



"Reaching Up to God, Reaching Out to People"

7407 - 98 Avenue NW Edmonton, AB T6A 0A8

December 9, 2020

Dear Braemar Family,

As you may be aware, based on the ongoing significant increases in COVID-19 cases across our province, the provincial government and Alberta Health Services announced new restrictions yesterday.

Along with guidelines that affect businesses and services, these new restrictions include reducing in-person attendance at places of worship to 15 per cent of capacity. For Braemar, this would mean a maximum of 45 people on Sunday mornings. The recommendations also strongly suggest that churches focus on an online presence if they are able.

While we recognize that, particularly given our smaller in-person attendance numbers during the pandemic, we could still meet in person, Braemar leadership have made the decision to close the church to in-person services, **effective immediately**. At this point, **the closure will continue until at least January 9, 2021**, when the province re-evaluates the situation.

We believe this decision is in the best interests of the health and safety of our congregation, and it also sends the message to our local community that we are standing with those who are working to protect public health.

Our Christmas Eve service will move online, and will be live on Facebook Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Kent will be sharing some Christmas reflections and Leah will be leading us in worship with a beautiful selection of familiar carols, that you can actually **SING OUT LOUD** from the comfort of your own home!

Pastor Kent (and others while he is away Dec. 25th to Jan. 9th) will continue to preach live on Facebook Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. Weekly communication will also be sent out from the church, and we will update everyone as necessary.

We encourage you to stay connected with the church, tune in for Facebook services, reach out to the elders or Pastor Kent if you need support (Pastor La Wom between Dec. 25th and Jan. 9th, while Pastor Kent is away), and continue to send your tithes and offerings to support the work God is doing in and through our church.

May the light of Christ shine in and through you this Christmas. We are all in this together!

On behalf of Braemar leadership,

Vern Cassel