

SPIRITUS

Music is Back!

by Tony van Straubenzee

I don't know about you, but I am starving for music. One of the strengths of our parish over the years has been our choir under the direction of talented conductors, including Dr. Christina Labriola and her predecessor, Dr. Matthew Otto. Matthew formed a choir called INCONTRA, and their concerts are glorious.

In 2019, we organized a Christmas concert called Glad Tidings with the INCONTRA choir, which was a huge success. And now that we are allowed to have a choir again, what a great

opportunity to celebrate by holding **Glad Tidings** at Christ Church Deer Park on December 12, 2021, at 2 pm. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

Additionally, Judy Maddren with her beautiful voice has agreed to come in from Stratford to do a couple of readings with one of her colleagues from CBC.

Tickets will go on sale shortly and we urge you to bring along your friends and family. Tickets will once again be \$35.00, as we need to cover expenses.



We are working with authorities in the hope of filling the church, as this is a concert not a worship service, and proof of vaccination will be required.

Hope to see you there. It will be a treat—I guarantee you!

❖ *Tony van Straubenzee is a strong supporter of Christ Church Deer Park and a connoisseur of fine music.*

Belonging—more than inclusion

by Andrew Harding

One of the things I like about Anglican churches is that there is much more to belonging than signing up to a formal system of belief. At best, it is becoming part of a new world where you are called to love your neighbour as yourself, love your enemy and not just feed them, and forgive others as you yourself have been forgiven. Of course, if you don't believe these core parts of Christianity are true, belonging would be rather problematic.

I also like the many forms of belonging that Anglicanism offers—music, community service, social justice, and, of course, coffee hour. But underpinning all that, to belong is also to see your own brokenness and that of others. There's plenty of it in me. At heart, to belong means we need to engage with each other as part of a broader shared vision of keeping each other honest, alive, and growing. It's not easy being Christian. It means doing things I'm not much inclined to do, being with people I wouldn't naturally be with, and dealing with their demands on me. And that's just at church.

This year I've felt the bonds of belonging stretched uncomfortably close to breaking point. It sure doesn't help that my inherited instincts tend towards separation and schism. So it was a revelation to hear from a Jewish scholar whom I admire, Amy Jill Levine, what Christian belonging really means. What it means is that if we took our baptisms more seriously, we would be able to argue with each other, deeply disagree yet love each other, and challenge each other to see our blind spots. We would be able to stay together rather than leave to find a new church,

no church, or to found a new one. The bonds of baptism we share with each other don't "wash off" despite personal and institutional conflicts. Levine said that if Christians took their baptisms more seriously they would care much more about who is missing on a Sunday morning, realize that they are all part of the same body so that a problem with one affects all, and that like Jews, we're bound together like it or not. Taking our baptisms more seriously would mean that Christians would be better able to deal with conflicts and talk things through.

As family relationships show, belonging gives rise to conflicts, and anyone who wants close relationship by avoiding conflict clearly hasn't thought things through. But what better place to do so than church? One part of our belonging to each other should be to love each other enough that we can bring disagreements, concerns, and conflicts into the open knowing that we are given what we need to deal with them in a Christian way.

Perhaps this sounds like high minded idealism, but at heart I can belong to a church that may not always be the nicest place in town but is definitely the most truthful. It must be a truth rooted in our baptismal bonds. I'm more than happy to have this deep source of belonging pointed out from a Jewish perspective, itself the root of Christianity.

❖ *Andrew Harding is an enquiring member of Christ Church Deer Park and a serious student of Christianity.*

