

Christ Church Deer Park

December 15, 2024
The Third Sunday of Advent
Advent Lessons & Carols
at 10:30 am

An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream

'She will bear
a son

.... and you are
to name him
Jesus,

for he will
save his people
from their sins'



St. Joseph with the Christ Child, Guercino, c. 1637

..... when she had borne a son, Joseph named him Jesus.

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK
We are glad to have you worship with us!

We are a growing, diverse, and energetic faith community learning to follow Jesus together.
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are invited to join us.



Hello! Whether this is your first time through our doors or your one thousandth, we are glad you are here! At our church you are welcome to participate as much or as little as you are comfortable doing.

So, what is our community like? Well, we are a church community from different generations and different walks of life. We are here because we want to follow Jesus and live in community with one another and our neighbours in this little corner of Toronto. We care deeply about feeding the hungry and welcoming refugees; we affirm that all people, including our LGBTQ2SI+ siblings, are made in the image of God and should be included in all the practices of our life of faith; and, no matter where we are on our spiritual journeys, we strive to lament together, rejoice together, and hold each other up on this journey of faith and life.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford – *Interim Priest-in-Charge* sdrakeford@christchurchdeerpark.org

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Denis Delisle, Rikk Scapillato – *Lead Custodians*
Carlos Lopez – *Custodial Team*

Lay Leadership

Rector's Warden – Stephen Clark

People's Warden – Su Laine Varkey

Deputy Warden – Katherine MacDonald

Deputy Warden – Paul Kingston

Treasurer – Nick Strube

Synod Delegates – William Jackson, Ann Atkins, Melissa Walter, Oscar Varkey

Ways to Serve & Get Involved

Community Breakfast – Carl Wehniainen, Lead

outreach@christchurchdeerpark.org

Congregational Care Team – Ann Atkins, Lead

communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org

Prayer Circle – Jan D'Angelo, Coordinator

prayercircle@christchurchdeerpark.org

Small Groups – The Rev. Cathy Gibbs

Choir – Stefani Bedin

Coffee Hour – Sandra Geddes, Coordinator

Hospitality – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead

Chancel Guild – Elsa Jones, Lead

Flower Guild – Pat Butler, Coordinator

Readers & Intercessors – The Rev. Stephen Drakeford

Children's Ministry – Sharilyn Robinson

Welcome Team – Paul Kingston, Coordinator

Refugee Committee – Julie Scott, Chair

Property Committee – Andrew Harding, Chair

Stewardship Committee – Stephen Clark

Investment Committee – Michael Butler, Chair

Truth and Reconciliation – TBD, Lead

Climate Action Group – Brad Lennon, Lead

Rummage Re-Imagined – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead

Christmas Sale – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead

Spiritus – Emily Chatten, Melissa Walter &

Supipi Weerasooriya, Editorial Team

Please note all hymn numbers are from Common Praise, the blue hymnal.

Prelude Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, “Sleepers Wake” BWV 645 J.S. Bach

Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. We watch, wait and witness the mystery of your incarnation among us.

(The candle is lit as we listen to the choir sing “Thou Shalt Know Him”)

Introit Thou Shalt Know Him Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs,
nor by any thing he wears.

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

Text: Anonymous
Music: Mark Sirett

A Bidding Prayer for Advent

(please stand as you are able)

Presider: Beloved in Christ, as we continue the season of Advent and await the great festival of Christmas, let us gather this day to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God’s Kingdom; and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence, the joy of our Saviour’s birth. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring his people and all things into the glory of God’s eternal Kingdom; where

the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the Gospel is proclaimed.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, especially for those in need of his care and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who live with war and violence; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death. And we pray for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God, giving thanks for Christ's kingdom; its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider: Join me in saying:

**All: We are waiting.
We are watching.
We are witnessing.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Processional Hymn #89 v. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
to us a path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, 9th century, tr. John Mason Neale
Music: Plainsong, Mode I, 15th century processional

(please be seated)

First Lesson *Our fall from grace*

Read by Gregory Lowe

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

Genesis 3: 1-13

Anthem Adam Lay Ybounden

Philip Ledger

Choir: Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long. (Deo gracias!)

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took.
As clerkès finden written
In their book. (Deo gracias!)

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady,
A-been heavenè queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gratias!

