

Dear Parishioners

You are all in my heart in these many months when we are unable to worship and meet together. It is very hard to be separated in this way. We have all been finding ways to overcome the isolation and now our province is beginning to open up. This week we moved into Phase 3 of the reopening with wider travel and more businesses opening. In our Diocese churches can now reopen their doors – after putting Diocese-approved safety protocols in place. I have made a video for you detailing how things will be different. Go to the link here to see what church will be like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMWlydefluA>

Please also read the background info below and **email your answer back to the office by replying to this email.**

1. **We have been given permission by the Diocese and Dr Bonnie Henry to resume services in the church.** We have also been given protocols to follow to ensure we provide as safe a worship experience as possible. All the details regarding this are in the video- see above. Our re-opening date is as yet undecided – it will be sometime in August.
2. **It won't be difficult for us to follow the protocols** – reducing number of people at services to maintain social distancing, not singing, not drinking from a common chalice at communion, and a few other details.
3. **When we resume the service in the church, we will also continue the online service.** You will be free to choose between them or even go to both.
4. **It is your choice whether or not to come.** We understand some will choose to not come due to health vulnerabilities. And we know some are longing to gather once again in the physical realm. We count on you to make the right choice for yourself.

On Salt Spring we are looking to re-open during August. Social distancing will greatly limit the numbers of people who can attend any one service. In order to make plans for services we are asking you to respond by return email to this question:

Given the safety protocols in place for our services as detailed in the video, do you plan to attend services?

- ☐ YES  
☐ NO

Could you please indicate whether you will be coming alone or with another from your bubble.

Thank you so much for your attention to this.

Many blessings,

Gyllian