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Advent Anticipation

—Gift Suggestions to Support Indigenous Communities

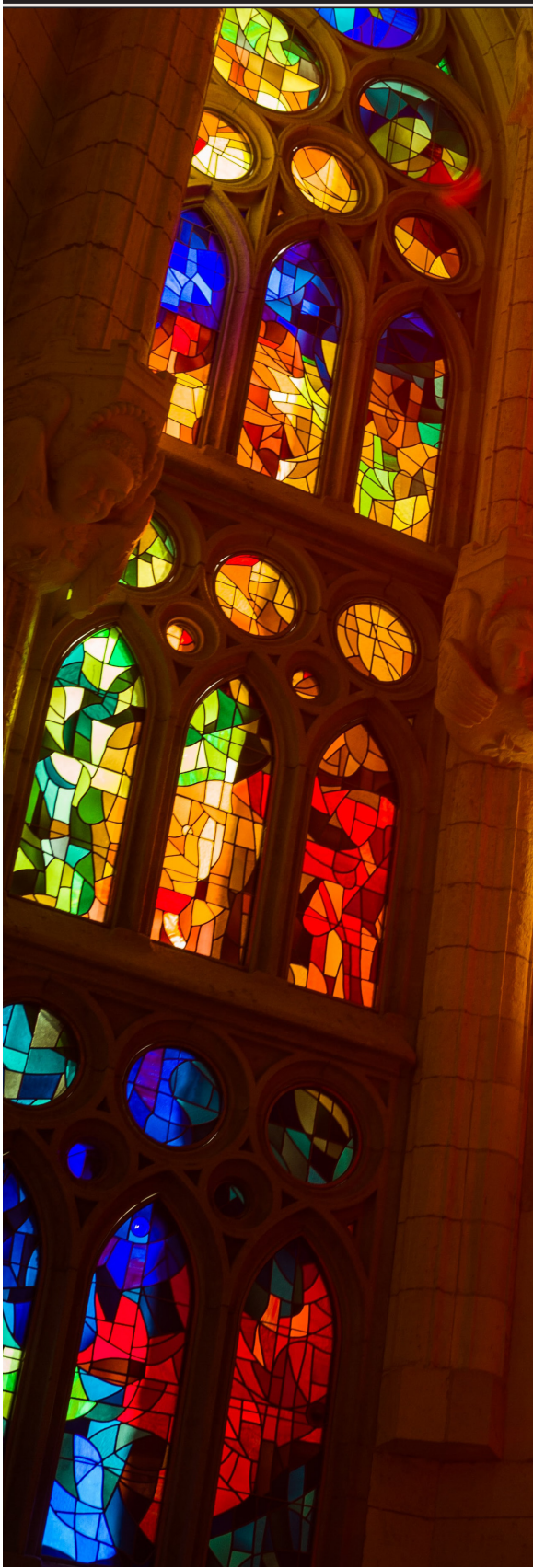
by Melissa Walter and Christine Oke

Advent and Christmas 2021 have the possibility of being filled with gatherings of family and friends and joyful music thanks to vaccinations and the mask wearing and social distancing of the past eighteen months. As you think about appropriate gifts for people on your list, you might consider the following four suggestions that would support Indigenous communities in various ways.

- » **THE CEDAR BASKET GIFT SHOP**, located within the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto at 16 Spadina Road, offers a wide selection of First Nations, Métis and Inuit handcrafted gift items and is Toronto's only Indigenous-owned and Indigenous-operated store. At the moment, the store is not open for in-person shopping, but online shopping is available at <https://thecedarbasket.com>.
- » **THE WATER FIRST INTERNSHIP PROGRAM** provides young Indigenous adults with the opportunity to become certified water-treatment operators to ensure suitable access to safe drinking water in Indigenous communities. Information about Water First Education & Training Inc. is available at <https://waterfirst.ngo>.
- » **INDSPIRE** is a national charity that works to improve educational opportunities for Indigenous students. In response to Call for Action #11, the federal government will provide \$5 million to Indspire if the organization can raise \$3 million per year in matching funds. These funds will leverage \$40 million in bursaries and scholarships for more than 12,000 Indigenous students. Donations to Indspire can be made at <https://indspire.ca>.
- » **THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND'S** yearly **World of Gifts** initiative allows you to gift donations to different PWRDF programs, including Indigenous programs in Canada. You can donate through World of Gifts at <https://pwrdf.org/world-of-gifts/>.

The Truth and Reconciliation Working Group was established in 2017 and is working towards a better relationship between this parish and Indigenous peoples, with a focus on Reconciliation. A number of educational activities are being planned for 2022. If you would like additional information or to become involved, please contact **Melissa Walter** (melissa.Lynne.walter@gmail.com) or **Cristina Oke** (c.oke@alum.utoronto.ca)

❖ *Melissa Walter and Cristina Oke are active and committed members of Christ Church Deer Park's Truth and Reconciliation Working Group.*



Church Music and Choirs in the 2020s

—A Composer's Perspective

by Emily Chatten

As I prepared to sit down with Dr. Mark Sirett to discuss his composition “Thou Shalt Know Him,” I was curious about his ideas regarding church music today. Aside from his work as a composer, choral clinician, and having recently retired as director of the Cantabile Choirs of Kingston, Dr. Sirett has worked as a church organist and choir director.

Sitting in the warmth of the October sun with the dome of St. George's Anglican church barely visible in the distance, I was surprised to find I didn't have to pose my questions about church music—our conversation moved in that direction by itself. Pointing to St. George's as an example, Dr. Sirett reminded me that the majority of Anglican church buildings were not constructed with the piano in mind. The acoustic result of using a piano during services is that the sound is lost in a space built for a pipe organ.

We continued this line of discussion toward hymns, service music, and anthems. I read complaints regularly on social media about praise bands. Our choral program at Christ Church Deer Park has a long history of dedication to Anglican worship. Dr. Sirett was able to put his finger on some of the tension. Many of the contemporary choices for church music, and particularly hymns, has oversimplified church music, often to the point of trivializing it. One result has been that congregations have never acquired a taste for more

sophisticated harmonies. From here, Dr. Sirett hit on a favourite topic of mine: why do people feel it's okay to present something mediocre as an offering to God? Our musical offerings to God should be high quality, uplifting, and inspiring. Even as volunteers, under the leadership of choir directors and leads, our choir has striven for these goals. Dr. Sirett admits that what we hear at church is not necessarily what we are going to hear on the radio, even the classical radio. That does not mean it's without merit during worship. As he explained (and many of us have probably experienced) music is a language that can touch us and begins where words fail.

