

ADVENT 2019



Christmas Message

Matthew 21:1–13

Friends, during this season of Advent, the Lord Jesus Christ *draws near* to us. He approaches this congregation of St. James and each one of our hearts.

When the Lord Jesus drew near to the city of Jerusalem, the crowds were *stirred-up* with excitement (Matt. 21:10) – and we too are right to be excited, expectant and joyous. There could be nothing better than the coming of Our Lord to set things right and make things new in this world, in our church, and in our lives.

But as we know from our own home renovations or spring cleanings, setting things right and making things new in our houses involves some temporary disruption and rearranging!

Christ comes to the temple of our body to *overturn* our inner furniture (Matt. 21:12). Our body is His house, for He made it. He knows how it ought to be inhabited so that we may flourish and dwell securely. We were designed and made to live in a continuous, interactive conversation with the living God; and so our body is to be a *house of prayer*. But all too often we make it a *den of thieves* (Matt. 21:13). So Christ lovingly comes to drive out those things in our lives that steal us away from prayer, from worship, and from offering ourselves to His service.

To this end, I want to thank everyone who participated in our recent series on Prayer, either by coming to church on Sundays, reading the study book on your own, or attending our weekday small group sessions. I am delighted by your enthusiasm for deepening your prayer lives. Such spiritual growth will continue to be among our highest priorities going forward. I would encourage all of you to participate in our Advent series by reading Ann Voskamp's The Greatest Gift: unwrapping the full love story of Christmas. This beautifully written book consists of Bible readings, reflections, prayers and practical tips for each day of Advent and we'll be meeting on Wednesdays to discuss it together. Copies are now available in the church office for \$15.

So Christ comes in love to rearrange us as individuals. In the same way He comes to us as a congregation here at St. James. Together we are His temple and house of prayer; and as most of you know, His renovating and rearranging work has already

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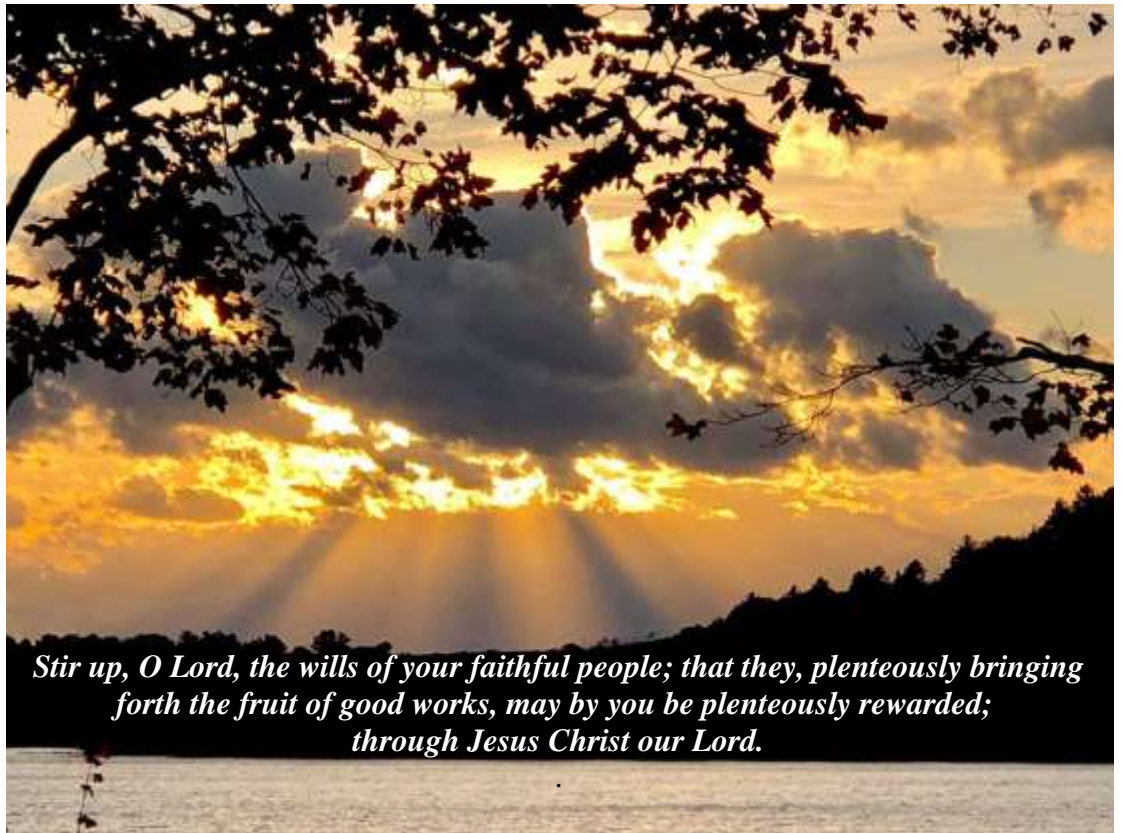
begun! We are in the midst of a \$25,000 capital campaign to restore our church's roof and stained glass windows. Thanks to your great generosity, we have already raised over half of that goal. If you've been around the church, you will have noticed that the work has begun, but has now been delayed by poor weather. Thus both the campaign and the renovation work will continue into 2020.

