

LET HIM EASTER IN US

Most of the Christian world refers to the Feast of Christ's Resurrection using some variant of the word "Passover" (pascha, paques, pasqua, pascua), a word that comes to us from the foundational story of the Jewish people, the Exodus, God's liberation of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land.

But we English-speakers call it "Easter," a word St. Bede (the first historian of the English church), tells us comes from the name of a goddess worshipped by the pagan Anglo Saxons until the coming of Christianity to the north of England. She was a goddess of the dawn, of the rising sun, of the East and so it was natural that the word came to be associated with the Christian Passover, the rising from the dead of the Son of God.

In nautical terms, to "easter" is to turn towards the east, to the source of light. In this verbal form, the word Easter is a good description of the Christian life, a life characterized by conversion, continual re-orientation, literally turning to the "orient," to Christ, who every morning in the church's daily prayer is called the "dayspring from on high" who brings light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

The most famous use of the word "easter" as a verb is found in Gerard Manley Hopkins' poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland" in which he says of Christ: "Let him easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us, be a crimson-cressed east".

What is it like to be "eastered," to not only celebrate Easter, but to let Easter work in us? For Mary Magdalene, the first to encounter the Risen Lord, it involved learning to let go of the familiar. "Do not cling to me" he says to her. Was that cruel? Death, separation from everything we know and love, is cruel. Or was he saying to her, and to us, "there is so much more than what you can see and touch here and now. By all means, remain here at the grave for a while and weep, but do not stay here, for I have not."

To let Christ easter in us, to be a dayspring to the dimness of us, is to discover more and more that we do not possess the truth, either about ourselves or about others, as something static we can cling to, but rather that the Truth possesses us. This "truth from above" is dynamic, always drawing us forward, to the dawn.

THE REVEREND CANON DAVID BRINTON OGS,
(SUB-DEAN)

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THE STONE IS ROLLED AWAY

The stone served an important function; to cover over, to create a seal between life and death, to close off a terrible ending of a beautiful and short life, to bring a finality to Friday. The stone dragged across the gaping entrance of the grave also severed whatever hope they might have had that things would be different; that the poor would be fed, the blind might see and the mute might speak. The stone is like the last shovel full of earth that we lay down on the grave of a family member or friend, once patted down the grief we feel sinks in even deeper. A few flowers are placed carefully nearby and we walk away.

That was Friday... but on Sunday, the stone was rolled away. A stone, so heavy that it would take two to push to the side. Did Angels put their shoulders to the great weight? Did bandits break the seal looking for profit? Did it move from inside the grave or from outside? God only knows!

Whether it was an inside job or an outside job, the stone being rolled away changed everything. What was once closed, opened. What was once departed, arrived. What was once lifeless was restored. One by one each of the disciples would encounter the risen Lord in their own particular way. Try as they might, not even doubt, or shame, or denial that clothed them on Friday could keep them from seeing Christ in their midst on Sunday. Whatever might have been lost on Friday came back on Sunday and much more. A motley crew of followers would rise too, to become the body, the living hope for the world.

And we like our biblical ancestors are invited to go back to the garden for another look. The stone that once claimed to have the last word on Friday speaks the first word on Sunday... He is risen! As to the early disciples, it comes to us now to shift the weight of shame, grief, denial and doubt to the side so that we too might be the body that brings sustenance, sight and hope to a world acquiescent to death.

The stone is rolled away... Alleluia!

DEAN ANDREW ASBIL

GOOD NEWS FROM THE CATHEDRAL- COMMUNITY REFUGEE RESPONSE COMMITTEE



It is with joy that we announce that our committee has been matched with a Syrian family of five – mom, dad, and three sons aged 12, 10, and 5. They will arrive anytime from three to 11 weeks from now.

When the sponsorship committee formed in November 2015, we expected to be sponsoring a Syrian family by the spring of 2016, but due to a slowdown in the processing of Syrian refugees, we, like hundreds of other groups, have been waiting. In the meantime, we have sponsored a man from Iran, exceeded our fundraising goal, networked in the community, and advocated with the federal government.

Thank you for your unflagging support, and thanks to those who donated to the financial campaign. You have brought us to this happy moment and made it possible for a family to escape violence and terror.

