



June 9, 2020

Dear Trinity Community,

Normally, at this time of year we would be welcoming the imminent arrival of another wonderful Maine summer and the opening service in our cherished chapel. Yet, normalcy is not the situation we are facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The trustees of Trinity have been working hard to determine if we could open this year in a manner that would be safe. Unfortunately, we have not found a realistic way to minimize risk and deal with challenging logistical difficulties. It is my sad duty on behalf of the trustees to inform you we have made the difficult decision to cancel regular season worship services and our summer concert series.

We had hoped to avoid this outcome, and we recognize the deep loss, especially as in these times every fiber in one's being longs for connection. In coming to this decision, we appointed a task force to research and frame relevant issues. At two board meetings, the full board thoroughly reviewed and debated the issues. We considered many options for how we could hold services safely and consulted guidance from the Governor, the CDC and the Diocese of Maine. As I write this letter, most churches including our sister church, St. George's, remain closed. We have decided now to cancel regular services for the season in part because we have unusual circumstances as a summer chapel. Given the State of Maine's 14-day quarantine requirement, our visiting clergy are unable to come and preach. In addition, we rely on volunteers, many of whom have Covid-19 risk factors.

Though we will not be able to offer regular services, we are keeping open the possibility of holding one or a few alternative gatherings in August, such as opening the church for a short period of prayer and meditation. Another possibility would be an outdoor gathering of some sort, though not a traditional service. We will revisit in late July whether it would be prudent to offer "alternative services."

While gathering together in person to pray and exchange fellowship is not possible, we remain a community of faith and support. We will continue our community outreach efforts and have established a section on the Trinity Church website for prayers for loved ones and other concerns. Timely information to our church community will be communicated through email messages and through updates posted on our website: www.trinityyorkharbor.com and on the Trinity Facebook page: @TrinityYorkHarborMaine.

If we do not have your email address, please send your information by email to trinitychurchyorkharbor@gmail.com (if you have received this letter by email, we will continue to use that address for you). We hold all contact information, including email addresses, confidential and for church use only.

While I will miss seeing you in our pews and among our gatherings under the beech tree, I wish you many blessings and joy.

Warmly,

Will Ethridge
Chairman, Trinity Board of Trustees