

From the desk of our Archdeacon, the Rev. Glen Miller

Sept 3 2020

Hello,

Archbishop Germond has officially announced that the Diocese of Algoma has entered the "Amber Stage" of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic which means that for those congregations that are prepared public worship services can once again be held in our buildings. A comprehensive list of protocols has been developed with the desire to make these gatherings as safe as possible. The theme under which all this is to happen is the idea of "Loving our neighbour". As individuals we have been missing the gatherings and some are quite excited about the opportunity to return to worship but we are asked to remember that our approach to that return is to have the focus of how we all make things safe for our neighbours. Our expressions of love will need to change from hugs to other gestures. Bowing, 'finger hearts', and notes will be the norms that we are asked to become used to. Staying distant is also an expression of our love for others even though it feels strange. In the parish of Copper Cliff and Lively our first public worship service since March will take place at St. John's Church in Copper Cliff on September 6 at 11 am. Due to unforeseen complications the first service at Christ Church will take place, God willing, on Sunday September 20 at 9 am. Other congregations in the Deanery have made their own decisions about start dates and on-line resources will continue to be made available in most places even after the public gatherings take place. So, if you choose to attend, please bring a mask, be prepared to keep your distance, use the hand sanitizer provided as well as a heart ready for worship. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms please stay home as another expression of love for your neighbour. Whether we worship in person, in our homes or on-line we are the Body of Christ expressing our love for God and for our neighbours and I pray that God's Spirit will be felt in our hearts and minds. Glen +

A prayer

ALMIGHTY God, who art afflicted in the afflictions of thy people: Regard with thy tender compassion those in anxiety and distress; bear their sorrows and their cares; supply all their manifold needs; and help both them and us to put our whole trust and confidence in thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 54)