Wishing everyone a blessed Holy Week and joyous Easter,

THE REVEREND CANON KATE MERRIMAN
(CHAIR, CATHEDRAL-COMMUNITY
REFUGEE RESPONSE COMMITTEE)

THE CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

The Cathedral Church of St. James

Church: King & Church Streets

Office: 65 Church Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2E9

416-364-7865

info@stjamescathedral.ca

www.stjamescathedral.ca

Holy Baptism

FEBRUARY 26 Ava Amisha Tanis Nowers

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

JANUARY 11 Robert Despard Northey

FEBRUARY 24 Jane (Bunty) Mitchell

MARCH 1 Donna Alice Mandar



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

May 28 marks the last Sunday before **FATHER DAVID BRINTON** steps into a well-deserved retirement after a long and dedicated ministry to the Cathedral Community. Arriving at St. James 17 years ago as Associate Priest, he was promoted to Vicar and then in 2012 honoured as Sub-Dean of the Cathedral, a reflection of the esteem in which he is held by the Archbishop, the present and former Deans, and the whole Cathedral Community. He will be greatly missed. There will be opportunities in the weeks to come for all to give thanks for Father David's ministry among us, including a gathering on the evening of May 27. Details to come, so please mark your calendars.

The Vicar Selection Committee is currently interviewing in the search for a new Vicar. The Committee would like to thank everyone for their interest and engagement in this search. With excellent candidates, we hope to be able to make an announcement in the next few weeks.

The Committee asks your prayers as we deliberate and seek God's Will in discerning the person best suited to join the Cathedral Community as its Vicar.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

On February 12 **THE REVEREND CHRIS HARPER** was installed as the Indigenous Native Priest for the Diocese of Toronto, a ministry that he took up in September of last year. Prior to his arrival in Toronto, he served as rector of St. Michael and All Angels in Thunder Bay. Preceding ordination in 2005, he worked as an emergency medical technician in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and head of Emergency Medical Services at Onion Lake Cree Nation. He attended James Settee College in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, earning a Certificate of Indigenous Anglican Theology, before going to Wycliffe College to attain a Masters of Divinity.

"I will be ministering inside and outside the church, on the streets and in homes, in hospitals and prisons, to anybody in need. The challenge for us as Christians is not to be just Christians on Sunday morning, but to live it in daily faith life, in what you say and do and how you pray, bless, forgive, love and bring peace." - Fr. Harper (Anglican Diocese of Toronto post, August 15, 2016)

As a Plains Cree and Anglican priest Chris offers gifts of leadership and presence within our city and diocese. We are delighted to announce that he will also have a presence at St. James Cathedral. In addition to having an office on the second floor of the Cathedral Centre, Chris will also preside at mid-week celebrations and on Sundays when his busy schedule allows. We welcome Chris and his wife Tracy to St. James.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

On May 7, **JAMES LIU** our pastor with the Mandarin ministry will be ordained a Deacon. We are delighted to announce that James will be serving as an Assistant Curate at St. James Cathedral. He will spend half of his time learning the art of parish ministry and the other half continuing to nurture and lead the Mandarin ministry in our midst. We are pleased to share this news.

NIIGAANI-GICHIGAMI

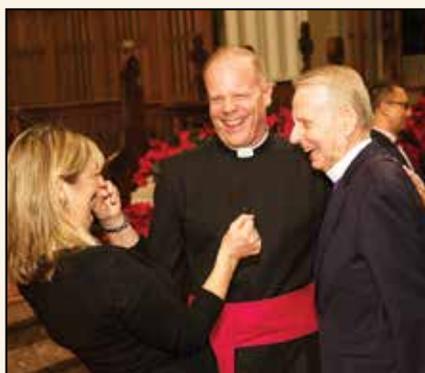
Did you know that nine million people receive their drinking water from Lake Ontario? The Anishinaabemowin word for Lake Ontario is Niigaani-gichigami, which means 'Leading Lake.' Toronto's camp is pitched at the shores of Niigaani-gichigami, yet how often do we think of ourselves as people who live on a lake? Our bodies are mostly water, and we cannot live without it. Water is the vessel God uses to usher us into covenant with God's self in the Sacrament of Baptism. In an age of increasing pollution of the life of our planet, slogans have emerged that cry out water is sacred, water is life.

The Niigaani-gichigami Water Festival was envisioned by a small collective of Indigenous women, two-spirit folk, and allies, as a month-long celebration to learn about, pray for, and express our gratitude and respect for the waters we live on. The month of May will be full of opportunities for people from all cultures, communities, and faiths to come together to acknowledge how we are cared for and healed by God's gift of water. It will be a chance to make and renew our commitment to protecting and caring for the waters we rely on. The shores and circumferences of countless lakes have been walked by Indigenous peoples and allies as they pray for the healing of polluted water ways; these events are considered spiritual commitments and are known as "water-walks." The Niigaani-gichigami Gratitude Walk will begin at 10:00am on Saturday, May 6, at the bottom of Sherbourne Street, where prayers will be offered by diverse faith leaders. The Gratitude Walk will process up to St. James Park, for a BBQ, live music, educational opportunities, and arts activities for all ages. This Walk and Festival will seek to bring together different communities, be a tangible witness in our neighbourhood, a chance to prayerfully connect with others, celebrate the gift of water, and help us to think about what it means to live well on the banks of Niigaani-gichigami.

