



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

Anglican Church of Canada

Liturgical Hygiene Measures in Response to COVID-19

EFFECTIVE MARCH 11, 2020

While the Public Health Agency of Canada continues to assess the risk associated with the coronavirus known as COVID-19 to be low, as a faith community we must be particularly diligent in our hygiene practices for the wellbeing of our communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Bishop Susan Bell has provided the following directions to parishes:

- Parishes should make hand sanitizer available throughout the church for parishioners to use.
- Congregations should adopt an Exchange of the Peace without physical contact, with a smile, brief word, or slight bow to your neighbour.
- Congregations should make offerings from a stationary location, rather than passing a common collection plate, and counters are asked to be diligent in the washing of their hands.
- Priests are to consecrate both the bread and the wine, and to consume in both kinds, but administer only the Body of Christ to the congregation. The practice of the sharing the common cup is suspended until further notice.
- Clergy and communion assistants should wash their hands both before and after worship as well as sanitize their hands before administering communion.
- Clergy should greet parishioners at the end of services without physical contact.
- Clergy and pastoral care workers should take all precautions in personal hygiene before and after pastoral visits in hospital and homes.
- Parishioners who are ill, or suspect they may be, should be encouraged to stay at home to recover and to request a pastoral visit if desired.

In addition, to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, including coronaviruses, Ontario's Ministry of Health reminds us to follow usual health precautions which include washing our hands often, avoiding contact with people who are sick, and practicing proper cough and sneeze etiquette.

The Bishop continues to closely monitor the evolution of this global pandemic and will review these measures on an ongoing basis in light of the current risk assessment in order to protect the health of parishioners and those we serve.