



St. James Church

In the Heart of the Village

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Easter 2021

“He is not here. He has been raised.”

Luke 24: 6

News & Views, Easter 2021

It’s hard to believe we are heading into our second Holy Week during the pandemic. The time between Palm Sunday and Easter is usually full of worship and activity, culminating in a glorious service on Easter Sunday.

Unlike last year at this time, we have solid grounds for hope that things will be ‘back to normal’ later this year. Some of our parishioners have already been vaccinated, others are registered, and we know there will be enough vaccine for all. We’re still far from the time when we can plug in the coffee urn, but it is coming.

In the meantime, there are other reasons to celebrate. Your Tech Team (David Finch, Gordon Morton, Neil Price-Jones with lots of help from Fr. Chris and Todd Hillhouse) have made great leaps in the area of live-streaming our service. We are also more adept at using Zoom for things like coffee hour. It has been wonderful to know that people from far away have been able to join us this way.

The Leadership Team (Fr. Chris, Howard, Shane, Diane and Todd) wish for you a meaningful and beautiful Easter. May you know the presence of the Holy Spirit in everything you do!

From Father Chris



The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar.
(Psalm 92:12 ESV)

Trees give shade, produce flowers, fruit and nuts, and provide homes for birds and squirrels. Cut down and transformed by human labour, trees also provide human habitats. Most of us live in houses built with wooden frames; thus, in effect, we dwell in tree houses, even if we don't live among branches and foliage.



Leaves on deciduous trees glitter like green emeralds in the summer sun, then turn colour and fall to the ground in autumn, dying and decomposing into the earth. Coniferous trees bravely keep alive the evergreen promise of spring, even as they shoulder mounds of snow. Trees show that our lives run in a continuous cycle of wintry death and resurrection.

On Palm Sunday Jesus enters Jerusalem on a pathway of tree branches. On Good Friday He is fastened to the tree of the cross where He withers and dies. And on Easter Sunday, Jesus rises again to become the good and fruitful tree into which we are grafted as branches.



With that, as you tend to your own trees this spring, be like a tree planted by streams of water (Ps. 1.3), **rooted and grounded in God's love** (Eph. 3.17) – a love stronger than death (Song 8:6). Abide in Christ through prayer to yield the fruit of the Spirit (John 15.5; Gal. 5.22) and bear leaves for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22.2), starting with your family & friends, your neighbourhood, your church and community.



Amy, Clara, Hannah and Abigail join me in wishing you all the blessings of Holy Week and we look forward to sharing the joy of Easter Morning with you through our live-streamed service.

Peace,

Fr. Chris

This reflection is based on Peter J. Leithart, 'Introduction' to James B. Jordan, [Trees and Thorns: Studies in the First Four Chapters of Genesis](#) (Theopolis Books, 2020), p. ix-x.

Results of Vestry

Our first Annual Vestry meeting held by Zoom was a success. With the Vestry package sent out ahead of time, everyone was well informed and the meeting ran smoothly and on time.

The minutes of the meeting will be made available once they have been reviewed by the Advisory Board. In the meantime, here are some of the important highlights and changes you need to know about.

- Outgoing Churchwardens David Finch and Claire Olorenshaw were thanked for their five years of very dedicated service to St. James.
- Incoming Churchwardens are Howard Jones and Shane Wieler (appointed by the Rector) and Diane Allengame (elected by Vestry). Together with Treasurer Todd Hillhouse and Fr. Chris, these people will manage the day to day running of the church.
- The budget for 2021 was approved, with its projected increase in givings of 10%.

Asking for money is always difficult. This year we have no choice. The pandemic has shut down much of our rental income. **The continued ability of St. James to serve as your church, and as a beacon of hope for the community, depends on all of us digging deep this year.**

Suggestion — increase your PAR or envelope giving by 10%, and make a special gift donation when you get your income tax back.

Reflect on the value of St. James in your life. It has sustained us through difficult times. Now it's our turn to help the parish continue. Be a plank in the bridge that gets us across the Covid void into the future.



This is our brass alms basin, on which weekly givings are presented for blessing. The inscription reads *Accept our Alms most merciful Ld.* Obviously the craftsperson ran out of room for the full word! It was purchased by the parish in 1919 and dedicated to the volunteers from the parish who served in the First World War.

102 years of givings on this basin - we can't stop now!

Easter Outreach

Packages of cheer will be delivered to our shut-ins and others before Easter, containing fresh daffodils, a note card, Easter devotional card and note from Fr. Chris.

