Dear friends and parishioners of St. Francis Anglican Church,

The following message was read aloud at the June 26th worship service.

**Manitoba is in an important transitional phase in its COVID-19 provincial response system, as it shifted from public health orders to public health recommendations as of March 15th.**

**The Manitoba chief provincial public health officer stated at that time, that indicators were stabilizing or improving, and therefore set the pandemic response system to Green (Limited Risk), which has continued since that date.**

**Transmission of the virus is at very low to undetectable levels between household and close contacts. There may be single or isolated small outbreaks, which are quickly contained. Community transmission is low to undetectable.**

**COVID-19 will continue to circulate in Manitoba and around the world. However, we need to balance this with the need to resume normal activities for our overall mental, spiritual and physical well-being. This is possible due to the success of the vaccination program and COVID-19 treatments for those who remain at higher risk of severe disease.**

**We recognize that each person will choose a different path for resuming normal activities, based on their own personal risk and preferences.**

**Easing restrictions can bring about many different feelings and it is important to recognize that they may not be the same for everyone. Be patient with yourself and others through this time. Remember it can take time to readjust to things we have not done for a while. We need to be respectful and supportive of additional measures that some individuals may continue taking, as they seek to reduce their risk and protect themselves, their families and communities.**

**With these recommendations in mind, Vestry has decided that effective July 1st, restrictions for worship services will be updated as follows:**

* **We will resume drinking wine from the cup, if you choose. You are welcome to continue with the host only.**
* **Bread will no longer be dispensed in paper cups**
* **Wearing of masks will no longer be required, except for Fr. Wayne and the Cup Administrant when dispensing the Eucharist**

**The following restrictions will continue to be in place:**

* **Hand sanitizing for Fr. Wayne and the Cup Administrant prior to dispensing the Eucharist**
* **No physical contact with those outside your household during the Peace**
* **No fellowship after service**

**Should you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Fr. Wayne or respond to this email. Thank you.**

**St. Francis Vestry**