Of course, this takes work. One concrete action is printing the words to anthems in bulletins, something our parish has been doing for years. This action helps the congregation connect with the music.

Choirs have just been given permission to return to singing in Anglican churches in Ontario, masked and socially distanced. I feel like whether we're masked or not, coming together to sing is the balm we all need.

I would like to thank Dr. Mark Sirett for taking the time to chat with me in mid-October.

❖ *Emily Chatten is a volunteer chorister at Christ Church Deer Park who has been patiently awaiting the the resumption of singing in the Anglican Church.*

The Gifts We Have to Give

—A message from your Stewardship Committee



by Caroline van Nostrand

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.

—James 1:17

Throughout these many months of COVID, like many of you, I've worked to focus on positive things or "COVID silver linings" as I often refer to them. While we're in challenging times, they've helped reinforce and reiterate what matters most to each of us.

After all, who didn't miss family and friends while unable to visit with them in person? And aren't we all hankering for a change of scene after much time spent at home while sheltering in place?

Of course, there is good news: with COVID vaccines now available to many, the opportunity to return to regular activities—like enjoying a coffee or meal out, attending church in person, or helping out where you can—have all returned as possibilities. *Alleluia!*

With some combination of PPE, social distancing, and being double vaxxed, more of us can return to regularly volunteering as schedules and opportunities allow.

And now Christ Church Deer Park needs the time and talents we can each offer. So, if you're eager to resume new initiatives and activities, let me share about current opportunities at our parish which would appreciate your time and talents:

- » **VOLUNTEER GREETERS** are especially needed for Sunday services. Training is provided and the Sunday commitment is of short duration, starting at 8:40 am through the 9:15 am service.
- » **COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS** are continuing on three Saturdays a month. Whether you're an avid whisker of eggs, a cooker of sausages, or a friendly type happy to hand out meals and coffee, willing volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated.

- » **THE CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM**, a group of dedicated volunteers who serve as lay ministers and stay connected to parishioners who have asked for or need support. (See separate invitation in this newsletter.)
- » **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** is another viable option, with numerous active committees to choose from—N.B. new members to Stewardship are always welcome. (Contact Caroline van N. or Carolyn K. if interested!)

Perhaps, however, your time is booked or you'd rather not be on site at church just yet; that's okay and understandable. If so, consider instead the option of giving of treasure by offering financial support.

Soon you can expect an update on the impact of the notable collective giving to the Moore Family Challenge (MFC). Our parish is a special community, and many parishioners generously supported the MFC when asked. As a result, much needed capital improvements were funded and funds to address the parish's projected 2021 deficit were provided. We're all grateful to know our church will continue to run smoothly as a result and, hopefully, be able to thrive long into the future.

Along with the impact report you'll receive a brief insert asking you about legacy giving. We hope to learn parishioners' thinking about bequests in order to help our stewardship planning. Of course no one should feel any obligation to respond if uninterested or to maintain privacy.

However you choose to give—whether via time, talent, or treasure—know that we are deeply grateful for your investment in our Christ Church Deer Park community. Thank you!

❖ *Caroline van Nostrand is an active and involved parishioner and chair of Christ Church Deer Park's Stewardship Committee.*



CARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

An important volunteer opportunity.

The Congregational Care Team is about belonging. It is a dedicated group of volunteers who provide friendly support and continuing contact to parishioners who want to stay connected with the parish community but need help to do so. The team visits, telephones, runs errands, or responds to needs it is told about. In conversation with the clergy, it identifies those who might wish assistance. This lay ministry can be deeply satisfying.

To discern whether this Christian ministry might be for you, please contact one of the clergy or the team chair, William Jackson: william@williamhjackson.ca

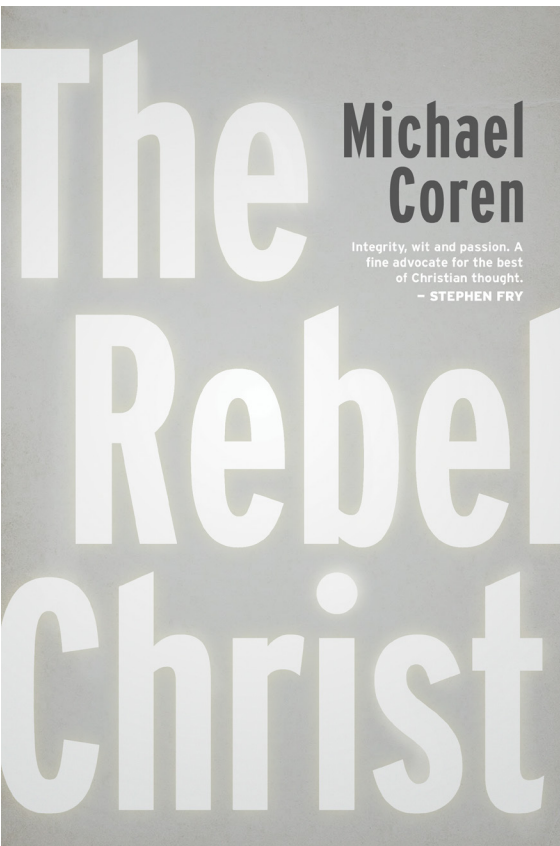
DARE TO BE A CHRISTIAN LIKE THESE.

