



we, being many, are one body...



Monday, November 17th, 2025

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122:1

Dear Friends in Christ in the Parish of the Valley,

Our psalm for the First Sunday of Advent opens with these words of joy: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" I was glad! This great joy resounds through the psalm as the writer, likely King David, recounts the joyous expectation of all of those who make pilgrimage to God's home, to God's presence.

In many ways, this joy echoes the joy that so many experience when we come together as a Christian community here in the Parish of the Valley. Whether it be for our gatherings for worship on Sundays and Wednesdays, Messy Church, Ladies and Men's groups, choir practices, bazaars, potlucks, soup and sandwich meals, or rummage sales: there is joy when God's children come together.

This gladness and joy in the presence of God is a balm in the midst of an anxious and overwhelmed world where it is far too easy to get caught up in the stress of sudden events that seem to threaten our well-being and the well-being of our society. Poetry like this psalm reminds us to look beyond the present reality to see something more hopeful and lovely. It encourages us to hold fast to the sure and certain hope that God comes to dwell amongst us and, through us, works to set the world to right.

Time and time again, you continue to prove the power of people coming together in Christ to love and care for this community. The Parish of the Valley's Advent Appeal is now entering its sixth year. Together over these last five years we have raised **\$85,000** to support the many and varied ministries of our local congregations. Each gift, big and small, is another opportunity for us to offer to God more than we could ever ask or imagine: in Messy Church, in sharing in the making and serving of food, in offering pastoral care to one another, in keeping the lights lit in

our churches and opening our doors for worship. Our Church and Parish Families are stronger when we come together in God's presence to magnify God's love and joy in our lives.

We know that many of you continue to experience extraordinary financial challenges brought on by the rising cost of living, and that an additional donation may not be possible at this time. Please know that if you find yourself in this position, that your parish family and clergy team are here for you, and we do not wish to add in any way to your burdens or anxiety.

If you are able, however, to offer added financial support to your local congregation as we work to share God's undeniable joy and love with all the world, we would be exceedingly grateful to receive your donation to this sixth annual Parish of the Valley Advent Appeal. An offering envelope, together with details about how you can support the Appeal, is enclosed with this letter. Every donation, no matter how big or how small, is gratefully received, and will faithfully be used to support the life and ministries of your Parish of the Valley congregation or chapel.

Friends, as we anticipate and celebrate this Advent, may we all experience the hope that God gives to God's children. Thank you for your faithful and unwavering support of your local congregations and our beloved Anglican Parish of the Valley as a whole. May we each know the joy of going to God's house and taking God's presence into our communities.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

The Reverend Matthew Brown
Incumbent

The Reverend Gillian Hoyer
Associate Incumbent

The Reverend Christine Muise
Associate Incumbent

The Reverend Nicholas Forte
Associate Incumbent



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There are multiple ways you can support your local Anglican congregation through the Parish of the Valley's Annual Advent Appeal

- 1. You can give to the Advent Appeal in person at your home congregation.*** Simply detach and complete the information slip below and place it in the enclosed envelope together with your donation. Envelopes can then be placed on the collection plate at your church.
- 2. You can contribute by mail using the enclosed envelope.*** *Please make your donation payable to your local Valley congregation* (i.e. please write your cheque to "Holy Trinity Pembroke," "Epiphany Barry's Bay," "All Saints Petawawa," "St. George's South Alice," etc.) Donations can then be mailed c/o 68 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, ON, K8A 5R6. Once received your donation will be forwarded by the main office to your local church.
- 3. You can give to the Advent Appeal online using your credit card.*** Visit the appeal page on our Parish of the Valley website at <https://www.valleyanglicans.ca/donate> to learn how. Be sure to submit your gift by Wednesday, December 31st to qualify for a 2025 tax receipt.



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My Name & Mailing Address: _____

My Parish of the Valley Congregation or Chapel: _____

Please accept my gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100
(check one)
 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other

☐ ***I would like to sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittances or increase my monthly gift.***

☐ ***I would like to discuss leaving a legacy gift to benefit my congregation in my will.***

Thank you for supporting the 2025 Advent Appeal!