

St. John's Presbyterian Church
1480 George Street in White Rock
November 12, 2017

Today's Greeter

Dr. Roy Strang



WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn Sing

"Channels Only"

"Take Time to be Holy"

Hymn 638

"Surely Goodness and Mercy"
Announcements

Greeting & Call to Worship

"Praise to The Lord, The Almighty"

Hymn 321

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture **1 Thessalonians 5 : 1 – 11** (pew Bible p. 1840)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Presentation

Sermon **"Maranatha"**

Prayers of the People

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Gathering of the Offering

Doxology

Hymn 830

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

"How Firm a Foundation"

Hymn 685

Charge & Benediction

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

Happy Birthday

Trish McDowell November 14

Margaret Neil November 15

Nico Putter November 17

Remember in Prayer:

Hazel Alden	Sandy Erickson	Jim McKee
Sylvia Bleeks	Helen Garvie	Anne McNaughton
George Boulet	Ruth Gowans	Carla Simpson
Pat Brown	Alex Lozanski	Margie Stager
Jean Chalcraft	Rod MacLeod	Pastor Willem
		Maxine Watson

Pastor Willem's Bible Study Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Studies on Israel continue next week on Tuesday,
Nov 14 at 10am and on Wednesday, Nov 15 at 7pm.

In-Home Bible Study held at the home of Barb Petticrew
Wednesday mornings at 10am. Our theme is 'Study of the
Trinity'. All are welcome!

SJP Outreach Committee are asking for donations for the
bake sale on Saturday, Nov 18. Please bring items on Friday,
Nov 17 between 5 and 6pm. Thank you for helping!

St. John's Monthly Matinee Concert on November 29

Plan to attend this Christmas themed concert and invite your
friends! Admission is by donation.

Bible Readings November 13 to November 19

Matthew 24 : 23 – 44; Matthew 24 : 45 – 25 : 13;
Judges 4 : 1 – 20; Judges 4 : 21 – 5 : 11a; Judges 5 : 11b – 31;
Matthew 25 : 14 – 30; 1 Thessalonians 3 : 6 – 4 : 12

Glen Soderholm, singer/songwriter from Guelph, ON will be performing in the Chapel of the Epiphany at VST Fri, Nov 17. Glen is an ordained Presbyterian minister, currently involved in a house church plant and is serving the wider church musically. This free concert will be a great way to move into Advent. All are welcome! Sponsored by VST (Vancouver School of Theology), St. Andrew's Hall and University Hill Congregation.

Session meets on Tuesday, November 28 at 7pm.

Help Needed! The Finance Committee is in urgent need of counters after each Sunday service. The task is not time consuming and support will be given. Please contact Rev. Willem or Nigel Potts if you are willing to assist. Your help is greatly appreciated.

St. John's Presbyterian Church

Worship with us at 10:30 on Sunday Mornings!

Afrikaans worship service Sunday, November 26 at 9am

Rev. Willem van der Westhuizen 604-535-3422
email: willem@saint-johns.ca

Clerk of Session Keith Leishman 604-531-0702
email: russleish@icloud.com

Music Director Reynhardt Crause 604-560-9373
email: reynhardt@saint-johns.ca

Admin Assistant Kimberly Wulkan 604-536-9322
email: office@saint-johns.ca

General Church Office Hours: Wed & Thu 9am – 3pm

St. John's Ladies Fellowship Updates

The Spirit of Giving in Our Community

This year the Ladies Fellowship in both St. John's and Anglican congregations have chosen to support a local community mission project for this Christmas season. We will support a single mother with five children by giving them a Christmas hamper with items for a Christmas dinner, as well as a few gifts for each of them and gift cards for groceries. Any gift items may be wrapped and labeled with gender and age. Please **do not wrap** stocking items such as candy, pens, stickers, nail polish, etc. and non-perishable food. Some airline points and coupons are good ways to receive discounts or free items. If you wish to participate, we will be collecting items in a marked box in the narthex on Sundays in November through December 3. If you prefer to give a monetary donation through St. John's, mark the 'Special' line of your envelope 'Christmas Hamper'. All donations are greatly appreciated!