On October 16, 2021, seventeen missionaries affiliated with Christian Aid Ministries, including five children, were kidnapped by a street gang after leaving an orphanage outside Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. Shortly afterward, a letter from families of the hostage victims was made public.

It contained this line:

God has given our loved ones the unique opportunity to live out our Lord's command to 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you.'

As this newsletter is being put together fifteen of the hostages remain in captivity. Pray for them.



Book Review — The Rebel Coren

by Andrew Harding

The Rebel Christ
Michael Coren
(Dundurn Press, 2021)

What did Jesus really teach? Michael Coren has had a career as a broadcaster and writer in Canada and is ordained in the diocese of Niagara. Having written a big-selling book 10 years ago on why the Catholic Church was right, he has since declared that both the church and his defence of it on issues of human sexuality were wrong. His new book *The Rebel Christ* is his attempt to set the record straight by looking afresh at Jesus to critique the ideas he used to promote.

The claim that runs through *The Rebel Christ* is that Jesus rebelled against all forms of oppression and exclusion by enacting a new form of life based on unconditional love. Thus, when not refuting the legalism of the religious leaders, Jesus attended to people at the margins of life at a time when they were systematically excluded. This means that everything else—all social, sexual, and institutional issues in churches and wider society—should be evaluated in the light of what Jesus said and did, and who he spent his time with. Coren depicts Jesus as a rebel, openly challenging the limits of who was acceptable in the eyes of God. The implication of his argument is that Christian faith can be grounded in an affirming and inclusive gospel which is rooted in the life and work of Jesus and is thus the source of historic, orthodox Christianity.

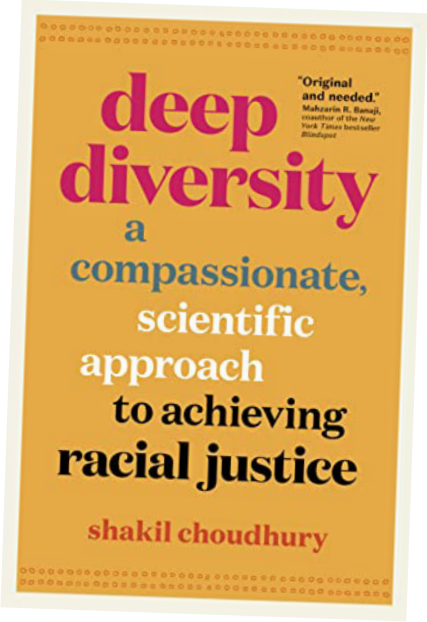
The tone of the book is more polemical and directed towards socially conservative Christians from whom Coren is a convert. There are some welcome flashes of humour as well as arguments that will grate on those who oppose abortion in particular.

Given Coren's Jewish background, I say this cautiously, but in a book that claims to be about Jesus, I worry that Jesus the radical/revolutionary/ rebel appears too easily to have invented social justice, feminism, and equality while opposing a legalistic and oppressive Jewish system. It must be remembered that God's promises and desires in the Old Testament for fairness, justice, and freedom were the base for Jesus's life and work. However much Jesus was his own person and opened a new future for humanity, he didn't so much launch a rebellion without end (p.143) but had a different vision and tried to put an end to self-destructive rebelliousness in the society around him.

What does the Bible truly say to us today and how do we have a truthful relationship with Jesus? These are the core questions in the book. Using the analogy of slavery which is not condemned in the New Testament, Coren argues that Jesus's call to fully love and accept others informs the whole logic of the Gospel. It is to see that slavery and all forms of oppression and exclusion are obsolete and how all people can come together as equals, not just in the eyes of God, but as equals in the radical new society of the Church.

The big challenge for Christians who see themselves as progressive and inclusive is how to follow Jesus's commands to love our enemies and be ready to forgive as we are forgiven. Deliver us from the temptation to be judgmental. One wonders if Coren has forgiven himself for all he did to hurt LGBTQ2 people and those who had an abortion?

❖ *Andrew Harding and his family joined Christ Church Deer Park in 2019. He has since become a regular contributor to Spiritus.*



Book Review

by Ward Lindsey

Deep Diversity: A Compassionate, Scientific Approach to Achieving Racial Justice
Shakil Choudhury
(Greystone Books, 2021)

Deep Diversity is an investigation of diversity, equity, and inclusion framed by Shakil Choudhury, a Toronto consultant and educator. Based on over 20 years of personal experience, Mr. Choudhury presents a "practical method of integrating science, psychology, and politics."

