



December 6, 2015

2nd Sunday of Advent

Readings: MALACHI 3:1-4

LUKE 3:1-6



Love All

It all boils down to love. Love from a saviour. Love to a neighbour in need. By spending just a little less on gifts we free up our resources to love as Jesus loves by giving to those who really need help. As such we continue our refugee sponsorship journey- come Sunday and hear Scott McLeod, diocesan refugee coordinator and member of Canadian Council for Refugees

Advent is a time that joins commitment, patience restlessness. We are waiting and waiting isn't easy. We want Christmas now! We want fulfillment now! We want spiritual growth now! We want the world to change now! But the moral arc of history and our own spiritual arc often move slowly, organically, and at their own speed. The healing of grief can't be fast forwarded. The healing of a wound can't be sped up. Our own personal and communal growth takes time. The agents of change must claim urgency and also recognize that long-standing and permanent transformation takes time.

A spiritual harvest may require a refining fire. That's the message of Malachi. Get rid of everything inessential. Throw out the cumber in your life. Malachi reminds us that Advent is a time of refining and simplifying. Faithfulness involves focusing on the deeper meaning of Christmas, God's incarnation in our lives and the coming of Christ among oppressed peoples. Refining is aimed at transformation and liberation of what is best in us and our communities. It involves a new heart and a generous spirit.

While we may appropriately choose to give generously to our friends and family, our generosity must extend beyond ourselves. The joy of family unites us with the larger human family and all creation. By own spiritual values and practices, we can midwife the birth of Christ in our families and communities.

John the Baptist's message challenges us to turn around – to forsake the ways of death – so that we might be prepared for Christ's coming. We have experienced too much death recently. Religious extremists wreak havoc in Paris and Africa and try to create a theocratic state in the Middle East. Our own addiction to non-renewable resources puts the Earth in jeopardy. John's message then and now, as Mary's words in Luke 1:68-79 assert, is to bring light to darkness and help the lost find their way.

John the Baptist's message, as recorded in Luke's Gospel, is harsh, but it is ultimately liberating. Despite our participation in the ways of death, we can turn around. We can use the freedom we have to change our ways, to transform our value systems, and create structures of life. As Malachi recognizes such transformation may be painful, not unlike a refiner's fire. The military and political forces of evil must be neutralized and transformed and this will require sacrifice. Cultural values need to change and "downward mobility" may, at first, be painful. Spiritual surgery is always painful but the new creation that emerges brings wholeness and joy, and the promise of a harvest of righteousness. This is the message of Advent: prepare for the coming of Christ by changing your life and giving birth to Christ within and among us.

- Bruce Epperley

Parish News



"Conspiracy of Advent" Spend Less, Love All, Give More, and Worship Fully.

Please send us a picture of how you experience God in your life. How do you reflect how God engages with you through the week? It may be a family picture, a special work moment, a vacation somewhere; something that makes the connection between yourself and the divine.

Send your pictures to rector@incarnationchurch.ca

December 6th- "Love All" - speaker **Rev. Scott McLeod** - Refugee coordinator for Diocese of Niagara

December 13th- "Give More"- speaker Enver Domingo in conjunction with International Human Rights day

December 20th- "Worship Fully"- Youth Christmas Presentation

December 20, 4 PM,
Incarnation Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service.

A service filled with music led by an expanded Incarnation Choir, with carol singing, guest musicians, ending with a candle-lit sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and invite friends.



Refugee Sponsorship –

If you would like to support the Diocese of Niagara 140th Anniversary Campaign, envelopes are available on the greeter's table. Also, below is a template of a letter you may wish to use to solicit support from people around you- friends, family, colleagues

Dear Friends and Family,

As you know, the global refugee crisis is at historical proportions. My church, Church of the Incarnation, is stepping up and has made an application to sponsor a refugee family and then assist them in getting re-settled somewhere here in southern Ontario. We need to fund raise approximately \$25,000 to privately sponsor a family or 4-5 people and to date, without much effort we have raised about \$3000. This application is not associated with the 25,000 refugees that the Federal Government has committed to bringing in. We expect our application to take about 12 to 16 months. We will certainly keep you informed as we move through this process

If you have ever wondered how you personally can help a refugee family that is in need of a home, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to my church, Church of the Incarnation. Every little bit helps! I will be collecting cheques made out to "Church of the Incarnation" between now and December 20. Please write, "Refugee Fund" in the notes section of your cheque.