There's still time to make a special Lenten donation to one of our Outreach projects: Elizabeth Fry Society, the Bridge Prison Ministry or Choices.

Please consider the important work these groups do in the community. An e-transfer to Treasurer Todd is the easiest way to put your gift to work right away.

Looking for a computer 'Angel'

And no, we don't mean someone who can untangle software glitches! As part of refurbishing our office areas, **we need a computer for the Envelope Secretary** and others to use. This will take the pressure off the computer at the Treasurer's desk. We have gotten quotes on a standard set up, with Microsoft software (to be compatible with the rest of the office) and it comes to about \$1500.

Can you help? A one time gift of any amount towards this, or a very generous gift of underwriting the entire cost, would be an amazing way for us to start the new fiscal year.

Just put a note on your cheque that it's for the new computer, or send an e-transfer to Todd and we'll make sure the amount is added to your donations for this year.

Having the right tools in place ensures that we are taking the best possible care of our financial resources - your gifts!

Easter stories in glass



Long ago, church windows were known as the *Bible of the illiterate*. For those who couldn't read, windows were a way to learn and be reminded of scripture.

At St. James windows still delight us with their changing values as the light moves around the church.

The windows shown above are two of the oldest in the church. The image on the left shows Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Thursday before the crucifixion. Can you see the three disciples in the distance, their eyes growing heavy as they waited? As Jesus ponders his fate, the power of the Holy Spirit appears as a beam of light to strength and uphold him. Here Jesus presents us with a tangible symbol of being prepared to do God's will.

The window on the right portrays the angel guarding the entrance to the empty tomb who spoke to those arriving on that first Easter morning. In the Gospel of Luke the angel says "Why are you looking among the dead for the one who is alive? He is not here, he has been raised."

In the far distance you can see the hill of Calvary with its three empty crosses.

Other symbols worked into this window are the flames of the holy Spirit on top of the angels head, the palm branch in its hand, and the lily and fleur-de-lis flowers, symbols of purity and royalty.

The windows memorialize the Judge and Evans families, early pioneers in the area.

Outreach project continues: Start your spring cleaning and help others!

There is still time to help with this project!

Last year this Kitchener-based organization sent cartons of school supplies, sewing and craft supplies and other items around the world. Items **do not** have to be new, but obviously have to be clean and in good shape, for examples, pens and markers that work!

What a great way to tackle your spring cleaning, knowing it will benefit someone else! While none of us have enough of these items as individuals to be of benefit, combined with the donations of others, our bits and pieces can really help!

How to participate:

Keep a list of the needed items on your fridge or somewhere suitable. Set up a box marked **Creating Smiles** and keep it handy as you clean your office, kitchen drawer, craft or store room. Place items in the box.

When you are done, deliver the box to: Elizabeth Morton, 20 Westview Cres., Palgrave L7E 0C3 and leave it on her front porch. Elizabeth has volunteered to take our donations to the charity office.

If you are unable to drive, please let Elizabeth Morton know at 905-880-2445 and arrangements will be made to collect your materials.

What Creating Smiles, Changing Hearts is looking for:

School/office supplies:

- notebooks, paper pads
- construction paper
- pencils, crayons, pencil crayons
- pens
- erasers, pencil sharpeners
- glue sticks
- scissors

Sewing supplies:

- fabric remnants
- elastic, Velcro, fasteners
 - safety pins, Straight pins
 - needles, thimbles
 - spools of thread
 - buttons
 - tape measures
 - quilt batting
 - trim (rick rack etc.)

Knitting and crocheting supplies:

- yarn
- needles, hooks
- embroidery floss
- Partially completed embroidery or other craft kits

Other items:

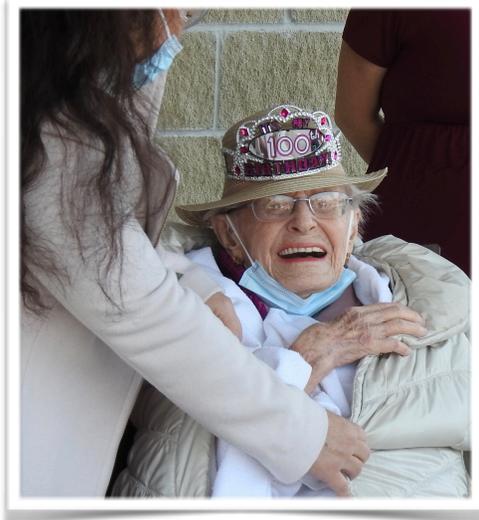
- old greeting cards
- old wrapping paper
- stickers
- beads
- small hand tools i.e. pliers

News & Views



The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

Archbishop Linda joined us on Feb. 28 with a special recorded sermon. She then joined our Zoom coffee hour for an interesting and far-ranging conversation ranging from cats, to Covid, to the future of the church. A friend of very long standing to Valerie and Howard Jones; Archbishop Linda is personable, down-to-earth and gracious.



