

Just a word about our growing array of Virtual Worship and Gatherings

It amazes me the rate at which we have been growing and adapting to meet the needs of the community in the face of the incredible shift brought about by COVID 19. From being a simple outreach to the shut-in, our broadcast services on Sundays have become the lifeblood of our parish worship life. From broadcasting once a week, we now find ourselves broadcasting two services every week, and offering many other forms of gathering to meet the needs of our congregation.

I know that these changes are difficult for some who struggle with getting technology to work for them, and so I thought I would include some straightforward instructions on how to access our online offerings no matter what technology you choose to use.

First of all, our worship services are broadcast directly to YouTube. They are archived and saved there, so that even if you are unable to be present live at the time of worship, you can go back and watch the service at the time that is convenient for you. The best and most convenient way for you to do this, is to go to the St. George's Cathedral channel on YouTube, which is found at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzxvQiyTAMb4Dg-JsgstO9g?view_as=subscriber.

Once there, if you click the subscribe button, you will receive a notice in your YouTube mailbox about a half an hour before anything from the Cathedral is being broadcast. You can then click on that and be taken to the service. As well, from our channel page, you can access any of the archived and upcoming services simply by clicking on them.

I know that many have gotten to really like receiving the exact address of each upcoming service in a weekly email. We will try to continue to distribute those, but in case you have not received that, the above creates a good failsafe. For this Sunday, the service will be found at:

10:30 am Morning Prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U99xTUXjOFA>

4:00 pm Evensong: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xkLwRYHDbo>

When the COVID crisis began, we were verging on 40 subscribers to the Cathedral YouTube channel. We now have more than 300 subscribers, and in each week, the viewership is generally significantly higher than our usual average Sunday attendance. I note also, that this ministry is reaching out far beyond our own regular congregation, and that people from all over the world are gathering to pray with us every week. It is exciting for me to see that even as our doors have been shut, our reach for ministry is growing on a weekly basis.

The virtual "Zoom Bible Study" is also an exciting new development. We certainly have seen much higher numbers of people participating in Bible Study as a result of being able to take it online and make it possible for people to connect from home. I know that for some, accessing the Bible Study has been difficult because they are unable to click on the direct link. I have now

made this into a recurring meeting, so that the access information from week to week will not change. Hopefully this will make things easier on all involved. So to attend Bible Study, you must have downloaded the Zoom app. Once you have that, you can either click on the Bible Study link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84547128784?pwd=VVVtMndCYjA1T0Zob01yajNRb0xHUT09>

Or alternately, you can open your Zoom app, click on the Join meeting button, where you will be asked for a meeting ID, which will be:

Meeting ID: 845 4712 8784

And then a password, which is:

Password: 533110

As well, we have set up a mid-week coffee hour for Thursdays at 10:00 am for congregational fellowship, and for updates on what is happening in the Cathedral. The join link for this is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83081346094>

I hope that this is helpful in navigating the technology of the “new normal that the Cathedral has been thrust into. I certainly know that back in March at Vestry, I could never have imagined what God would be calling forth from us. I thank you for being willing to adjust to all this change, and I look forward to when we can once again meet together.

Faithfully

The Very Rev. Don Davidson
Dean