Text: Anonymous 15th Century
Music: Philip Ledger

Second Lesson

Read by John Goodwin

God comforts the people and calls them to prepare for redemption

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:1-11

(please stand as you are able)

Hymn Comfort, Comfort, Now My People

GENEVAN 42 (arr. Tom Trenney)

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
And their warfare now is over.”

For the herald’s voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise in meeting
and the hills bow down in greeting.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God’s holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God’s word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, tr. Catherine Winkworth
Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

(please be seated)

Third Lesson *God’s peaceful kingdom is foreshown*

Read by Katherine MacDonald

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live

with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11: 1-9

Anthem Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hugo Distler

Choir: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a Saviour,
When half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour,
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
And lightens ev'ry load.

Text: 15th Century, German traditional, tr. Theodore Baker
Music: from *The Christmas Story*, Op. 10

Fourth Lesson *John the Baptist proclaims the coming Messiah*

Read by Liz Quinlan

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going

out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Mark 1:1-8

(please stand as you are able)

Hymn #103 On Jordan's Bank

WINCHESTER NEW

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin; tr. John Chandler
Music: *Musicalisches Hand-buch*, Hamburg 1690

(please be seated)

Fifth Lesson *The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Mary*

Read by Mary Bredin

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was

much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38

Anthem Ave Maria Franz Biebl

Choir: *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae
et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.*

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou amongst women, and
blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

*Maria dixit:
Ecce ancilla Domini
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.
Ave Maria ...*

Mary said:
Behold the handmaiden of the Lord.
Do to me according to your word.
Hail Mary ...

*Et verbum caro factum est
Et habitavit in nobis.*

And the Word was made flesh
And dwelt among us.

Ave Maria ...

Hail Mary ...

*Sancta Maria, mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus.
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.*

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us now and at the hour of our
death. Amen.

Text: based on the Angelus and Ave Maria
Music: Franz Biebl

Sixth Lesson *The Angel Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus to Joseph*

Read by Elsa Jones

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

(please stand as you are able)

Hymn Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine

RESONET IN LAUDIBUS

Women: Joseph dearest, Joseph mine,
help me cradle the child divine;
God reward thee and all that's thine
in paradise, so prays the mother Mary.

Men: Gladly, dear one, lady mine,
help I cradle this child of thine;
God's own light on us both shall shine
in paradise, as prays the mother Mary.

Choir: *He came among us at Christmastide,
at Christmastide, in Bethlehem;
let us bring him from far and wide
Love's diadem: Jesus, Jesus,
lo, he comes, and loves, and saves, and frees us!*

All: All shall come and bow the knee;
wise and happy their souls shall be,
loving such a divinity,
as all may see
in Jesus, Son of Mary.

Text: German traditional, tr. Neville S. Talbot
Music: German 15th Century Carol, ed. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Homily

The congregation is invited to remain standing for the offertory.

Sharing What We Have

Priest: Friends, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but by what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
to bless God's church, God's people, and God's creation. Amen.

Sharing What We Have

We give as an expression of gratitude for all that God has done for us
and because God has designed us to be givers.

Ways to Give Financially

- Through automatic monthly credit card or pre-authorized debit donations
please contact bookkeeper@christchurchdeerpark.org if you are interested in setting up a monthly offering
- Cash or cheque made out to *Christ Church Deer Park*
- Debit/credit via the mobile credit machine: *please see warden on duty*
- E-transfer to donations@christchurchdeerpark.org
- Online via Canada Helps (scan the QR code to the right to be brought to the website)



We are thankful for all your gifts as they sustain the life and work of this parish.

Offertory Hymn #91

People, Look East

BESANÇON

People, look east! The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,

That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled:
Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch: When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon
Music: French traditional

Closing Collect

Presider: O God, who makes us glad, with the yearly expectation of the coming of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so may we behold him with sure confidence when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

Announcements

The Advent Blessing

(please stand as you are able)

Presider: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Saviour Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

All: Amen.

Presider: May he whose Second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

All: Amen.

Presider: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

All: Amen.

Presider: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Recessional Hymn #95

O Come, Divine Messiah

VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, Divine Messiah,
the world in silence waits the day
when hope shall sing its triumph,
and sadness flee away.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
whom priest and prophet long foretold,
come, break the captives' fetters,
redeem the long-lost fold. *Refrain*

You come in peace and meekness
and lowly will your cradle be;
all clothed in human weakness
shall we your Godhead see. *Refrain*

Text: Simon-Joseph Pellegrin; tr. Sister Mary of St. Philip
Music: French, 16th Century

Dismissal

(please stand as you are able)

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sortie: *Laissez paître vos bêtes* (Venez, divin Messie), Op. Posth.

