helping to ensure both proper hygiene and safe distancing.

We will require two Sides-persons every Sunday: one positioned at the entrance of the church, and another at the top of the stairs.

The Sides-person at the entrance of the church will greet people with a bottle of hand sanitizer and ensure people clean their hands while entering the church.

The Sides-person at the top of the stairs, will help people understand the seating arrangement (see “Coming In and Going Out,” pags 7 of our Best Practices Policy for details on seating and church entry).

If necessary, the Sides-persons will also assist during the Communion, by ensuring that proper protocol is followed as people go to receive.

We will not take up an offering as usual. Until further notice the Offertory Plate will be placed at the entrance of the church.

Servers and Chancel Team

Servers and the full Chancel Team will not be required during these temporary measures. There will be no Common Cup. The Bread and the Wine will be offered in individual disposable cups that recipients will take on their own (see “What will I do?”, page 2 above). The Table will be prepared in advance of the Service by a single person, who will also manage clean up following the Service..

Chalice Bearers

Chalice Bearers are not required during these temporary measures, since the Bread and the Wine will be obtained by the recipients themselves. This measure is in place in order to reduce hand-to-surface contact, reduce hand-to-mouth contact and encourage social distancing. If they wish, Chalice Bearers can temporarily take up duties as Sides-people instead to help that ministry function during this demanding time.



Readers and Intercessors

Readers and Intercessors will continue to serve on Sundays at the Church as well as online services. The schedule will be adjusted accordingly, and those Readers who opted out of online services are encouraged to rejoin the ministry during Sundays at Church.

The Reader and the Intercessor will have limited access to the front of the Church. The Reader will have their own music stand on the left side of the church right next to the screen. This location is reserved for the Reader only.

The Intercessor will be located at the lectern to the right of the church in front of the piano. This location is reserved for the Intercessor only.

These measures reduce hand-to-surface contact among multiple persons.

Prayer Teams and Monthly Blessings

There will be no Prayer Teams required at the time of the Communion, and our Monthly Blessings observance during Communion is also suspended temporarily. These measures help us to ensure physical distancing.

IMPORTANT: Please **DO NOT** attend a service if you have Covid symptoms or are otherwise putting others at risk of Covid. Please use the **Self-Assessment** tool below and follow its recommendations if necessary.

Self-Assessment

When should I refrain from attending Church?

If you answer YES to any of the these questions, **stay home and self-isolate right away**. Call your health care provider or the COVID-19 Info-Line at 905-688-8248 (for Niagara Region) and a public health professional will give you detailed instructions to follow to protect you, your family and members of the public.

Do you have any of the following:

- Fever / chills
- New cough or a cough that is getting worse
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath (even when sitting or walking regularly)
- Sore throat (not due to allergies)
- A runny or congested nose (not due to allergies)
- Unusual level of fatigue
- Unusual headache
- Nausea / vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite
- Feeling unwell for an unknown reason
- Have you been in close contact with someone who is either sick, sent for testing, or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have you have returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Info-Line

Talk to a public health professional Monday to Friday from 9:15 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. 905-688-8248 press 7, then press 2
Toll-free: 1-888-505-6074 (niagararegion.ca/health).