

Advent



# Salt & Light

Newsletter for Anglican Deacons Canada: December 2021

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## Yearning

*Submitted by Canon Deacon Nancy Ford*

*Editor's Note: Nancy submitted this excerpt from a longer poem she wrote a few years ago. The photograph is also an original submitted by Nancy.*

## Yearning

The long dusk stirs craving for sunlight covered days  
Beginnings and endings are silhouettes in the fading light

Within the darkness Advent unfolds its ancient pattern

Long treasured, illusive, unpredictable  
Spirit soaked words pierce the expected

Creation waits for a new song  
Love has come, again



## A Reconciliation Walk

*Submitted by Deacon Evelyn Butler*

This fall the Deacons of the Parkdale-West Toronto Deanery and the York-Credit Valley Episcopal Area, with support from the National Film Board of Canada, presented the second season of, "A Reconciliation Walk". This series of conversations aims to be open to the voices of Indigenous people through stories, movies, and discussions, and so guide us in genuine reconciliation.

The season's theme is "Every Child Matters". The first event was held on Thursday, September 16th with a discussion of the film, "We Were Children". The film was co-presented by the National Film Board of Canada with discussion facilitated by the Rev. Leigh Kern, Diocesan Right Relations Coordinator, Diocese of Toronto.



The second event, October 14, focused on the impact of the Residential School System on families and communities. Filmmaker, Dennis Alan was present to discuss his film, "Crazywater". The Rev. Samantha Caravan dialogued with Dennis about the film and facilitated a question and answer session.

One of the most acclaimed Indigenous directors in the world, Alanis Obomsawin discussed her filmmaking and in particular her film, "We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice" on November 4. The Rt. Rev. Rsyncilla Shaw moderated this event.

Two more sessions scheduled for January 13 and February 10, 2022 will include a presentation from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. Registration is through the Diocese of Toronto's website under Upcoming Events and will be open in early January for the January 13 Session and late January for the February 10 session. <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/>

**For more information regarding the series please contact either:**

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## Deacons and the Future of Expanding Ministry

*Submitted by Archdeacon Kyn Barker*

Yes, COVID has been restrictive, preventing me from going to in person conferences, but the CEEP Network [ceepnetwork.org](https://www.ceepnetwork.org), a consortium of Episcopalian churches and organizations have been offering quite incredible learning opportunities. "Deacons and the Future of Expanding Ministry" was skillfully facilitated by Deacon Tracie Middleton, AED President. In JUST ONE HOUR presentations were offered by groups in Washington, DC, Amarillo, Texas and Massachusetts. Cost to me was \$0.

Jac Essing - Deacon, and Doug Fisher - Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts talked about **encouraging and supporting young deacons**. How do existing structures NOT work for 20-30 year olds who are "transitional people" who do not have permanent residence and whose jobs are temporary.

Yoimel Gonzalez Hernandez – Dean of Latino Deacon's School and Sue von Rautenkranz- Archdeacon, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C. talked **about Spanish –language deacon discernment and formation**. Something we should be considering Canada as well!

Courtney Jones - Deacon, and Jared Houze-Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; Amarillo, Texas described a parish with SIX (yes 6!) deacons, all with different charisms and all working together; "more servants, more voices, more diakonia; more of a, disturbance of deacons." I was really interested in how the rector described his style as "**decentralization of leadership**." He builds and support a culture of permission and not control.



This was the second of a series. The first included an excellent history of the diaconate, and both are posted on <https://www.ceepnetwork.org/vocation/> See also a webinar on Deacons' Preaching: posted on CEEP's YouTube channel here: <https://youtu.be/NL-1UcdKe5M>

Thanks to Tracie Middleton for the excellent organizing work.

### ADC 2022 Membership

By joining *Anglican Deacons Canada* (ADC) you support the work to strengthen the Order of Deacons within the Anglican Church of Canada. ADC does this through our website, Facebook page and Facebook Discussion Group, through shared learning and networking at our triennial conference, by researching current practices in deacon formation and deployment and promoting best practices, and by educating the Church about deacons and our collective call as followers of Jesus to service and witness.

Membership details are available on our website: [anglicandeacons.ca](https://anglicandeacons.ca)

### General Synod Member and Appointment

**Congratulations to Deacon Canon Claudette Taylor** who was elected to serve on General Synod which will be held in 2022 and was appointed Canon. Claudette Taylor is Deacon at the Church of the Epiphany & St. Mark, Parkdale where she has had a long and fulfilling association. She was married at the church, and her two children were baptized and confirmed there. Both served as acolytes and one was also a chorister. Claudette served as Envelope Secretary, Priest Warden, Social Ministry Coordinator, Lay Minister, Anointer, and the Ambassador of Reconciliation. Her passion is the gospel message of social justice and her diaconal ministry reflects her belief in the inclusivity of the good news. Her ministry focuses on supporting justice for the Indigenous peoples and Blacks as well as any marginalized groups. In June 2019 she received recognition at the Association for Episcopal Deacons Conference in Rhode Island.