Wish List, Gift Ideas and Items Needed:

Age 4 Girl: Princess / girly items, Barbie, "Hatchimal", preschool toys.

Age 10 Boy: Lego, super heroes, loves history and inventors.

Age 12 Girl: Craft kits, Google gift card, loves to paint and draw.

Age 18 Boy: PS4 gift card, Marvel.

Age 20 Boy: Amazon gift card, remote control items.

Mom: Bath & Body Works or Lush products.



Stocking Stuffer Ideas: Pens, felts and/or pencil crayons, socks, mitts, gloves, candy canes, chocolate, gum, nail polish, stickers, men's razors, deodorants, lotions, soaps, body wash gel, blender (black), mixer (black), hair dryer/diffuser.

A generous church member has offered to purchase new waterproof jackets for each child for Christmas. THANK YOU!!

Next Ladies Fellowship Meeting will be this Tuesday, Nov 14 at noon. Bring a lunch and join us for a time of fellowship and mission. All are welcome!



From Your Clerk . . . Many of you who have attended St. John's over the last number of years have no doubt noticed the gradual shrinking of the congregation as many of our long-time congregants have died or moved. Unfortunately, this drain has not been offset by an influx of new attendees. This trend has had a negative effect on the church finances, which have continued on a downward trend, presenting a growing challenge in meeting church expenses.

This has not gone unnoticed by the leaders of St. John's. Rev. Willem, the Session and its Finance Committee have wrestled with these growing trends and have, over the past years, attempted to reduce operations costs of the church and to increase income. This, however, has not been sufficient to overcome the downward slide. On the positive side, St. John's continues to be a positive influence in White Rock and the surrounding area with ministry and outreach programs that touch the lives of many. From our Sunday worship and Bible study programs to our long-running Friday Lunch Hut, our wide range of music outreach events and our ongoing initiatives focused on bringing God's word to the community through the sharing of our facilities with other Christian congregations, we make our presence felt. It is the firm belief of your church leaders that God has a plan for St. John's; He just has not yet revealed it to us.

In the meantime, at its September 2017 meeting, Session decided that the continuing financial and ministry concerns at St. John's warranted a request to the Presbytery of Westminster for advice and direction relating to our current

situation. As part of this initiative, Session also asked that Presbytery carry out a formal visitation at St. John's wherein congregation members and church leaders will have the opportunity to express their comments and views relating to our ministry here in the White Rock area. Some of you may recall participating in the last such visitation in November 2014. The formal request to Presbytery was sent on October 20 and Session will ensure that the congregation is kept apprised of further developments.

In these anxious times Reverend Willem, the Elders and I would ask that everyone bear in mind God's message to the Israelites, in exile in Babylon at the time, which is contained in Jeremiah 29 : 11:

“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the Lord,
“plans to prosper you and not harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”

We just need to keep praying to God that He will make his plans apparent to us in the near future.

Keith Leishman
Clerk of Session

Remembrance Day Prayer

The Rev. Peter Bush, Moderator, 143rd General Assembly



God of peace, your Son declared,
"Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called
the children of God."

We confess that as human race we have not lived up to Jesus' call,
for we settle our differences by fighting
and resort to violence and the threat of violence
when confronted by enemies.

Your son wept over Jerusalem, saying
"If only they had known the way to peace."

We do not know the way to peace.

We desire peace, even as we arm people to fight for us.

We recoil from the horrors of war, even as we ask people to prepare
to go to war, putting themselves in harms' way for us.

We are a deeply conflicted people.

During this week of Remembrance Day,
we remember those who fought and died for their country.

We thank you for their bravery.

We remember those who served and returned home; and those who
served and returned home wounded physically and psychologically.

We thank you for their willingness to serve.

Grant to all those who have fought in war,
your comfort and healing of body and mind.

We recognize that in Canada there are people who at one time fought
against other people who now also live in this country.

God of compassion, teach us to mourn all deaths and injuries
caused by war, regardless of which side the losses were on.

Help us in our families to teach the next generation to see in our
neighbours, not people we once fought against,
but instead people we are invited to befriend.

We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus Christ,
the Prince of Peace.

Amen.