From now until the end of 2019, our highest financial priority is to receive our budgeted amount of general purpose offerings. Like most Anglican churches, we typically receive one-fifth of our annual offerings in the month of December alone – and this year will be no different. You'll see weekly financial updates in the bulletin over the next month. Your contributions of any amount are greatly valued.

Of course, our church building and finances are means to the much greater end of showing forth *the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ* (2 Corinthians 4:6). As we prepare to celebrate His birth among us, I invite you to join us for our journey to Christmas. We have many exciting special events and services planned from now until the end of December. You can find information about them in this newsletter and on our new website (stjamescaledoneast.ca).

In Advent hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C Dow" with a small cross symbol above the letter "w".



Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Beech Lake, Haliburton Highlands – Carol Moffatt



Wardens' Report

Well it certainly seems that Old Man Winter has taken up his abode in Caledon East, and is looking comfortable enough to settle in for the long haul!

The good news though is that Mary is back to play the Organ after her surgery and is looking well.

And, we have now received the final audited statements for 2018, and there were no issues or serious concerns raised by the auditors in their report. We think we have to accept a large part of the reasons for the delay this year, but some delays did arise due to a shuffle at the senior level at BDO. We should all congratulate Todd for his efforts in getting a handle on our books and bringing them back to a state of order ready for the auditors' investigations. We have also discussed with our auditors what we both can do to ensure we have Final Audited Statements available for you for the Vestry Meeting at the end of February.

At our Special Vestry Meeting to review the Audited Financial Statements for 2018, a question was asked about the funds being held by the Diocese and invested on our behalf. Were the Fund Managers at the Diocese using Ethical Investing principles? The Wardens undertook to review the Diocesan practices.

The following clause in the Canons applies to the Fund Managers:

3.2 Corporate Social Responsibility

The Fund shall be invested in companies that are socially responsible in the following areas:

- the rights and needs of such companies' employees
- the economic development of the communities in which the companies engage in one or more facets of their businesses
- the social and environmental condition of the communities
- the social value of such companies' products
- the manner in which the companies market their products

The Fund is to be invested in accordance with these guidelines even in the absence of special instructions.

We hope this answers your concerns on this matter.

You will have all seen our Restoration Guy at work on the Church roof in the past few weeks, although Old Man Winter has temporarily stopped him. He is certainly thorough and very accommodating to work around our schedules for the Daycare and our Renters. The Roof Restoration Campaign started in November with a target of \$25,000. So far we have received just over \$15,000, for which we are truly grateful. Diane Allengame has come up with a wonderful idea to help the campaign. She has gathered some old glass from the old Bell Tower windows and Al Lawrie has fashioned these into small crosses – who knew he was so talented! – which will be a gift for a donation of \$100 to the Roof fund.