César Franck

Communion is available in the chapel for all who wish to partake.

And please join us upstairs in Elliott Hall for Coffee Hour!

Memorial Flowers

The flowers in the church this week are given to the glory of God by Paul Gooch and Pauline Thompson to mark the eighteenth birthdays this fall of two beloved granddaughters, cousins Lucy and Kathleen.

Assisting with the Liturgy

Presider:
Stephen Drakeford

Preacher:
Cathy Gibbs

Director of Music:
Stefani Bedin

Section Leads:
Sonya Harper Nyby, Julia Barber
Peter Warren, Lucas Kuipers

Choristers:
Julia Barber, section lead
Pat Butler
Eliza-Jane Callander, guest
Emily Chatten
Anne Crassweller
Anne Godfrey
Martin Gomes, guest
Andrew Harding
Sonya Harper Nyby, section lead
Ariane Heisey
Tasso Karkanis
Marcia Kavanagh
Roger Knox
Lucas Kuipers, section lead
Gregory Lowe
Noel Mowat
Lizzie Nyburg
Kelsey Taylor, guest
Melissa Walter
Peter Warren, section lead
Richard Wu

Crucifer:
Bianca Mathews

Readers:
Gregory Lowe
John Goodwin
Katherine MacDonald
Liz Quinlan
Mary Bredin
Elsa Jones

Warden on Duty:
Bob Hutchison

Sidesperson:
Carolyn Kearns

Livestream Technician:
James Finnerty

Flower Arrangement:
Nina Overbury

Verger:
Rikk Scapillato

-----ANNOUNCEMENTS-----

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE UPDATE: The committee wants the congregations to know that, owing to the confidential nature of the current stage of our work, we have not been able to say much recently. But we can say that we are at the interviewing stage, and we hope to have our part of the process wrapped up before long. It has been many months since last April when Cheryl left us, and we are very aware of the parish's desire to have a new incumbent as soon as possible, especially since our lovely interim, Stephen, can only be here until February.

WORSHIP

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Each week of Advent this year we will look at a different person: Zechariah (week 1), Elizabeth (week 2), Joseph (week 3), and Mary (week 4). We also are having ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS at today's 10:30am service!

THE FINAL JAZZ VESPERS OF THIS YEAR is TODAY at 4:30pm. The service will feature the Brian Barlow Big Band playing Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker*. For more details, please visit our website.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Mark your calendars now!

~~***The Coldest Night of the Year, Friday, December 20th at 6:30pm***~~ Please note this service has been cancelled.

Family Service with Instant Pageant, Tuesday, December 24th at 4pm

A fun, informal service for families in which we tell the Christmas story through song and pageantry.

Jazzy Christmas, Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm

A contemporary worship service with your favourite carols – but in a jazz style!

Traditional Sung Eucharist, Tuesday, December 24th at 9pm

Our beautiful Christmas Vigil service, with organ & choir, Eucharist, homily, and joy. Come at 8:30pm to sing carols with our choir and listen to some fabulous organ & trumpet preludes.

Christmas Eucharist, Wednesday, December 25th at 10am

A quiet, Book of Common Prayer Eucharist service with favourite carols.

The Naming of Jesus, Wednesday, January 1st at 11am

Join us to ring in the new year and celebrate this feast day.

PASTORAL

OFFICE HOURS: Rev. Stephen's office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am-2pm. Please feel free to stop by or make an appointment with him.

COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE CLERGY: One of the things that has come to the attention of the clergy on Sunday mornings is the tight turnaround between services leaving little time for us to mingle over coffee and speak with each other. We have decided to do this: at any given coffee hour one of the clergy will remain to meet and greet while the other begins the next service. The cleric who has remained at coffee hour will join the next service when they have finished their coffee conversation (they're not late! Just doing pastoral work.)