This month long Water Festival will also include opportunities for learning and critical reflection. Throughout the month of May, Justseeds Artists' Cooperative's "Great Soft Power," an art exhibit that highlights issues related to the health of water and communities along the Great Lakes, will be on display in the Cathedral. On May 24 at 7:00pm, Dr. Stephen Scharper, environmental ethicist and theologian, will speak in Snell Hall on "Sacred Waters: The Flow from Commodity to Gift." On May 31 at 7:00pm, Dr. Debby Danard, Anishnaabe scholar, healer, and suicide prevention worker will speak on "Grief, Healing, and Water." Dr. Danard will be joined by Dr. Bonnie McElhinny, assistant professor at the University of Toronto, whose research focuses on how we live in right relationship with creation and each other. All are welcome; invite your friends and neighbours to these exciting opportunities to deepen our relationship with creation, each other, and our Creator.

THE REVEREND LEIGH KERN
(ASSISTANT CURATE)

THE SEASON IN



N REVIEW

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ASH WEDNESDAY DISCOVERY DAY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The Ash Wednesday Discovery Day for Children and Youth held at St. James Cathedral is an annual event that seeks to cultivate and nurture the faith of our youngest members. All the sessions are aimed at making our deepest liturgical and theological symbols accessible to children through play, food, and fun activities.

This year 45 children, ages 5-13, from 12 parishes across the Diocese, as well as a Baptist and a Presbyterian congregation, participated in the various events that took place in both the church and Cathedral Centre. In the morning the children traced the font, explored the chancel, dressed up in vestments, learned about the liturgical year, and tried on the Archbishop's mitres and pectoral crosses. At mid-day they attended the Ash Wednesday service. The afternoon found the children climbing up the tower to ring the bells, playing the organ, and burying their alleluias in the crypt.

Feedback from parents about this year's Discovery Day has been overwhelmingly positive. My hope is that the children not only remember what their faith means to them personally, but that they might share their faith in fun and meaningful ways with others who have not yet heard the Good News.

I would like to thank Archbishop Colin Johnson, Dean Andrew Asbil, the Rev'd Megan Jull, the Rev'd Canon David Brinton, David Briggs, Madeline Cheesman, Sophie Asbil and Mark Raab for all their hard work, patience, and creativity in ensuring this year's Ash Wednesday Discovery Day was a rousing success.

ALISON HARI-SINGH
(PASTORAL ASSOCIATE, YOUNG ADULTS)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we said goodbye to our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Brian Raney. On his farewell Sunday as they gathered around him for a final picture together, it was obvious to all that the children adored him.

John Fraser and I are currently sharing as interim coordinators until the hiring process has been completed and we welcome a new Children's Minister. Each Sunday just before the 11:00am service we sit in the back pews, anticipating who might join us. We can almost always count on 4 but lately we have been pleasantly surprised by 9, 12 and as many as 18. Anyone who has spent time in a Sunday School knows full well the joy of discovering how faith seems so simply innate in children and how much we learn from each other. The children of our Cathedral are engaged and inspiring. They are active participants already, serving in the chancel and preparing to greet you at the door. If you want to know how faith works, just ask them. They know!

MARY ASBIL



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP: FIRST NATIONS DRUMMERS AT THE INDUCTION OF THE REV'D CHRIS HARPER, FEBRUARY 12. ARCHBISHOP JOHNSON GREETES THE HON. ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL AND PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE AT THE FUNERAL OF ARCHBISHOP TERENCE FINLAY, MARCH 25. DEAN ANDREW AND MARY ASBIL GREET ARCHBISHOP FINLAY AT THE ARCHBISHOP'S LEVEE, JANUARY 1. A GUEST VIEWS THE CATHEDRAL'S EXHIBIT "A BLACK CANADIAN JOURNEY," FEBRUARY 5. PRIMATE FRED HILTZ WITH THE HON. ADRIENNE CLARKSON AT THE FUNERAL OF ARCHBISHOP FINLAY, MARCH 25. THE FINLAY FAMILY, RELATIVES AND CLERGY WATCH AS THE CASKET IS REMOVED FROM THE CATHEDRAL, MARCH 25. BISHOP KEVIN ROBERTSON GREETES MICHAEL COREN AT THE ARCHBISHOP'S LEVEE, JANUARY 1. THE HON. ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL AND ARCHIVIST NANCY MALLETT PERUSE THE BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT, FEBRUARY 5. THE PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF CATHEDRAL ASSISTANT CURATE THE REV'D LEIGH KERN, JANUARY 14 (2). CATHEDRAL VERGER PAUL SEDDON WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ORDER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO, JANUARY 1. CATHEDRAL DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCE ROB SAFFREY WAS PRESENTED WITH THE ORDER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO, JANUARY 1. **PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.**

