



St. Albert United Church

an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada

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Rinse, Wash, Repeat

In our last reopening update, we shared our hope for a return to in-person worship on Palm Sunday at the end of March. Through February we remained optimistic that this was an attainable goal. At the Council meeting this week, however, the general sentiment was that Palm Sunday was no longer a practical. While the province has managed to maintain a relatively low transmission rate compared with the spike we saw in December, the case rates and the alarming emergence of the Covid variants has led us to remain patient.

The vaccine rollout is starting to pick up steam and several of you have already received your first dose, so progress is clearly being made. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter, but we feel we have not yet reached the stage where we are able to start to gather for worship again.

Our new target date to restart in-person worship is April 25, 2021. Our hope is that the next six weeks will see many more Albertans receive their first dose of the vaccine and that hopefully the disease variants will be brought in check by that time.

Council plans to meet during the first week of April to discuss the status of the pandemic and to determine whether our new target date remains viable. In the meantime, the Re-Open team is scheduled to meet next week to discuss the possible re-opening of the building to small internal groups and for certain rental groups.

This Sunday will be the ninth Sunday that we have been able to live-stream Sunday worship and it has been encouraging to see that over 100 people have been viewing the recorded services each week. We appreciate your continued participation, and we continue to work toward improving the viewing experience. We have added a portable camera to the sanctuary to go with the remote camera which we have been using and we will be making an addition to our sound booth that will allow enough space for a second person to help produce the services. We are grateful to the volunteers who have helped to make our worship services what they are while we cannot meet in person.

I realize that we are sounding like a broken record at this point, but the safety and wellbeing of our congregation is paramount. Thank you again for your continued support

and for continuing to do your part to end this pandemic. Please stay safe and reach out if you are in need of support.

We will share more information as it becomes available; please visit <https://stalbertunited.ca/> or the SAUC Facebook page for updates.

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