



St. James Church

In the Heart of the Village

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Advent 2022

News & Views

Advent and Christmas are special seasons at St. James.

My favourite childhood memory is of Christmas Eve services, usually held at 11 pm. Whatever parties were underway in parishioners' homes (ours included) were wrapped up around 10. My dad might have one more rum and coke, just to loosen his vocal cords, before going out to warm up the car. The first year I was allowed to stay up and come to church for this service was remarkable, as it meant I was no longer a child.

In those days, the church was packed. A combination of parishioners, both regular and seasonal; their extended families; people with

weekend homes in the area and some villagers who only attended Christmas Eve filled the pews, and there were years where extra chairs were brought in at the last minute.

Those voices, lifted in familiar Christmas carols filled me with joy and a sense of belonging to something larger than my own family. My hope is that you will get the same feeling this year at St. James. Please plan to attend all the wonderful services and events being planned for this sacred time of the year.

—Diane

A word or two from Michelle



Each year we are offered this season of Advent. While Advent can seem like a time of remembering the coming of Jesus at Christmas, and become a time of Christmas preparation, it is really about individual preparation for Jesus to come more intimately during these four weeks. The activity and the work of Advent can be – if we let it – about discovering where Jesus needs to come, in each of us.

During Advent I try and examine the places in my heart where Jesus is missing: where his style, his way and his heart are not like mine. It is an opportunity to feel the absence; to feel the emptiness; or perhaps the shallowness of certain places in my heart. The beginning of the Advent experience is to allow myself to enter into an experience of missing something and of longing for something to replace it. It is important not to skip over this step. To pray, "Come, Lord Jesus" without knowing what I am asking for depreciates the power of that ask. *I am inviting you to join me in this crucial work.*

One way to help ourselves be more concrete and specific, is to journal our preparations. There are some key questions we should ask of ourselves: What is feeling "empty" in me? Where do I feel I've not let Jesus into my heart? In what areas might I have walled him out? Into what pain, loneliness, fear or anger have I not invited him?

When I start naming my responses, I can begin to feel a longing. I can imagine how much happier I would be if I let myself express a desire to welcome Jesus into those spaces where I need him; where I need healing and renewal; where I need His comfort and peace.

Bishop Andrew Asbil is offering a series of four Advent reflections on video this year

that will help us do this deep work. "**Light One Candle**" explores the four themes of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. Bishop Asbil invites us to examine with him, in our own hearts what each of these themes means for us. Each video is about 15 minutes long and includes moments to pause and consider particular questions or ideas. You will find each installment on our church website. The link will also be included in our weekly What's Happening email.

As we do the work of Advent we will begin to say "Come, Lord Jesus" in a new way – with genuine hope and expectation, with deep desire, with feeling and energy.

When our desire meets God's desire for us, something we call "grace" happens. The gift is given where we are most receptive to receive it. Our desire for Jesus to fill us will make Advent a season that truly is about the Incarnation – the coming of Jesus, in the fleshy reality of our day-to-day life.

Our desire for Jesus will get us to the manger and the reality of the fact that the One who came then, is here to come again – into the same poverty and with the same welcome with which Mary and Joseph received him with trust and hope. "Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"





Advent & Christmas Services

Return to masking in church — based on current advice from the Diocese and public health, we are requesting people wear a mask inside the church and hall. Let's do this for each other!

November 27 : First Sunday in Advent

December 4: Last Sunday to remove a tag from the Advent Tree

December 11: Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols

Sat. December 17: 2 pm NEW! Blue Christmas - a special service for people experiencing grief and loss and/or who find this a difficult time of year. Share this with anyone you know who might need some special care this Christmas season.

December 24: 7 pm. Christmas Eve at St. James

December 25: 10:00 am Christmas Morning at St. James

Friday, Jan. 6: Epiphany House Blessing and pot luck supper - see website for details

Continuing:

Tuesdays at Muriel's house: *Mat making* workshops

Wednesdays at noon: *Eucharist* followed by brown bag lunch at St. James

Wednesdays at 6 pm: *Candles at 6.*

Thursdays at 9 pm - *Prayers at the end of the Day* with Diane on Facebook

Fridays at 10:00 am via Zoom: *Lectio Divina*, a contemplative look at scripture, only half an hour and no need to turn your mike on.

Check the website for the zoom link.

Check the website for up to date information:

www.stjamescaledoneast.com

Outreach - Valerie Jones

Caring For Others, Here, Near and Far

*Following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, we will endeavour to help those in need **Here** in our Parish family and in our community, those **Near** our community and those who live in Canada or in other parts of the world **Far** away.*

We will also advocate for an equitable distribution of resources among members of our society.

Fundraising for Pakistan

In response to the catastrophic flooding and famine in Pakistan, Outreach mounted a donation campaign through Faithworks. Chairperson Valerie Jones reported that more than \$1200 was raised in four weeks. Thank you everyone!

Advent Giving Tree

In what has become a St. James' tradition, the Advent Giving Tree is already up and decorated with green and purple tags.

Each tag has the name of either the Elizabeth Fry Society, or Choices Youth Shelter. Please purchase a Walmart gift card in whatever amount you can afford, plus a gift of something delicious as a treat. Place your gifts in a gift bag and attach the tag so it goes to the right place.