June Laver's 100th Birthday - March 3

Parishioners helped June celebrate this momentous birthday by driving by her residence in decorated vehicles. Al Lawrie faced the bitter cold in his kilt to serenade this remarkable lady.

New group forming

Formed after passing a social justice motion at Vestry, this new group at St. James is in the initial stages of getting organized. Donna Davies has agreed to chair it, with members Chuck Davies, Amy Dow, Valerie Jones, Chris Mackey

In a world torn apart by ignorance, bigotry, injustice and intolerance, the need to be aware of our own feelings and biases has never been more urgent. And social justice issues do not just exist 'out there' - they are in our community. This group has an exciting time ahead as they help the parish learn and grow, and start to make a difference in the lives of others.

Please consider joining this important group - just let Donna know you're interested. All meetings are virtual at this point. Donna's email is listed below.

More contact info / changes

The Parish secretary, **Ruth Sowrey**, has been working from home but does monitor the answering machine in the office. She forwards messages to Fr. Chris.

Treasurer **Todd Hillhouse** can be reached on the office phone (905-584-9635) Tue. through Thursday, primarily in the morning. Email treasurer@stjamescaledoneast.ca

Churchwardens **Howard, Shane and Diane** can be reached using wardens@stjamescaledoneast.ca

Valerie Jones: Valerie.jones@live.com

Donna Davies: donnadavies@rogers.com

We are updating the parish list, so you may get a phonemail checking on the information we have for you. Thanks for your help in keeping our information current.

Stay in touch

Office Phone:
905-584-9635

Fr. Chris's email:

Priest-stjames
caledoneast@toronto.anglican.ca

Facebook:

St. James Anglican Church, Caledon East

(you don't need a Facebook account to see the page)

Web:

stjamescaledoneast.ca

The website has current information on:

- Upcoming services and how to access them
- How to donate to the church
- Links to special events

Mail:

6025 Old Church Road,
Caledon East ON.
L7C 1H8

St. James in the future

What is St. James going to look like after the pandemic? Who are we going to attract? How will we share our mission with people who don't come to church?

These and many other questions have been discussed for the last few months by the Leadership Team.

Called *Strategic Planning*, it's a process that general starts at the top, with a vision and mission statement, summary of values and then identifies key priority areas and goals for the coming year, or in this case, three years.

We all have a vague sense of what we want the church to look like in the future. We want it to be here, but more than that, to be financially stable and thriving with energy. Most people would probably agree that our mission is something along the lines of sharing the good news of the love of Jesus with others. Values include what we say during the Baptismal covenant renewal, what we believe as Anglicans, and how we are going to conduct our business as a church in Caledon.

Clarifying these concepts and coming up with the right words is challenging, but rewarding. Our plan is that by June you will have a draft plan to look at and comment on.

Our tag line 'in the heart of the village' is not going to change. It captures our small town identity, which is our strength.

Flowing from the Strategic Plan will be a variety of other documents to help us move forward, including an in-depth look at how we promote the church and its activities, a stewardship plan to build a strong financial future, and more.

All of us are yearning for the day when church resumes its pre-Covid status. The introverts in the parish might keep to a wave instead of a peace hug, and that's ok! Zoom meetings will continue as a way to save time and the environment. But for the most part, we long to gather as a family, to sing and rejoice together. Not to mention how much we look forward to that great perked coffee every Sunday.

Much is being written about how this time apart is reshaping churches.

Here's some interesting food for thought from Carey Nieuwhof. He says that **five things guarantee a church will be in decline five years from now:**

- Betting everything on people returning to the pews
- Measuring success by the number of people in the pews
- Viewing on-line worship as an afterthought, or 'lesser' form of worship
- Seeking feedback from their own 'echo-chamber', reinforcing pre-existing ideas.
- Retreating to their 'old familiar' format of worship.

As we craft our Strategic Plan, we are taking these warnings seriously. We have a wonderful legacy and tradition of worship in our beautiful church, which will not be abandoned. But thinking outside the box (i.e. church walls) is definitely the thing to do for 2021 and beyond.