

December 24, 2015

Christmas Eve

Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14

The Christmas Possibilities



Christmas this year, as so often, will be celebrated in the shadow of violence and fear, from terrorism. 2015 has been a difficult and unsettling year in many ways. This is no surprise; it has always been so. Jesus, too, was born into a world of cruelty, violence and exploitation.

He knew first-hand what the worst of human anger was like, and how irrational human cruelty can be.

And yet, by His coming into the world, Jesus brings us hope. Born as a baby, Jesus brings the divine message

that being human is full of possibilities for good. To be human is a gift from God: it is a gift to be used for life.

The baby born in a stable appears so weak, so far from prestige and power. But in Jesus' life we see life and its possibilities.

Possibilities of:

- broken relationships reconciled;
- barriers of race, power, religion and wealth overcome;
- self-interest turned to generosity;
- hatreds transformed to love.

Jesus was not ignorant of the darkness of human hatred. We see it all around us in the news, on social media and, sadly, all too often we experience it in our own lives. But Jesus brings life. He told His disciples, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

That contrast has been important for nearly 2000 years. Jesus, in taking human life as a baby, shows us how to be fully human and fully alive: alive to each other and alive to God who gives us life. Therefore, the Christian way should be one of love, joy, peace, hope, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

Every person who follows Jesus and looks to his way of life, of peace, tilts the balance away from hatred. This Christmas, I invite you to pause, to consider Jesus' way of peace, his healing of people in body, mind and spirit, his teaching of compassion and justice, his bringing of hope.

Jesus' birth is the opportunity to look at our own lives and discover the seeds of hope again.

We wish you a happy and Blessed Christmas season.

Christmas Eve Services

4:30 pm Family friendly service with lots of carols. **Kids – bring your crayons for a special activity!**

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist Choral worship

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist Choral worship and candle light

Volunteer Schedule for Christmas Eve

	4:30	7:00	10:30
Bread Making	Ann Moniuk	Ann Moniuk	Ann Moniuk
Altar Prep	Michele Stevens	Michele Stevens	Michele Stevens
Host	Bonnie Adams	Gary & Morag Chambers	Claudine & Zach
Host	Ann MacNaughton		
Reader 1		Jean Grieve	Julia Lockhart
Reader 2		Aiden Frape	Beth Hanna-Morrison
Gospel		Victor Moniuk	Karen Pitt
Prayers	Mary Loeffler	Susan Curran	Leslie Hickey
Server 1	Ann MacNaughton	Pearl Moffa	Veronica Hughes
Server 2	Beth Hanna-Morrison	Denise Bold	TBA
Wine Cups	Ewen Lorimer	Ewen Lorimer	Ewen Lorimer

There will be no eNews next week. Here are the readings for the following two Sundays:

December 27, 2015

First Sunday after Christmas

Readings: 1 SAMUEL 2:18-20, 26, LUKE 2:41-52

January 3, 2016

Feast of the Epiphany

Readings: ISAIAH 60:1-6, MATTHEW 2:1-12

This Week at Inca



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.



For Social Justice and
the Environment

Oakville Book Reading Club for the Environment and Social Justice, January 14 2016

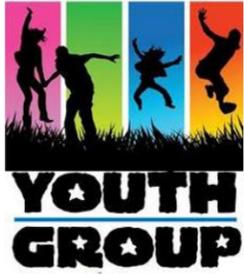
This club has been formed to encourage people to read books that deal with some of the most important issues of the day and then come together to discuss the subject matter of these books. We will meet in the Chapel for five consecutive Thursdays beginning on January 14 2016, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Contact Mervyn Russell for more information mervicia@gmail.com



Buy GOOD Coffee

Delicious, organic, Arabica coffee grown by women in Peru who are paid above the Fair Trade rate. Purchase a 10oz bag for \$10 and part of the proceeds supports our outreach programs. Available in the office.

A partnership project with CJ's Fundraising.



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

Sunday, January 10 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!



Choir Practice – Rehearsals resume January 6

The choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:30. Share your voice, all welcome.

No Choir practice on January 27



Contemplative Fire Service – Sunday, January 17, 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 – January 21, 2016!

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!

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.



Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. office@incarnationchurch.ca

Nametags let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



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!	December 27	January 3
Bread Making	C. Surphlis	J. Lockhart
Altar Prep	A. Moniuk	L. Bird
Coffee	MacNaughton	MacDougall
Coffee	Moffat	Turner-Sommer
Host	K. Wilson	L. Hickey
Reader 1	B. Stevens	D. Bold
Gospel	D. Lusby	G. Luce
Prayers	S. Curran	J. Grieve
Server 1	K. Pitt	A. MacNaughton
Server 2	A. Turner-Sommer	D. Bold
Wine Cups	Z. Boulert	E. Lorimer
Counting	J. Stevens	J. Lockhart