



Hillside family, we are very happy to share some exciting news with you all!

Since March of last year, we have been closely monitoring the guidance and advice of the provincial health authority and trusting their guidance as it relates to the spread of viruses in gatherings. Yesterday, the Public Health Officer announced the **cancellation of all capacity limits and restrictions on religious gatherings**. This is great news! God willing, this means we will return to gathering in person in our sanctuary beginning **this Sunday at both 9:00 and 11:00 AM**.

Christians have always believed in the real importance on being together – we need one another and we are so very much looking forward to seeing many of you on Sunday. We also understand that, for a variety of reasons, some of you would prefer to stay at home right now. We want you to know that we also support you in that decision: you will still be able to tune in live to our service feed at **9:00 AM at myhillside.online.church**. We would encourage you to spend some time together with your family or small group in worship of our God.

As we return to church, we'd like to ask that you consider a few things:

Caring For One Another

Please stay at home if you present symptoms of illness, or have recently travelled or been exposed to someone who has been infected.

Please be considerate of the fact that some people may not be as comfortable as you are; take a moment to ask someone before entering their personal space and understand that their cautiousness does not reflect a negative attitude toward either you or your beliefs. Similarly, please be gracious with those who may accidentally slip up, or get too close; simply let them know what you're comfortable with, and assume their best intentions.

Masks and Vaccines

You will no longer be required to wear a mask to our gatherings, however they continue to be a recommended measure for those who have not received both vaccine doses. We appreciate that these choices are personal health decisions; they're not qualifiers or disqualifiers from being part of Hillside Church. Whether or not you choose to wear a mask, we will not be asking about your vaccination status.

Kids' Ministry

In order to care for your kids well, we have certain volunteer ratios and requirements, so for the time being we will need to limit the number of children participating. To secure your child's spot, please register them ahead of time [at this link](#). If you would like to join our Kids' Team and help us return to full capacity, please send Marnie a note at marnie@myhillside.ca. As we did before, the children will be dismissed to kids' programming downstairs during our mid-service break.

Keeping the Church Clean

As we move from a COVID-19 safety plan into a more general communicable disease prevention plan, please know that we're working hard to maintain a safe and hygienic environment. We will be continuing to (1) regularly clean all high-touch surfaces, (2) organize our space in a way that allows for physical distancing, (3) provide hand-sanitizer, soap and water for hand-washing.

As we return to gathering together, let's take our lead from Paul's letter to the Philippians and make this our goal.

Being enabled by the Spirit, Hillside Church will honour God by "being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

So, friends, "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. ... do everything without grumbling or arguing." (Phil. 2:2-5, 14)

God is glorified when we unite in love for one another, we are so excited for us to be a community that models this well this year. Thank you for joining with us in this!

Sincerely and expectantly,

The Pastoral Team