Please contact me if you need any more information.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

The [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/index-en.html) began on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on November 25 and ends on International Human Rights Day, December 10. To show your support, wear a white ribbon in honouring this important occasion. Ribbons are available at Incarnation.

For more information and to take the pledge to end violence visit:
<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/commemoration/vaw-vff/index-en.html>



Youth Group Events- for info contact Phil Carver at incayouthprogram@gmail.com

Saturday, Dec. 5th -3:30 to 6:30 at the church. Rehearsals for upcoming Christmas presentation and fund raising activities

Sunday, December 13th- following worship approx 11:30 to 1 pm

Thanks to all who have been participating and building this group. Let's keep the energy going - Bring your ideas and enthusiasm!



Poinsettias

We'll have a selection of poinsettias available for purchase starting Sunday December 13. You can buy one for your home, our purchase one in memory of someone. Those purchased in memory of, will be used as decoration throughout the church, and the names will be included in our prayers. (Poinsettias may not be exactly as shown)



Choir Practice – Wednesdays at 7:30

The choir is working hard, preparing for our Carols and Candlelight service on December 20, and the Christmas Eve 7 and 10:30 PM services. All are welcome to join.

The Choir takes it on the Road

Share your voice with the choir as they share the Christmas spirit with the community. We'll be singing well-known carols and holiday tunes at two events. You don't have to be member of the choir to join the fun.

**Tuesday, December 15, St. Joseph's Healthcare,
Charlton Campus**
Meet at Incarnation at 2pm

Saturday, December 19, Oakville Place
Meet at Incarnation at 12:30



Contemplative Fire Service – Sunday, December 13, 8:00pm.

Are you looking for time to reflect, meditate and recharge your spiritual life? Each meeting begins with a communal sharing of food followed by quiet and intentional reflection in the gathering area. The response to this service has been very encouraging. We continue to see new faces at each meeting and look forward to growing this community.

For more information, please speak to Michael. All are welcome.



Wing and a Prayer – Returns in January!

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Rob Moniuk (Robert@Moniuk.ca).

Everyone is welcome!

Community News



Syl Apps Youth Centre

Christmas Wish List

The Syl apps Youth Centre is looking for gift items suitable for youth aged 12-19. See the wish-list sheets on the greeter's table for ideas about how you can help make Christmas morning more joyful for youths struggling with mental health



Quality Christmas Tree Sale St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church

Buy an "Anglican" tree this year at St. Cuthbert's. Maple Grove and Oakhill, 2 blocks north of Lakeshore.

Monday to Friday 1:30-5pm and 7-9pm, Saturdays 9am-5:30pm,
Sundays 11:30am-5:30pm.



SOULFUL MESSIAH presented by Ballet Creole

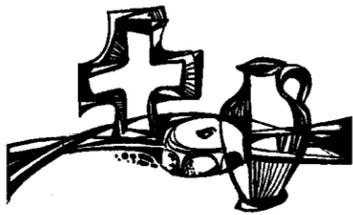
December 17, 8pm at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. A festive tour-de-force set to Quincy Jones' rendition of Handel's *Messiah*

905-306-600 or www.livingartscentre.ca for more details

This & That



Volunteering – needed for altar prep, greeters, hosts and coffee preparation. **Youth** can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided. Contact Claudine Boulert, at boulert@rogers.com for more information, or call 905-825-2851.



Receiving Communion

All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion whereALL are welcome.

Volunteer Schedule

| | | December 6 | December 13 |
|--------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bread Making | | A. Moniuk | B. Gowing |
| Altar Prep | | W. MacDougall | B. Hanna-Morrison |
| Coffee | | Bowden | Hickey |
| Coffee | | Gowing | Hutchinson/Henley |
| Host | | A. MacNaughton | B. Abrams |
| Reader 1 | | B. Hanna-Morrison | G. Chambers |
| Gospel | | K. Pitt | A. Turner-Sommer |
| Prayers | | L. Hickey | J. Bowden |
| Server 1 | | D. Bold | P. Moffat |
| Server 2 | | J. Stevens | A. MacNaughton |
| Wine Cups | | Z. Boulert | E. Lorimer |
| Counting | | A. MacDougall | D. Bold |