We had quite a day at the polling station in the Church Hall for the Federal Election in October. Everything was moving along smoothly in the morning until suddenly the fire alarm went off! Two large fire trucks arrived and the firemen checked the place





A cup of coffee or tea with God

As you cradle the cup, feel the warmth in your fingers. "Thank you, God, for the gift of heat in all its forms."

Inhale the aroma. "Thank you, God, for your gift of creation, where tea and coffee plants flourish."

Sip slowly. "Thank you, God, for the people who tended the plants, harvested and processed the plant material. Help me to find ways to source ethically produced tea and coffee."

"Thank you for the people who produced this tea/coffee, packaged it, shipped it, and put it in the store. And for my ability to buy it."

out and could not find anything amiss. The Daycare had evacuated while we encouraged people arriving to vote that it was OK to enter and do their civic duty! It was quite entertaining! We did have the fire equipment contractor in to check everything out but they did not find anything wrong. Then in November it went off again disturbing the Bridge club this time. Again no fire was detected, but this time Todd was briefed on what to do to ensure all of the sensor reports were available for the contractor. Hopefully we have fixed the problem but time will tell! During our annual inspection of the heating and ventilation equipment, the contractor discovered that a heat exchanger on the roof of the Hall is badly pitted and rusted. This could lead at some time to carbon monoxide leaking into the office and gathering spaces if it ever gave way. We have therefore contracted to get it replaced in the very near future.

We look forward to seeing all of you for our wonderful Advent and Christmas services.

As always, we are pleased to serve as your Wardens,

David and Claire

Women's Advent Retreat

By Diane Allengame

Finding more time for God in a busy woman's day was the theme of our 4th annual Women's Retreat, held on November 2.

The Rev. Jean Leckie, minister at Heart Lake United Church, led the morning with her insightful and engaging talk about prayer. There were many smiles when Jean admitted that although she is an ordained minister, she finds daily personal prayer challenging. Jean helped us to be comfortable with our uncomfortable feelings around prayer, and stressed that we must find something that works for us as individuals.

One of the scripture readings was the familiar Martha and Mary story; in which Martha is flustered and overwhelmed by feeling she had to prepare food for Jesus and his followers whilst Mary sat and listened to Jesus teach. Jean pointed out that Jesus didn't admonish Martha for her preparations, just for her anxiety and attitude towards her sister. Women's lives are complex, and the message for me from this was 'do what you need to do, but do it with humility and don't become anxious.'

After a delicious lunch of homemade soup, the group moved through four electives, all based on prayer. The church was open for private prayer and candle-lighting (with Joanne Redhead's cd playing in the background); the Rev. Wendy Moore (former incumbent at St. James) prayed with individuals in the Whike Room; I led a 'tech talk' on Bible study and prayer apps; and those who wanted a more social time met in the hall to decorate their prayer journals.

Another great retreat – thanks to everyone who helped this year, and Joanne's leadership in previous years.

Let the drink warm and fill you.

"Thank you, God, for filling me with love, hope and the desire to have a good day. With your help, I will do my best. And I know that's all you ask."

As you finish, take a moment to reflect on emptiness.

"Thank you, God, for this gift of time and for listening to me. Help me to remember that the cup is useless without the drink; so too I must be filled with good things before I can be of use to others."

AMEN and if you need another cup, go for it!

News & Views is a newsletter for the people of St. James Church. It is published four times per year – Lent, Pentecost, Fall and Advent.

For submissions in the newsletter:

Any member of the Parish of St. James Church may submit an article for the newsletter.

To do so, email newsletter@stjamescaledoneast.ca

or leave your articles in writing or on a CD in the newsletter box at the church office. Articles are considered, based on space availability and relevance.

Thank you for your submission.

Donna Davies, Editor

Next Newsletter: Lent 2020

Deadline: February 9, 2020

Publication: February 23, 2020

Bell Tower Boutique

Drop by and do some Christmas shopping – new items weekly!

Since the summer the Boutique has been open every Wednesday, thanks to Ann Allengame. A smart red sign outside alerts passers-by that the room is open.