**ADC Conference**  
*Submitted by Canon Deacon Nancy Ford*

This was a historic conference. It was our first virtual conference. It was the first time we were privileged to be able to welcome Lutheran Deacons from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and their National Bishop, the Reverend Susan Johnson to our gathering. We officially changed our name from the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada (AADC) to Anglican Deacons Canada (ADC).

The conference theme:

**“Deacons in a Pandemic and its Aftermath”** touched the reality of those who attended. The conference was planned and ably hosted by the College of Deacons in the Diocese of Niagara with some assistance from the board of ADC and Lutheran Deacon Scott Knarr.

The unique relationship between Deacons and Bishops was highlighted by the presence of the Anglican Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, the ELCIC National Bishop Rev. Susan Johnson, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Niagara, the Right Reverend Susan Bell. Archbishop Linda gave the keynote address. It was passionate and challenging. She said the narrative some might still hold about the church and its historic relationship with political and social prestige is no longer true. We are a small church that is called to live into a time of diakonia. The primate noted that with the renewal of the diaconate and the unequivocal statement from the Lambeth conference of 1968 that the diaconate was no longer considered an “inferior order”, Deacons have been preparing for and growing into what the church needs now. She said this had been preparation for this liminal time in the church.

***“We are and will be a church without influence and need to shed the millstone of colonial structures”.***

While deacons call the church to attention, this is also a time which calls for “a new and deepened servanthood of all.” She warned such servanthood is costly.

We need to ask questions: who is missing, whose voices are not heard, who have we not listened to? This discernment requires deep humility. It is a time of listening critically to the world and the church. The Primate used the image of the Deacon as a

foot in the door, pushing open and calling the faithful into service. The deacon, she said, observes, notices and names the disparities, the needs. “This is your moment. You must be our guide.” Her words were mirrored in the reflections of Bishop Susan Bell and Bishop Susan Johnson. Bishop Bell noted the work of Deacons is a work of knowing and relationship building. It is the work of building trust.

ELCIC Bishop Susan Johnson referred to the work done in the Lutheran church and the changes in language concerning deacons. She reminded us that all the baptised are called to “diakonia” through their baptism. Deacons are to lead and work to ensure the gospel is heard as good news. Deacons are living bridges. She also spoke of the desire in the ELCIC to “flatten the ministry of all in orders.”

Ted Dodd, president of Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC) shared information on the work of DOTAC through a brief presentation. Tracie Middleton, the president of the Association of Episcopal Deacons (AED) brought greetings from the association to the gathering.

Webinars followed up on the challenge of the Primate to listen for the unheard voices, to ask who is missing, and what erroneous assumptions are we making. Each presentation challenged us to consider our own perspectives and assumptions that get in the way of listening and appropriate action.

There were three services of worship. The first one was offered by the planning team from the Diocese of Niagara. We had an opportunity to re-engage with the practice of centring prayer. The second was from the Lutheran Deacons. It included the reflections of two deacons who shared stories of their ministries through the pandemic. One spoke movingly of her work in Long Term Care where so many contracted and died of Covid-19. The other spoke of the ways they found to continue social justice ministry during lockdown. The third was the closing liturgy; a service of evening prayer where the new president Lisa Chisholm-Smith preached. We prayed and listened to the clear call of diakonia in this very different time. The service ended with a new worship song video; “We seek your Kingdom” [https://youtu.be/vS\\_fCJJvVOY](https://youtu.be/vS_fCJJvVOY)

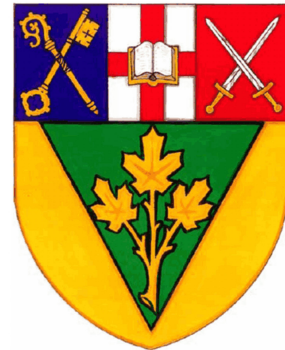
## **Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Deacon Meeting**

*Submitted by Archdeacon Kyn Barker*

Fifty deacons met with Archbishop Anne Germond on October 2, 2021 to hear an uplifting presentation offered by the Archbishop. Following the presentation deacons met in small ministry focussed groups for the purposes of learning together, offering support and prayer, as well looking for opportunities for increased collaboration. The areas of ministry included:

- Community Outreach and Support,
- Pastoral Care – Institutional,
- Pastoral Care – Parish,
- Prison Ministry, and two groups for
- Social Justice.

Opportunities to continue developing these relationships have already begun with a sharing of contact information and a commitment to the principles of working together in community.