At a period in time when racial discrimination is being revealed and expressed on numerous fronts, there is a need to become aware of how we have reached this state. Mr. Choudhury states his core belief that "what we can identify and name, we can also tame." Through current day examples and insights, he takes us to a deeper level of relevant diversity.

Deep Diversity is anchored on four pillars: Emotions, Bias, Identity, and Power. These pillars are the named sectors that are used to delve into Us/Them relationships. Mr. Choudhury's discussion

goes beyond "an old-fashioned understanding of racism, which holds that racial discrimination to be systemic must be evidence of intention to exclude ethnic minorities." To go beyond a surface view of discrimination, a deeper but well-paced examination is set out. Each section of the book cannot stand on its own because there is an intentional integration of topics as they are presented. Such topics include emotional literacy, self-awareness, self-compassion, self-regulation, race versus ethnicity, intergroup patterns, oppressive education, cultural myths, and social identity theory.

Authenticity of the moment is used by Mr. Choudhury to set the tone in several areas of his thought development. An identity response research study carried out by York University, University of British Columbia, and Yale University peaks one's interest early in the book. At a different point in the book the dynamics of in-group contradictions within U.S. politics is discussed. Using the era of the Donald Trump presidency as a backdrop, Mr. Choudhury states that "in-group bias frequently manipulates us unconsciously to make exceptions for our own group." To authenticate his approach to diversity Mr. Choudhury relates much

to his personal experience. As a young person he felt left out and grew up "wanting to be white." For him this was a point of conflict until he realized that it wasn't about his "deficiencies as a person, but rather deficiencies in the culture, in institutions, and in how we've been socialized."

Through *Deep Diversity* Shakil Choudhury has succeeded in his quest to delve into the "hidden and unconscious ways in which racism shows up in society today, including within ourselves." The issue of informed and shared challenges forms the concluding pages of the book. Compassion is the "underlying principle" for the journey ahead.

❖ *Ward Lindsey leads the "Challenging Christianity" discussion group at Christ Church Deer Park. He is also a volunteer chorister.*

Notes from the Music Library:

“Thou Shalt Know Him”

by Emily Chatten

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs,
Nor by anything he wears

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
Not by crown or by his gown,
But his coming known shall be,
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.

—Anonymous, 17th Century

Many of you will recall hearing the choir sing this text during Advent. It is a long-time favourite of the choir. I’ve always thought it was exciting that this favourite was “local.” Composer Dr. Mark Sirett is a long-time resident of Kingston.

I knew Dr. Sirett had written much more than “Thou Shalt Know Him,” but until I looked up his website to contact him I had no idea how prolific a composer he is. His website (<https://www.marksirett.ca/>) lists about 80 different choir pieces, and many of those pieces are in multiple settings. I find myself in awe of composers. Most things I can understand, but the ability to hear and write for multiple lines of music is a gift that I can’t

comprehend at all, even if I can read and play or sing the music!

I sat down with Dr. Sirett at City Park in Kingston to chat about Advent (and church music) on an unseasonably warm October day. I’ve known of Mark most of my life; he’s a close friend of my music teacher, but this was the first time I’d met him. I was in Kingston on other business that day and pleased that Mark was able to fit me into his schedule.

Poking around the website, I’d noticed “Thou Shalt Know Him” has even been translated into Swedish! Mark explained the piece is popular in North America, but it has recently become well known in the UK. I asked how he felt about that. “It feels pretty amazing!” he answered. We discussed what makes the piece so popular with choirs. For the Christ Church Deer Park choir the piece isn’t especially difficult. In fact, we only “dust it off” when we get the music out of the file drawer. Choirs with less skill than ours could still sing this with a sense of accomplishment. Yet choirs much more talented are also pleased to sing it. “Thou Shalt Know Him” is both accessible and gratifying to sing. (Because the choir has not returned, I have included the text for your meditations over the Advent season).

I asked about the origin of the piece. Mark explained that he needed something new for an Advent Carol service and he recalled encountering the text during an earlier Advent. The rich text reminds us the central message of Christmas, regardless of excesses of the season. I asked what the process of composition involves for Mark. He told me that for him it’s all about the text. He has to pretty well know the text by memory. He will often establish the climactic moment of the music and work toward that.

Listening to “Thou Shalt Know Him,” you won’t be surprised to learn that over the years Dr. Sirett’s work has been influenced by composers such as Holst, Howells, Vaughan Williams, and Lauridsen.

Check out the National Lutheran Choir (US) sing “Thou Shalt Know Him”: <https://youtu.be/ISr8ppsDp0M>

❖ Emily Chatten helps to maintain the parish music library. She is a regular contributor to Spiritus.