PASTORAL CALLS: An integral part of Christian community is to support one another through times of joy and celebration and also times of grief and confusion. If you or someone you know may benefit from a call or visit from one of our clergy, please reach out to our congregational care team by email at communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE DRIVERS NEEDED: We are very much in need of more drivers we can add to our list, who upon occasion, can assist with providing a ride to church for fellow parishioners. This does not have to be an every week commitment; any commitment would be very helpful! Please contact Ann Atkins at communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org

MEMORIAL FLOWER COMMITTEE NOTICE: After decades of creating fresh flower arrangements for our Memorial Flower requests we are putting this project on hold until such time that we have sufficient volunteers to continue this service that beautifies the chancel and honours loved ones at the same time. Until recently our Committee has been operating with a tiny number of dedicated members, but like life, it's aging. However, we will continue through to the New Year. Pat Butler will be the contact for any interested volunteers in the future and I will be retiring from my post.

Nina Overbury, Chair

Pat Butler, Coordinator

Monica Peel

Mary van Straubenzee, our longest serving member

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS & GREENERY: If you would like to contribute towards the purchasing of poinsettias and greenery for our Christmas Services in memory of a loved one, please designate 'Christmas flowers' on your envelope and include with your gift the name(s) you'd like printed in the Christmas bulletins. Donations for flowers & greenery will be accepted through TODAY. You may include a donation for flowers & greenery with your normal offering; simply indicate the amount that is to go towards Christmas flowers. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SILENCE IS GOD'S FIRST LANGUAGE (JOHN OF THE CROSS): Advent is a time gifted to us when we can connect with God as we anticipate the birth of his son, Jesus. It is sometimes considered a period of darkness or silence before the light. However, there is light in the darkness. We are going to explore the hope we experience in the darkness using Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. You can purchase your book now from Reverend Cathy for \$20 (only 20 copies available).

Dates: Tuesdays of November 26, December 3, 10 & 17

Time: 7:15pm-8:30pm

Place: Zoom

To Register: please send an email to cgibbs@christchurchdeerpark.org

ADVENT POETRY READING: Advent and Christmas come around each year, so the question often is: how do we engage in a new way with a two-thousand-year-old story that is so well-known? How do we imagine the Incarnation in the twenty-first century? Well, W.H. Auden pondered these questions in his long poem *For the Time Being*, an attempt to see Christmas as both a moment in the history of the Roman Empire and Judaism and as an ever-new and always contemporary event for those of faith. Join us as we read together this poem over four evenings in Advent. You can purchase the book from Rev. Stephen for \$25 (only 20 copies available).

Dates: Wednesdays of November 27, December 4, 11 & 18

Time: 7:00-8:30pm

Place: In person in the sanctuary

To RSVP: please email Rev. Stephen as sdrakeford@christchurchdeerpark.org

All welcome!

COMMUNITY BUILDING

CCDP WALKING GROUP—A SPIRITUAL WALK TO THE TORONTO ISLANDS: The Toronto Islands are very peaceful in the Advent Season. The highlight of this month's walk with Stephen Drakeford and Brad Lennon will be our visit there to the historic St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church, built in 1884. **On Saturday, December 21st, you can either depart with us from the church office doors at 9:45 AM to take the TTC together to Union Station. Or you can meet up with us inside the heated waiting area of Jack Layton Ferry Terminal at the foot of Bay Street at 10:15AM to take the 10:30 AM Ferry to Ward's Island.** Ferry tickets can be purchased when you arrive or online. Ferry return fares: \$9.11 adult, \$5.86

student/senior. We will catch the 2:15 or 2:45 pm ferry to be back in the city by 3:00 pm. Bring a lunch, snacks, water, a hot beverage, and icers/micro-spikes if the first snow has fallen. Dress in warm layers appropriate to the weather. Heated washrooms available. Dropout anytime by walking back to the Ward's Island Ferry Dock. We will hike towards Hanlan's Point and return to Ward's Island (the only ferry destination served in the Winter) - approximately 5-6 km each way.



9:15AM POTLUCK: Our potluck has been moved to Sunday, January 19th!

10:30AM RETREAT: On Sunday, January 26th we'll gather after the 10:30am service in Elliott Hall for a time of reflection, prayer, and a catered lunch. Please RSVP to Rev. Stephen at sdrakeford@christchurchdeerpark.org

BRIDGE GROUP: Tuesdays from 1-3pm in the Arthur Smith Room. All are welcome to join us for a game of bridge!