## **A Christmas Poem...Reimagined**

*Submitted by Deacon Deb Wilson*

Telling the Christmas story to our younger generations is truly one of my most treasured ministries. Over the years, I have read the story directly from scripture, I have used written poems and narratives, props, and even live animals for a living nativity. More recently, I struggled to tell the story in such a way that honoured the cultural tradition of Middle Eastern hospitality as explained in Kenneth Bailey's book, "Jesus, Through Middle Eastern Eyes". For the last few years I have used the poem below and have reworked it to better reflect the idea that Jesus may not have been born in stable, but in a home. The poem is intended to be fun, inviting those who hear to participate with sound effects such as "knocking at a door" and "running feet" to get from one place to another.



I also enjoy adding fun facts such as, "Did you know that there is no mention as to how many kings came to visit? The story only tells us how many gifts they bring, which may be why we assume there are three."

I hope you enjoy this poem; perhaps you may find an opportunity to share it with the young and young at heart!

*Note: The poem I am sharing is one I found on the internet years ago, and can no longer find a link to offer the proper credit.*

## A Christmas Poem...Reimagined, cont'd

### *Submitted by Deacon Deb Wilson*

Hello and welcome to everyone here!  
It's lovely to see you at this time of year.  
Now we have a story we are going to tell,  
It's one from the bible; and we think it is swell.  
Imagine the stars: the countless constellations,  
Now picture the world, with many diverse nations,  
The animals, the plants, God made all of these things,  
And this is the story of when heaven and nature sings.

It starts with a young girl Mary is her name  
She was visited by Gabriel, an angel of some fame,  
Though not yet married, a mother she would become,  
To the Son of God, she would be his "mum".  
Now for Mary, you can imagine, it really was a surprise!  
But brave as she was, to the occasion did she rise.  
And Joseph in a dream, learned of the baby in the night,  
By Mary's side he would be the father of this one true light.

There once was an Emperor greedy for gold,  
More taxes, more money from the people he told!  
People were sent to their place of birth,  
By Emperor Caesar, a Roman of worth.  
Hey, all of your guys sitting around,  
You all should be to your home town bound!  
So people all travelled from miles around,  
Wishing that Caesar had never been crowned.

Now guess which two people feature quite heavily next,  
We'll tell you more, if you're feeling perplexed.  
You see this story is about a wonderful birth,  
It's why Christians celebrate Christmas on earth.  
Born to a couple named Joseph and Mary.  
They are off to Bethlehem now, so please do not tarry.

Mary and Joseph have arrived in Bethlehem town,  
After such a long journey, they just need to lie down!  
The time for Mary's baby to arrive; was any time soon,

So they looked for a room, Mary was starting to swoon.  
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!  
Hello, my name's Joseph, we've come a long way,  
Do you have a room where we could both stay?

The guest room is full, we've got no more space  
Thanks to Emperor Caesar,  
there are visitors all over this place!  
Joseph from Nazareth, of the house of David, you say?  
Of course, you will stay here, there is no need to pay.  
Our home is but a humble abode,  
Down below is a place for the donkey you rode.

Come in and sit down, women come hither,  
It looks like young Mary is ready to deliver!

So Mary and Joseph did as they said,  
The manger would just have to do for a bed.  
For on that night, in a home,  
Baby Jesus was born on this earth

With relatives and animals,  
God chose this special place for his birth.

On the very same night, on a hillside up high  
Some shepherds were watching their sheep by and by  
When all of a sudden, a dazzling bright light  
Burst through the sky in the darkness of night.  
The light was an angel; with a message of joy  
In the city of David, the birth of a boy.  
You will find him wrapped snugly, in a home, in a manger  
Admit it, this story gets stranger and stranger.

Then the heavens were filled with a beautiful sound  
As shepherds all listened from down on the ground  
A choir of angels sang with the stars in the sky  
"Peace on earth and to God be the glory on high"  
The angels and stars gave the shepherds a shock  
So the shepherds all gathered around by their flock  
Now the shepherds were frightened, this much is true  
But to Bethlehem they went, and their sheep,  
they went too.

They made haste on the way, so it didn't take long  
They told everyone the story, it could not be wrong  
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!  
We've come to see this new born King  
We do not have any gifts to bring

They saw the baby just as the angel had said,  
Asleep in a manger, and hay for his bed.  
The shepherds again told their story to everyone here,  
How God and the angels, this night, have come near.

Mary, in her heart treasured all of these things.

But the story is not over,  
because here come some Kings!

A star in the East, in the sky way up high,  
Has been leading these Kings along through the nigh.  
These Kings, they were wise, and knew that this star,  
Had a message for all, so they came from afar.  
KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!  
We've come from the East to worship the King,  
Glad tidings and royal gifts we do bring.  
There is gold in this chest, it is for your son,  
For we know that he is God's chosen One!  
We also bring myrrh, a bit like incense  
And something else, that is called frankincense!  
At the feet of the family, their gifts did they lay,  
Right here in this room, with the animals and hay.

Now it seems that our story has come to the end,  
But let's not forget the story extends.  
For on this very special night, God gave in great love,  
The gift of heaven on earth has come from above!

The End.