Gift bags to be back at St. James by Dec. 4th in order for delivery and distribution.

St. James has been a faithful supporter of these charities for years, and our gifts are appreciated. Please consider the less fortunate this year, especially given the current economic hardships.

82 Mats and Counting!

The ground is a hard and unforgiving place on which to try to sleep. Using plastic which would otherwise go to waste, a group of dedicated women have been making waterproof and cushiony mats for distribution where there is need.

The mat group is meeting for 'Mat & Chat' on Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30 - 4:30 at Muriel's house, 17390 Mount Pleasant Road. No craft skills are required, but if you would like to know more, please contact Muriel through the church office.

Supervisor Rosie the Lab will be happy to add you to the team!



Anniversary Plans



As a parish we will be celebrating 175 years of faith during 2023. Although the church building is 'only' 122 years old, the parish existed as early as 1848. In those early years the faithful gathered in a small frame church, which was built on the land now used as our cemetery.

Anniversary committee chair David Finch, and members Claire Olorenshaw, Ruth Sowrey, Howard Jones and Mother Michelle have been busy planning several special events and services.

You will soon see the anniversary logo appear on most of our communication pieces, as well as a new banner for the front of the church.

By the time you read this the 175th Anniversary Commemorative Calendar might be available. The full colour calendar features photographs from the St. James archives, as well as listing special services and Holy Days. The calendars will be a great gift for friends and family, as well as a useful addition to your home office.

Fall Events



Pet Blessing

Oct. 4, 2022



Mother Michelle and Leo welcomed a variety of dogs to the Animal Blessing service. All were very well behaved, and Leo has invited everyone to come back next year, and bring a friend!

Thanks to **David Feed and Farm Supply** for the complementary bird seed we gave all the humans.

Secret meaning of the 12 days of Christmas?

Written around 1780, the Twelve Days of Christmas has evolved over time, with regional differences in lyrics appearing in the U.K.

One interesting interpretation of the lyrics we know is that the words artfully disguising elements of the catechism (a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used primarily for teaching children). Each element in the carol can be connected to one of these principles.

1. Partridge in a pear tree = Jesus Christ
2. Two turtle doves = Old and New Testaments
3. Three French hens = faith, love & hope
4. Four calling birds = the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
5. Five golden rings = the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Torah or Law
6. Six geese a-laying = six days of creation
7. Seven swans a-swimming = the gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, contribution, leadership and mercy.
8. Eight maids a-milking = the eight Beatitudes
9. Nine ladies dancing = the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
10. Ten lords a-leaping = ten commandments
11. Eleven pipers = eleven faithful disciples
12. Twelve drummers = the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.



The history of carols and carolling

The word carol means dance, or song of praise and joy, and as such carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago as pre-Christians/pagans marked the Winter Solstice.

Early Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus around the time of the Solstice, and replaced the pagan songs with more appropriate songs. In 129 AD, a Bishop in Rome said that a song called 'Angel's Hymn' should be sung at a Christmas service. Most early carols were written and sung in Latin, not the every day language of people, and by the middle ages many people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with turning things around in 1223, when he started his nativity plays in Italy. The people sang songs or canticles that told the story of the plays, usually in the vernacular language of the area.

The earliest carol of this type of which a fragment exists, was written in 1410, and the theme was Mary and Jesus meeting different people in Bethlehem.

Carols were often sung in homes, rather than churches, giving rise to the tradition of carollers going from place to place.

Carols became part of the Christmas canon during Victorian times, when old Christmas music was collected from English villages. Inexpensive printing of song sheets, and the fact that most people could read, led to widespread enjoyment. Many new carols were written during this period, such as Good King Wenceslas, and carols moved from the streets into churches.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols survives in the Anglican Church and for many churches is a highlight of the Advent season. Through the progression of scripture readings and Advent carols, participants are taken on an aural trip from Old Testament prophecy to the birth of

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first created and performed in 1880. It has since been made famous by King's College Cambridge.

The now-familiar format of the service came to be in 1919 when the Dean of King's College, changed the opening hymn/carol of be Once in Royal David's City. The BBC first broadcast the service on the radio in 1928, and with one exception had done so every year since then, even during WW2.



Once in royal David's City stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God
and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly, liven on earth
our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own
redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in
Heav'n above,
and he leads his children on to the place where he
is gone

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen
standing by we shall see him, but in heaven set at
God's right hand on high.
Then like stars, his children crowned, all in white,
his praise will sound.

*Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895, author of
over 400 hymn texts.*

www.whychristmas.com for more information

St. James said a fond farewell to **Joe Campbell** in October. Joe was a long time parishioner and held many roles over the years including property manager. Our deepest condolences to Ruth and Joe's family.



Earlier this fall we also mourned the loss of **Stan Craig**, who joined wife Edna in eternal rest.

Allan Lawrie played the bagpipes during our Remembrance Day service on November 13. The traditional piper's lament adds a touching element to our service.

Pass it along! - we mail the newsletter so you can read it at your leisure and share it with a neighbour or friend. Please help us promote St. James to the community.

Stay in touch

Office Phone:

905-584-9635

Visit:

Tue. - Thur.: 9 - 1 pm

Rev. Michelle'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 and links to special events.

Instagram:

@stjamescaledoneast

Mail:

6025 Old Church Road,
Caledon East ON
L7C 1H8