Six motives

to act on the

climate crisis

by Bradley Lennon

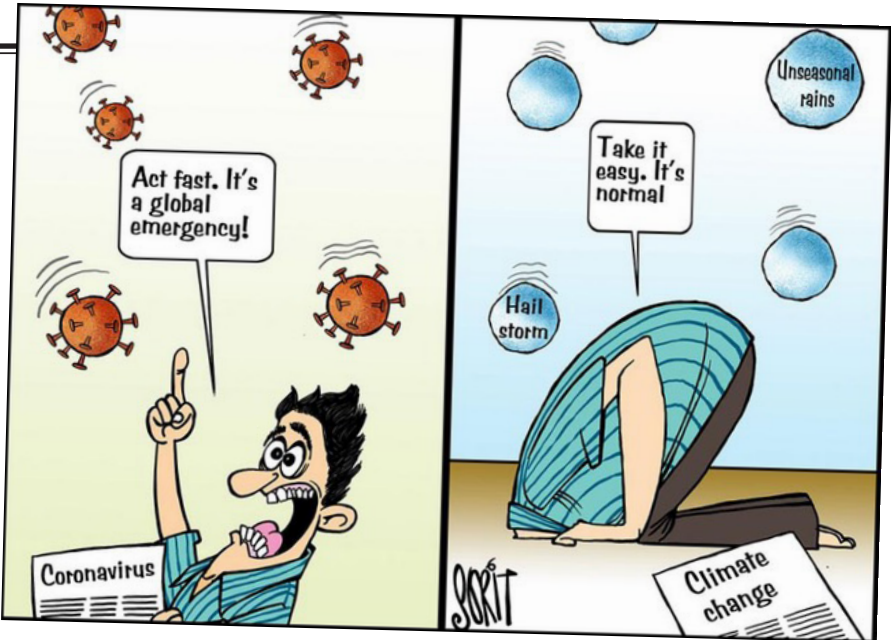
Paul writes, “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time” (Romans 8:22). Creation’s cries in the COVID-19 pandemic might well hail new birth as we seek to address the climate crisis. What have we learned from COVID-19 about how we are to collectively handle the crisis of global warming?

The planet will not wait. The science community had warned us about the risk of a viral pandemic and the risk of climate change for too long. However, the pandemic has shown our governments’ and our societies’ ability to make rapid and radical changes, including accepting huge economic costs for non-economic objectives.

Preserve biodiversity so that humans remain healthy. Rapid deforestation and continuing warming of temperatures over past norms have meant species rapidly losing habitat. That has pushed animals further into human-populated regions, bringing the increased risk of transmission of zoonotic diseases that leap from animals to humans.

Ensure a just transition for workers as we make changes for the climate. Blacks and Indigenous peoples died of COVID-19-related causes at much higher rates than white people. Economically vulnerable people, new immigrants, gig workers, and migrant agricultural workers had to work in dangerous conditions or lose the pay cheque they needed to feed their families. The changing climate puts these same groups at risk. Those that had the privilege of working from home and avoiding contact with strangers will also be the ones who remain in air-conditioned workplaces while manual laborers suffer outdoors in dangerous temperatures.

We all have a role to play. We have shown with COVID-19 that we have the ability to make drastic changes very quickly. We suspended business as usual to help each other. Healthy people changed their lifestyles to protect the more



vulnerable people in their communities. Similar dedication for climate change could transform our energy consumption immediately. Neither the climate crisis nor COVID-19 respect national boundaries. Both require countries to work together to find solutions.

Individual action has its limits. Individuals made personal changes through the pandemic, adjusting their lifestyles and habits. Ultimately it took broader provincial and federal mandates and guidance to instruct and enforce these changes. Governments and corporations have contributed most to the climate crisis. They will have to provide solutions and implement the necessary policy measures—more jobs, better transit, better building codes and more to keep temperatures livable.

Unite behind the science. Both climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic require us to listen to experts and not play politics with people’s lives. We have seen what happens when science is ignored—more fires, floods, droughts, and other unpredictable weather events across the world today than ever before. Politicians did not understand the statistics of the “rapid exponential increase” of new viruses. Even harder to anticipate than overflowing intensive-care units are the doubling times with which global warming accelerates the melting of ice sheets or drives up the fire hazard in forests. Both climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic require our listening to experts and our uniting behind the science.

❖ Bradley (Brad) Lennon is an active and committed member of Christ Church Deer Park’s Climate Action Group of the Property Committee. His article is submitted on behalf of the group.

An Advent Airing

by Lizzie Nyberg



“We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.”

—Romans 8:22

Paul’s image is hopeful, but also frightening. What if, by boring and insulting powerful people, I helped creation die in childbirth—its forests burnt, its mammals dead of heat or thirst, its oceans high but too acid for life?

In 1847 a Hungarian doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis ¹ discovered that washing hands with a calcium hypochlorite solution and changing one’s clothes before a delivery reduced childbed fever fatalities by 90%. Midwives and obstetricians know him now as a pioneer. ²

In Semmelweiss’ day, doctors often examined patients with infected wounds or cadavers in a morgue, washed their hands with soap, and then, still wearing the same clothes, delivered a baby or two.

