

## Great Expectations!



*"The people were filled with expectation"*

*(Luke 3:15).*

What are your expectations? Do you expect to be safe? Do you expect more than a week might go by before another mass shooting is reported? Do I expect that by the time this is posted I will hear about more shootings, more terrorist attacks, more bombings, more senseless death? I do. Sadly, I really do.

Expectation is a double-edged sword, as they say. It can be full of anticipation. But it can also weigh you down so much that there is no possibility in sight of burying out.

Expectations are complicated. They frequently seem beyond the possibility of being met, and so the following quote might ring true: "One day, she realized that she could never please

everyone, so she gave up and decided to be herself. Whether other people liked it or not was not her business," Anna Taylor. Depending on what they assume, expectations can generate a sense false optimism, even despair, because they seem too good to come true.

Expectations are heavy. They are frequently lodged outside of ourselves and beyond our control. And we tend to equate expectations with hope. That becomes perilous, because we often do not acknowledge or are able to articulate in what the hope is based. Then, of course, there are those expectations that are placed on us. Those we cannot meet, either because they are not fair or because we resent trying to meet them. Phrase expectations as you need. You need to be able to articulate them on your own terms because otherwise they are set for you. Always.

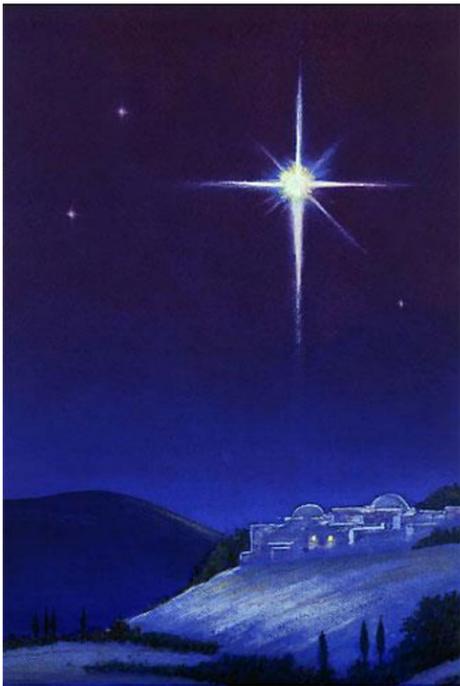
Expectations are dangerous. They elicit hope when there's no ground to believe in hope. They cause us to strive for that which is not us, for that which is placed on us. They are set in place without acknowledging the truth of the contexts that make them often impossible to achieve.

But expectation now has reached a different kind of importance and urgency. We expect safety. We expect kindness. We expect grace. We expect tolerance. And what happens when expectations are shattered again and again? How do you cope?

I suspect that the expectations to which we have grown accustomed, which we have assumed, perhaps even those we have taken for granted, are now all up in the air. Which makes this verse from Luke stand out, speak out, shout out. I also suspect that this is what Luke had in mind. Expectations of God were being upended right and left. Expectations about God were being shattered in the presence and ministry of Jesus. Expectations about what it meant to follow God were being challenged. And I suspect that given the events of these past weeks and year, our expectations of God, our expectations about God's activity in the world, our expectations about how to be a disciple in a world that appears to be hard at work rejecting God's world are less than certain and seem rather unattainable.

We live in a clash of worlds. Perhaps that has always been and likely that always will be. But how do we deal with these painful intersections of what we want and what cannot seem to be? How do we manoeuvre through these junctions of expectancy and reality? How do we negotiate these convergences of war and the angels' proclamation of peace?

If we ever wondered if we really needed Advent, it is certainly now. Advent names and exists in the tensions identified above. Advent claims God's expectations in the face of the world's false ones. Advent says we can have expectations of God and God will meet them, because with God all things are possible. –Karoline Lewis



**“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](mailto:rector@incarnationchurch.ca)

**December 13<sup>th</sup>- “Give More”**- speaker Enver Domingo in conjunction with International Human Rights day- see his bio attached

**December 20<sup>th</sup>- ‘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 140<sup>th</sup> 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>

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**Amnesty International Write for Rights Day 2015**

Please join us this Sunday after the service to participate in the 2015 Amnesty International Write for Rights campaign. Every year, around December 10, International Human Rights Day, people in more than 140 countries come together to write letters calling for the protection and promotion of human rights.

It was on Dec 10, 1948, that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted at the UN by world leaders. A Canadian, John Humphreys, was one of the principle writers of the UDHR. You may not know that John's daughter, Moni Kuchmeister, was a long time resident of Oakville. Moni died this past fall, but her husband, Ernie, remains active in the work for human rights justice.

Unfortunately, human rights violations, ranging from torture, unfair trials, mass killings and enforced disappearances are still common in many countries. The purpose of Write for Rights Day is to bombard the authorities responsible for human rights abuses with letters from all over the world on just a few selected cases. Amnesty has proof that these letters have been a significant factor in helping the individuals profiled.

Write for Rights is the power of one multiplied many thousand times over to make a difference in people's lives. Please take a moment to read over the 4 cases Incarnation will be campaigning for this Sunday.



Shop Fair Trade and support Amnesty International  
If you plan to buy gifts this season, you may like to consider shopping at Ten Thousands Villages, which sells fairly traded items from around the world. In addition to hand crafted pieces, they also organic tea, coffee, olive oil, spices, chocolate, toys and books.  
If you shop at Ten Thousands Villages this Saturday evening, from 6- 9 pm, they will donate 10% of all proceeds to Amnesty International. You need to present the attached coupon, so please print it off and share with family and friends.



**Youth Group Events-** for info contact Phil Carver at [incayouthprogram@gmail.com](mailto:incayouthprogram@gmail.com)

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**- 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 this Sunday December. 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 2:30pm

**Saturday, December 19, Oakville Place**

Meet at St Simon's church at 10:30



### 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](mailto: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*

905-306-6000 or [www.livingartscentre.ca](http://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](mailto: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 where .....ALL are welcome.

**Volunteer Schedule**

		December 13	December 20
Bread Making		B. Gowing	P. Henley
Altar Prep		B. Hanna-Morrison	A. MacNaughton
Coffee		Hickey	Stevens
Coffee		Hutchinson/Henley	MacLaughlan
Host		B. Abrams	L. Bird
Reader 1		G. Chambers	B. Gowing
Gospel		A. Turner-Sommer	B. Hanna-Morrison
Prayers		J. Bowden	K. Pitt
Server 1		P. Moffat	T. Burk
Server 2		A. MacNaughton	W. Burk
Wine Cups		E. Lorimer	C. Boulert
Counting		D. Bold	G. Hughes