



the **Church**
of **St Peter** and
St Simon-the-Apostle

525 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1J1
Tel: 416-923-8714
office@stpeterstsimon.ca

"O sing unto the Lord a new song." Psalm 149.

Dear Friends,

Last week the Bishop of Toronto informed the Diocese that parishes can resume choral singing, though not congregational singing at this time. What a welcome change after so many months of restrictions and lockdown. It is a sign of hope that things are getting better thanks to the diligence of people observing protocols and of course, the gift of the vaccines.

Our parish Health and Safety Working Group met on Monday, October 18th and approved a plan for our choir to resume singing during public worship, beginning Sunday, October 24th.

In keeping with diocesan protocols, the choir must maintain social distancing of two metres from each chorister and four metres from members of the congregation while singing. To that end, we have spaced things out carefully and can fit four choristers in the choir stalls and fifteen choristers across the front of the Church when singing only. When the choir is not singing, they will have reserved seating at the front and sides of the Church. All choristers are to be masked with the appropriate level 2 Medical Procedural Mask and must have shown proof of double vaccination.

Protocols for receiving Holy Communion will remain the same. One small change is that members of the choir who are receiving the sacrament will come forward first and then return to their place. The congregation will then come forward as usual. A Cantor positioned safely distanced in the choir stalls will sing the Communion hymn. Choristers will enter in single file and take their seated place during the Prelude. They will exit during the Postlude in the same way.

While our worship has been enhanced by the inclusion of pre-recorded music, we have waited a long time for this change to come and welcome our choir back. We have determined that the plan is safe and appropriate. For those who may be uncomfortable with this change please remember there is a Wednesday morning service at 11 am. As we move forward, we may re-introduce an early said service on Sunday morning.

St Augustine said, "those who sing pray twice." We look forward to the day when all of us can join in singing the hymns. In the meantime, we as members of the congregation, will continue to make prayer and melody to the Lord in our hearts.

Please do not hesitate to speak with the Wardens and or me if you have any questions.

Yours Faithfully,

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine+

