

Côte des Neiges Presbyterian Church  
3435 Côte Sainte Catherine Road  
Montreal, Qc H3T 1C7

December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Dear members and friends,

Like many of you, we have been following recent developments and announcements from the ministry of health and we wanted to provide an update about our services at Cote des Neiges Presbyterian Church.

While gyms, theatres and other public places have been shut down altogether, and restaurants and stores have seen their operations significantly restricted, there is a recognition that places of worship offer an essential and necessary connection, particularly at this challenging time. However, we are concerned about the health of those most vulnerable, and given the risk of dramatically increased hospitalizations with the spread of the new variants, the ministry of health has asked that places of worship check the vaccination status of those who attend public services.

We are evidently deeply concerned by what we see as a worrisome precedent of the government restricting access to worship. Several groups representing places of worship are presenting those concerns to the appropriate municipal, provincial and federal authorities. While that conversation continues, we felt it was important to continue offering the possibility of attending worship to those who have been vaccinated and to continue making our services available through livestreaming to those who feel they are safer staying at home. This will include the Candlelit Christmas Service on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, and all of the regular Sunday services moving forward, which will continue to be livestreamed as they have been in months past and will be open for attendance to those who have received their first two doses of vaccination.

We look forward to welcoming you at worship, in person or online, we are continuing to pray for you and we are here and available to help in any way that we can. As has always been the case, you can reach your elders and the minister by phone or email if you have any special needs, or if you want any additional information.

At this unusual time, we are grateful that our trust is in the Prince of Peace whom we celebrate at this season and in whose hands we are safely held.

Your pastor ...

Joel

Rev. Joel A. Coppieters, B.Th., M.Div.  
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“The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.”

Psalm 121:5-7