

## **A Message from the Rector and Wardens Update on plans for Christmas Services**

Due to the recent dramatic increase in the number of new Covid 19 infections, the Wardens Council, Health & Safety Committee and Music Director met Sunday to discuss plans for Christmas services at SPSS. There are concerns about the omicron variant being highly infectious; we have already seen an exponential rise in case numbers in Ontario in the past few days. The scientists are collecting and analyzing data, which will provide us with a clearer picture in the next few weeks. After careful consideration, we have agreed on the following plans:

**Fri Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 5 pm service** will go ahead, but with limited music.

**Fri Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 10 pm service** will go ahead but with modifications for safety reasons:

- a. All who are planning to attend are asked to call or email the church office by 3pm Thurs Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> (416-923-8714 or [office@stpeterstsimon.ca](mailto:office@stpeterstsimon.ca)). Please indicate the name(s) of those who will be attending, and how many will be in your group. We have maximum capacity of 50 in the congregation. If you have already registered, and still plan to attend, you do not need to do so again. If you have already registered and now plan not to attend, please let us know.
- b. Because this is a special service, the Diocese will allow us to confirm vaccination status of those who attend. Please bring your proof of vaccination with you. We will need to record the date of your last dose.
- c. Congregational singing will be suspended.
- d. To provide better ventilation in the church, we will be opening windows. Please keep coats, hats and scarfs on during the service as needed.
- e. We will be reducing the number of servers and choristers (4) to reduce potential exposure.
- f. All will be required to wear masks throughout the time we are in the church (except when receiving communion). Remember that your mask must cover your nose, mouth and chin at all other times.
- g. This service will be live streamed for all who prefer to attend virtually.

**Sat Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am service** will go ahead, with limited music.

**Sun Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am service** will go ahead. This service will be live streamed.

We anticipate that the Diocese may provide us with updated guidelines as early as next week. We plan to meet weekly for the next while, to monitor the changes in the Covid pandemic and modify plans as needed going forward.

Finally, all indications are that a booster dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) will significantly boost your immunity to the omicron variant. We strongly encourage everyone to get the booster as soon as possible.

We continue to live in difficult and uncertain times, and unfortunately, this is not business as usual. We take comfort in the promise that God is Emmanuel – God with us - always and especially in times of difficulty. May the peace of Christ be with us all.

Wishing you the blessings of Christmas,  
The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, Rector  
Dr Ted Robinson, Rector's Warden  
Ms Vanessa Scott, People's Warden