For years, doctors refused to change their ways. They could not believe that any invisible pathogens remained on their hands, even though they sometimes smelled bad. Some said that only a Catholic like Semmelweiss could believe in an invisible particle. (Some Americans see human-caused climate change as a Democrat superstition.)

The idea that doctors themselves were causing disease and that it was safer to deliver at home, threatened even the chair of obstetrics at the University of Wurzburg, who took it personally. (Exxon Mobil knew that its products “wouldn’t stay profitable once the world understood the risks” and downplayed their role in climate change for years. ³)

Sadly, Semmelweiss got more and more angry with his colleagues and was often removed from a clinic; as a result “the maternal mortality rate always jumped back up under his successor.” ⁴

I am no doctor, but I get angry when I see climate damage. I used to wince when, in London, my sister ironed her stretchy t-shirts, using coal-fired electricity. I used to refuse car rides without explaining that I didn’t want anyone to feel good about burning gasoline.

Now, and during Advent, I remember how a friend ten years older than I went to jail with other Extinction Rebellion activists to show the government how serious the issue was. An uncomfortable, hazardous thing to do. I am more outspoken now, but I still fear being shunned.

I try to stay positive. When a friend told me they had bought an all-electric car, I did a dance. I reinforce my vegetarian friends with reason why they are cooling the earth. When a passerby sees me coming with my zero-fuel bundle buggy and says “Not another bag lady!” I laugh. In the Christmas spirit I celebrate another birth. I sometimes donate to Greenpeace or the David Suzuki Foundation and show up at dozens of climate demonstrations because it sure feels better if I can share my frustration with allies.

❖ Lizzie Nyberg is a volunteer chorister and a committed member of Christ Church Deer Park’s Climate Action Group.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ignaz_Semmelweis

² https://www.nnk.gov.hu/cejoem/Volume24/Vol24No1-2/24_1-2_Article_01.pdf

³ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/exxon-knew-about-climate-change-almost-40-years-ago/>

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contemporary_reaction_to_Ignaz_Semmelweis

Parish Property Update

by Andrew Harding

The second phase of repair work is underway, enabled by the Moore family challenge. Water leaks on the west face of the hall are repaired, the cracks around the front steps are filled, and paving is scheduled on the north side to better divert water run-off away from the foundations.

Elliot Hall is to be repainted. For a long-lasting finish, much of the paint on inside of the exterior walls needs to be removed so that it does not crack and peel so readily in the future. Minor patching and wall repair is cheaper but will very likely lead to more repairs with a few years. The plaster repairs on the chapel ceiling and the Narthex have been quoted on, but this is specialist work and expensive so is being planned for within the overall needs of the building fabric.

We are progressing with setting up a green audit and with full building and HVAC inspections as the basis for annual and longer-term maintenance. The next phase will include diagnosis of drainage issues, deterioration in the north east stairwell, and planning an inspection of the slate roofs.

Please contact the property committee with any questions you may have about our building and grounds: andrewdharding70@gmail.com

❖ Andrew Harding is chair of Christ Church Deer Park’s property committee and brings his experience as a home renovator to the role.



Succession

by Tony van Straubenzee

Some of you may be watching the program “Succession” on Crave. It is somewhat amusing and may seem farfetched, but with the unfortunate situation with the Rogers family these last few weeks, the program is not beyond the possible. Perhaps we should all look at our own wills and attempt to prevent any future family conflicts. Not always easy.

So how does this have anything to do with Christ Church Deer Park? Fortunately, it doesn’t because when one looks at our succession over the years we are healthy indeed. We qualify as a “breeder” parish, by which I mean we readily welcome leaders into our family, support their growth and development, and celebrate their choices when they move to other places or endeavors.

Just look at our alumni. So many of our clergy have gone on to have stellar careers and to occupy positions that are deeply meaningful to themselves and the church.

At Molly Finlay’s installation, both Kevin Robertson and Greg Carpenter were in the chancel. So many of our clerics are now in leadership roles in the diocese. Andrea Christiansen, Rick Miller, Judy Rois, Tim Elliott, Peter Slater, and Peter

Walker, to name a few. And Dianne Mesh recently became the interim-priest-in-charge at Church of the Holy Trinity.

And of course, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, who started his career in our parish, became the Primate.

Can we take any credit for their success? I think so.

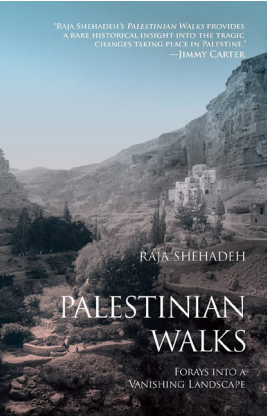
We are a demanding parish with high standards and expectations. Preaching is important to us as is pastoral care. We keep up financially, and our music program is first class.