Proceeds from the room are supporting our Outreach program. Thank you to everyone who has donated items, and of course, our loyal shoppers. Drop by for great bargains on beautiful Christmas items, not to mention our vast library of used books, perfect for post-Christmas reading.

The Advent Giving Tree 2019



St. James Church will once again be going shopping for presents to provide some Christmas joy to others during this holiday season. The Advent Tree is set up by the pulpit in the church and is covered with colourful green, yellow and red tags! Each tag has a list of items to buy for someone at one of the charity organizations we support – The Bridge Prison Ministry in Brampton, the Elizabeth Fry Society of Halton/ Peel and Choices Youth Shelter in Orangeville (information about these organizations is found on the internet).

Here's how the Advent Tree program works:

- Choose one or more tags from the tree and take it with you when you go shopping
- **Once you've purchased your items, put them in a Christmas gift bag and securely attach the red, yellow or green card to the bag
- Bring your present to church and place it under the Advent Tree no later than Sunday, December 15th (for the Bridge, no later than December 8th – tags for the Bridge have Men's shampoo on them)
- We will be giving the gift bags to 20 young women or girls at Elizabeth Fry, 10 men at the Bridge and 20 youth at Choices. If you take a tag, please bring it back with a present so that no one is forgotten at Christmas time.

Thank you for your participation in this worthwhile program.
Your Outreach team

Sad News

We are sorry to let you know that our former Warden, Treasurer and long-time parishioner, Carl Kinzinger, has passed away.

The service was held on Saturday the November 30th at the church of St. John, Port Hope.

St. James is thankful for Carl's many contributions to the life of this church. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sandy and his family.

THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY REMEMBERS

Join us on December 8 at the 10:30 service for another interactive Nativity story. This year we go on another journey to Bethlehem, but this time through the eyes of the *Little Drummer Boy* and those he encounters. This play was also written especially for St. James and features some of our parish 'characters.'

If you have school-aged grandchildren, this would be a great Sunday to bring them. They can wear a costume if they wish, and there are no lines to learn. If you are bringing your grandkids please have them at the church at 10 a.m. sharp.

The hymns, prayers and the play will replace our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 8.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM – FACT OR FICTION?

Did it really happen? What astronomical phenomena could have caused it?

Why did the wise Men interpret it as signifying the birth of the King of the Jews?

These questions are addressed in an illustrated talk show presented by Space Exploration Engineer Howard Jones.

December 13, at 7 p.m. at St. James with refreshments and time to discuss after.

All are welcome – Come and bring your friends and family.





CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1– Advent One

9 a.m. **Service** –10:30 a.m. **St. Andrew’s Day Celebration with Highland Band** Gifts for the Advent Tree

Sunday, December 8 - Advent Two

9 a.m. **Service** – 10:30 a.m. **“The Little Drummer Boy Remembers” Pageant** Gifts for the Advent Tree

Friday, December 13 – 10 a.m. - Decorating the St. James Christmas Tree – all are welcome to help

Friday, December 13 – 7 p.m. The Star of Bethlehem – Fact or Fiction? – presented by **Howard Jones** – refreshments after

Sunday, December 15 - Advent Three -

9 a.m. **Service** – 10:30 a.m. – **Holy Communion**
Last day for gifts for the Advent Tree

2 p.m. - **Joint Community Christmas Concert and Carol Sing at the United Church. Please join us!**

Sunday, December 22 - Advent Four -

9 a.m. **Service** 10:30 **Lesson & Carols**

Tuesday, December 24 -CHRISTMAS EVE

7 p.m. **Traditional Family Candlelight Service**

Wednesday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

10 a.m. **Holy Communion with Carols**

Sunday, December 29 – 10:30 a.m. BAS Eucharist



**For unto you
is born this
day in the city
of David a
Saviour which
is Christ the
Lord.**

Luke 2:11



The People of St. James Invite You to Join Their Christmas Celebrations

*Joined by faith, recalling the past,
embracing the future*

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