



## **Communication Release**

October 24, 2018

### **Our plan and rationale for Sunday, November 11, 2018**

At Jacksonville Baptist Church, we have long honoured the Canadian tradition of pausing to remember and give thanks every November 11 at 11am. We recognize that it is because of the price paid by veterans, both those who came home alive but forever changed, and those who never made it home alive, that we today have freedom of worship, love, work, play, etc.

At Jacksonville Baptist, we also place the highest value on our corporate worship every Sunday morning. While God calls us to worship every day in how we live, He also calls us to gather together- not in church, but as the church- in weekly worship and proclamation.

This year, 2018, these two days come together. November 11 is a Sunday. So what do we do? As leadership we have studied and discussed how best to provide the opportunity to participate in both activities. We have also attempted to factor in the broad demographic of people who together are the Jacksonville Baptist Church, and their abilities to be where and when they want and need need to be on that day.

For instance, we have thought about seniors and people with physical limitations, for whom standing outside in the cold November air for an extended time is more than an inconvenience.

We have thought about families with young children whose morning routines are not easily altered.

We have thought about our friends for whom worship participation at JB is a new, and not yet intuitive, activity. For these people there is value in maintaining a consistent schedule on Sundays to help build the habit of weekly worship.

We have thought about people for whom attending a cenotaph service comes as a grateful sense of duty.

We have thought about those who, while no less grateful, have not made cenotaph attendance a regular habit.

We have thought about those who would need time to travel from a worship service to a cenotaph service, particularly to cenotaphs further away than the one in Jacksonville.

So we have come up with a plan for Sunday, November 11 that we believe will help the most number of people actively and meaningfully participate in both Sunday worship and November 11 remembrance:

**9:00- 10:00am**

**Early Worship.** This service will feature the same worship music as in the later service, but in a more “unplugged” format. The message will also be the same as in the later service. Since this service is intended, at least in part, for those who will want to be at a cenotaph afterwards, there will not be a “Remembrance Time” (last post, moment of silence, etc.). However, the themes of freedom and sacrifice will be present in this service.

**10:30- 11:45am**

**Later Worship.** This service will have the look and feel of our Sunday morning worship any given Sunday, except that it will include not only the themes of the first service but also a “Remembrance Time”. We anticipate that this service will appeal to those who are seeking to maintain a weekly 10:30am habit of worship, to those whose health makes standing outside in the cold or whose family demographic makes getting out to an earlier service with difficult or impossible. This service will also appeal to all of the above and others who nonetheless want to be part of a remembrance service while not missing out on worship or having to choose between the two.

**A Note on Sunday Morning Connection Groups** (formerly known as “Sunday School for all ages”). For this one Sunday only we will not be holding these connecting groups as we normally do at 9:30am. This does not mean they are not important. On the contrary, they are a very important part of what we do. However, we made this decision thinking about such things as our attempt to accommodate three services and an hour of connecting groups on this very unusual (one Sunday every 6-8 years) morning; as well as and our questions around people being able or willing to attend a worship service, a cenotaph service, and a connection group all on the same morning. Perhaps your connection group can sit together at one of the worship services that day.

**A Final Word:** We realize that it is impractical, if not impossible, to plan for every circumstance on this day. We have attempted to provide as many options for as many people as possible on this important day. Be sure to connect with one of us if you have any questions:

**Pastors:** Todd MacLeod, Stephen Page, Donnie MacDougal

**Elders:** Jeff Burlock, Archie Bubar, Guy Cheney, Jeff den Otter, Blake Gartley, and Duane Stephenson