Clergy from Christ Church Deer Park have been challenged but are well prepared for their future. They are also well loved and appreciated here.

And succession? Look at who we have now. Wow!

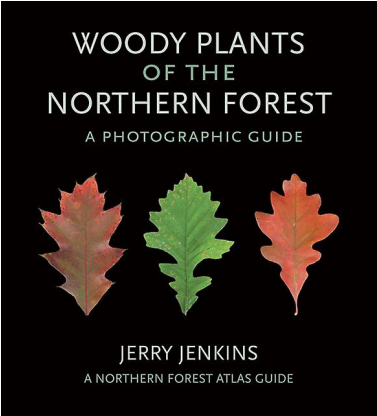
❖ Tony van Straubenzee is a long-time member of the parish and a regular contributor to Spiritus.

Editor's Choice



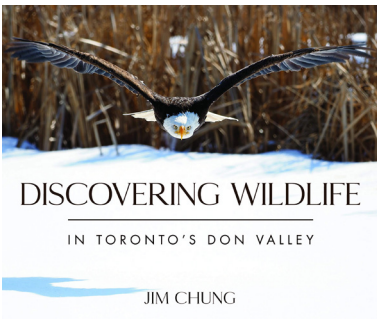
**Palestinian Walks:
Forays into a Vanishing Landscape**
Raja Shehadeh
(Scribner, 2007)

Walkers and hikers—want to have your heart broken? This beautiful and sad book will do it. “How unaware many trekkers around the world are of what a luxury it is to be able to walk in the land they love,” writes Shehadeh, “without anger, fear or insecurity, just to be able to walk without political arguments running obsessively through their heads, without the fear of losing what they’ve come to love, without the anxiety that they will be deprived of the right to enjoy it.”



**Woody Plants of the Northern Forest:
A Photographic Guide**
Jerry Jenkins
(Comstock Publishing, 2018)

This book is balm for those who need it and a meticulous reference guide for those who appreciate the natural world. Its purpose is to document the beauty and diversity of northern forests, portions of which exist in Toronto, and it contains high-density composite images and clear identification criteria. An invitation to look up from screens and turn our attention elsewhere? How many of the nineteen varieties of willow shown in the book can you find at the Evergreen Brick Works?



Discovering Wildlife in Toronto's Don Valley
Jim Chung
(Brown Books Publishing, 2020)

Many Christ Church Deer Park parishioners use the footpaths and trails along the Don Valley. It may surprise them to know just how much wildlife lives there too—muskrats, mink, black-crowned night herons, grey-cheeked thrushes, and more. Jim Chung captures some of the flora and fauna in his photos taken along the valley which he describes as “a secret world of nature and wildlife deep within one of the most urbanized areas on the planet, defying the callous ambitions of developers and the abuses of industrial capitalism.”

Dear Church Mouse



Dear Church Mouse,
Can you explain to me why official church policy exposes clergy, volunteers, and vaccinated parish members to unvaccinated worshippers? Ordinary people have to provide proof of vaccination to eat in a restaurant, go to a movie, resume curling, or visit the gym. Why not to worship in Christ Church Deer Park? Why does the diocese equate requiring proof of vaccination with “barring our doors?”

Worked-Up Worshipper

Dear Worked-Up,
So sorry. Church Mouse is asking the same questions and can therefore be of no help.

Dear Church Mouse,
Last week when the executive committee of my sorority met by Zoom, the chair opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. I was stunned and deeply embarrassed on behalf of two members whom I know are not Christian. At the end of the meeting, I suggested we dispense with that opening prayer in the future, and one of the non-Christians thanked me. Was I wrong to speak up?

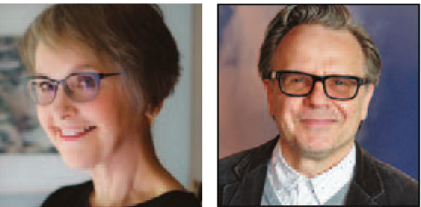
Head-Scratching Sister

Dear Head Scratcher,
Please pardon the ignorance of this mouse about sororities. Assuming that they are not a form of religious organization, your action was in no way disrespectful towards Christianity or one of its most important prayers. On the contrary, you are to be commended for sensitively handling the chair's covert evangelizing or her mistaken presumptions about the religious affiliation of others.



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**WANTED
CONTRIBUTORS AND
PHOTOGRAPHERS
OF ALL AGES AND STAGES.**

Would you be willing to take on a specific assignment or take pictures? Is there something you would like to research and write about? Do you have a constructive comment? Or, is there an activity or initiative that you would like others to join? If so, please contact us at spiritus@christchurchdeerpark.org

Submissions should be 250 to 500 words in length and in Word format, and all submissions will be subject to edit.

Copy deadline for the next (Lent) issue is Monday, February 7, 2022.

A big thanks to all of the contributors for this issue of *SPIRITUS*.

Christ Church Deer Park

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