TORONTO CHILDREN'S CHORUS CONCERT: Toronto Children's Chorus does many of their rehearsals here at CCDP, and they have an upcoming concert at Roy Thomson Hall. Sunday, December 15th at 2pm. Tickets available on their website: www.torontochildrenschorus.com Celebrate the magic of the holidays with "Songs of the Season with Toronto Children's Chorus," a cherished tradition co-produced by the Toronto Children's Chorus and Roy Thomson Hall for over 30 years. Featuring all TCC choirs, this festive concert will fill the hall with the joyful sound of children's voices, accompanied by guest instrumentalists from the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and TCC's own Alumni Choir, led by Dr. Darryl Edwards. Special performances by emerging bass-baritone Owen Phillipson and renowned percussionist Jamie Drake will add extra brilliance to the program, which blends beloved classic carols with innovative Latvian works for treble choir by Ēriks Ešvalds and Laura Jēkabsons. This one-of-a-kind concert promises to inspire and uplift, bringing warmth and holiday spirit to all who attend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

CHURCHES ON THE HILL FOOD BANK: Make a difference for a family: a \$30 donation to the Food Bank will help feed a family this Christmas. To make a financial donation you can give through CCDP making a note/memo that it's for the foodbank or go to cothfoodbank.ca to make an online donation. Tax receipts will be provided in the New Year. (ps. The COTH Food Bank is always looking for volunteers, too! Their website has more information.)

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP: The Arctic sea ice has been experiencing significant declines in both area and volume over recent decades, primarily due to climate change. Here are some key factors contributing to this decline:

1. **Rising Global Temperatures:** The primary driver is global warming, which is caused by increased greenhouse gas emissions. As temperatures rise, more ice melts during the summer than refreezes in the winter.
2. **Thinning of Multiyear Ice:** Multiyear ice, which survives multiple seasons, is thinning. Between 2018 and 2021, the Arctic lost around 12.5% of its ice volume, with multiyear ice thinning by about half a meter.
3. **Ice-Albedo Feedback:** This is a process where melting ice exposes darker ocean water, which absorbs more sunlight and heat, leading to further ice melt. This feedback loop accelerates the decline of sea ice.
4. **Seasonal Ice Increase:** A larger proportion of the Arctic ice cap is now made up of seasonal ice, which forms and melts within a single year. This type of ice is thinner and more susceptible to melting.

Satellite records show that the Arctic sea ice extent has been declining at a rate of about 4.7% per decade since the late 1970s.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP: The buffalo are gradually being reintroduced to various places on Turtle Island - the Indigenous name for the continent of North America. In 2017, 16 Buffalo were brought to Banff National park and as of Nov 2024 there are 130 and Parks Canada has a blog about this journey. In 2020, the non-profit Nature Conservancy started working with the Intertribal Buffalo Council and other indigenous partners and as of Oct 2024 transferred 1800 bison to Indigenous nations. Being saved from extinction is not the same as being wild and free of course. The Tribal Buffalo Lifeways Collaboration created in July 2024 is on a mission to return buffalo to tribal lands at scale. These efforts to restore the wild buffalo are being led by indigenous people and are a significant aid in our natural biodiversity. A creative view of this story can be watched for free on Telus originals - Iniskim: the return of the buffalo. <https://watch.telusoriginals.com/play?assetID=iniskim> If you have PBS, Ken Burns did a 2 part documentary called "American Buffalo".

Please note: we are looking for new participants for the Truth & Reconciliation Working Group. This group helps inform our congregation about current developments in Indigenous Reconciliation, especially where they pertain to the Anglican Church of Canada's historic and current relationship with Indigenous communities. Please email Cathy if you are interested, have suggestions, or have questions: cgibbs@christchurchdeerpark.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we worship is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (*ho-den-oh-show-nee*), and Anishinabek (*ah-nish-nah-bek*) Nations, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. This territory is part of the *Dish with One Spoon Treaty*, an agreement between the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (*North America*) and we seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations with them as we meet and worship on this territory. We are grateful for the resources we are using, and honour all the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people who have been living on this land since time immemorial.

! VISITOR INFORMATION



Hearing Assistance Devices are located on the table beside the bell-tower entrance.

Large Print Orders of Service are available.

Happening this week at Christ Church Deer Park

Tuesday, December 17

7:15-8:30pm Adult Education
Advent Series
On Zoom

Wednesday, December 18

11:00am Holy Eucharist

7-8:30pm Advent Poetry Series

Thursday, December 19

10:00am Daily Office

Sunday, December 22

8:00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

9:15am Contemporary Worship

10:30am Holy Eucharist (BAS)
In person & Livestreamed



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