UPCOMING DATES

- APR 16** **Easter Day: The Resurrection of the Lord**
LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM, 4:30PM
- APR 18** **Mandarin/English Taizé Service with music**
7:00pm in the Cathedral, led by James Liu
- APR 19** **Mahler's Symphony II "The Resurrection"**
Organist David Briggs & The Cathedral Choir
7:30pm in the Cathedral
DETAILS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE
- APR 20** **York Group Speaker Meeting**
1:00pm in the York Group Lecture Room
ALSO MEETING MAY 11, JUN 8. DETAILS ONLINE.
- APR 22** **Change Bell Peal Attempts with visiting ringers**
April 22-23: For the 20th anniversary of the installation of the change ringing bells.
- APR 23** **St. James Book Club Meeting**
12:30pm in the Board Room
- APR 26** **Truth & Reconciliation Series: The Rev'd Leigh Kern on 'Civilizing the Wild: Entitlement, Colonialism & Race at the Red River'**
Lecture at 7:00pm: DETAILS ONLINE
- APR 29** **Amnesty International Action Circle Meeting**
1:00pm in the Board Room
ALSO MEETING MAY 27
- APR 30** **Diocesan Confirmation Service**
4:30pm in the Cathedral
- MAY 1** **Niigaani-gichigami Water Festival: "Great Soft Power" Exhibit by Mary Tremonte**
May 2017: on display in the Cathedral
- MAY 6** **Niigaani-gichigami Gratitude Walk**
PART OF THE NIIGAANI-GICHIGAMI WATER FESTIVAL
10:00am-2:00pm An interfaith service, starting from waterfront at Lower Sherbourne St. and ending with celebrations and BBQ at St. James Park
- MAY 7** **The Ordination of Deacons**
4:30pm in the Cathedral
THIS IS A TICKETED EVENT. PLEASE APPLY TO ONE OF THE ORDINANDS FOR TICKETS.

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE

These last two millennia have heard composers seeking to tell the story of Jesus' birth, life and death through the medium of sung vocal expression in a plethora of genres and styles. From the tearing of the veil of the temple, the fury of impious Herod, the lullabies of Mary to the Spirit moving over the face of the waters at the first day: we have notes to lift these stories off the page and into our hearts via our ears.

When it comes to representing the moment of *resurrection* in a musical work, however, you can quickly imagine the logistical and artistic hurdles which present themselves to the keen composer. How on earth can something so unfathomable, inconceivable, and outright anomalous be represented? The combination of joy, terror and supernatural or metaphorical complexity does not easily translate itself to music as the familiar textures of rejoicing shepherds, crying cherubim and angry passion-tide mobs do. With resurrection, composers from the 16th and 17th centuries such as Palestrina might employ rising scales, which in their upwards flourishes invoke a lively vigour that fits the sentiment of returning from the grave. William Byrd might use augmented musical spaces between a

lower and higher note to paint the picture of being lifted from death. J.S Bach depicts the opening of the graves and the raising of the saints in his St. John Passion with a tremendous hubbub of volatility. It is interesting to compare how composers have, in almost equal measure, represented the resurrection of Jesus as terrifying and joyful.

By the 19th Century, orchestras were starting to get larger and louder. The grand romantic era was sweeping through literature, opera and other musical forms. Flutes went from being made out of wood to copper and zinc, trombones were lengthened, and violin strings were changed from lamb intestine to steel. Gustav Mahler, the operatic conductor in his twenties, was working at the zenith of this romantic stylistic period during the 1880s. He composed his Symphony No.2, known as *The Resurrection*, around a number of themes and questions that torment and riddle the common soul – is there life after death? How can God and human suffering be reconciled? His marvellous and mellifluous musical answer is, eventually one of profoundly eternal hopefulness that transcends our sensitivities and understanding.

MAY 17 **H2O Opus 8 Concert**
 PART OF THE NIIGAANI-GICHIGAMI WATER FESTIVAL
7:30pm at Trinity College Chapel (6 Hoskin Ave.)
 Admission free, donations welcome

MAY 21 **Rogation Sunday Procession**
10:15am from the Cathedral steps into St. James Park following the 9:00am service

MAY 24 **Lecture with Dr. Stephen Scharper, "Sacred Waters: The Flow from Commodity to Gift"**
 PART OF THE NIIGAANI-GICHIGAMI WATER FESTIVAL
Lecture at 7:00pm: DETAILS ONLINE

MAY 26 **The Annual Last Night of the Proms Concert**
7:30pm with The Band of The Royal Regiment of Canada and The Cathedral Choirs and the Toronto Star's Shawn Micallef (MC)
 DETAILS AND TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE

MAY 27 **A Community Celebration in Thanksgiving for the Ministry of The Rev'd Canon David Brinton OGS**
Evening in Snell Hall
 DETAILS TO FOLLOW

Doors Open Toronto Weekend: May 27-28
 WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS

MAY 28 **Father David Brinton's last Sunday as Sub-Dean and Vicar before his retirement**

MAY 31 **Lecture with Dr. Debby Danard & Dr. Bonnie McElhinny, "Grief, Healing and Water"**
 PART OF THE NIIGAANI-GICHIGAMI WATER FESTIVAL
Lecture at 7:00pm: DETAILS ONLINE

JUN 4 **The Day of Pentecost**
 LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM, 4:30PM

JUN 18 **Aboriginal Sunday**
 WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS

JUN 25 **Pride Sunday & Annual Jazz Mass**
11:00am in the Cathedral

JUL 1 **Cathedral Community BBQ & Canada Day Festivities in St. James Park**

JUL 22 **The Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge in Concert with director Stephen Layton**
4:00pm in the Cathedral
 WATCH FOR DETAILS AND TICKETS INFO

JUL 30 **The Feast of St. James the Apostle (Patronal)**
 LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM, 4:30PM

E RESURRECTION?

It is impossible in 2017 to compose a piece that comments on the topic of resurrection without proceeding through or reacting against Mahler's shadow. Our skilled Artist-in-Residence, David Briggs, has gone to incredible lengths to transcribe Mahler's orchestral score for organ. His virtuosic rendering of it, with its panoply of colours, moods and registrations is not something one can experience through an app, video or smartphone. The sound of a large choir, singing with everything they can muster, down to the quietest whisper is not something that living room speakers can even begin to imitate. When Mahler writes and represents resurrection, he sets his own ecstatic text and that of Friedrich Klopstock. The unforgettable injunctions and exclamations to "Rise again" are not only in relation to Christ, but to ourselves at the last day. A glimpse of the real stuff of life, of a depiction by one of history's greatest composers of *immortal* life is on our doorstep this Eastertide. Mahler's Symphony No. 2 will be performed in the Cathedral on Wednesday April 19 at 7:30pm (Tickets available online or at the door).

ROBERT BUSIAKIEWICZ
 (DIRECTOR OF MUSIC)



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

BLACK HISTORY EXHIBIT: Word of our recent exhibit on Black History has spread across the city and we have now been invited by the Toronto Caribbean Carnival to participate in its events taking place in August to mark the 50th anniversary of Carnival in Toronto. Still in the early stages of planning, it has been suggested that our exhibit might provide a historic introduction and grounding to Toronto, as a prelude to a special art exhibit they will be setting up in the main rotunda of Toronto's Metro Centre from August 1 to 3, 2017. Watch for details to follow closer to the date.

NANCY MALLET (ARCHIVIST)

LIGHTING THE CATHEDRAL

Have you ever walked around the city at night and noticed how the architectural features of some of the city's historical buildings come to life? Stone carving and brickwork are displayed in a way that is not possible during daylight. Dark, ominous spaces are transformed into welcoming spaces that draw people to them. The St. Lawrence Hall and Flat Iron building come to mind. Wouldn't it be wonderful to light the Cathedral in the same way so that it can stand as a beacon in the community?

You may remember if you were around in 2009 that there was a temporary lighting demonstration illuminating the front of the Cathedral. It brought focus to our beautiful building on a dark November evening. In 2010, the City of Toronto created a heritage master plan for lighting Old Town Toronto. This plan looked at heritage buildings in a geographic area that included St. James Cathedral. With the redevelopment of St. James Park to take place in 2017, the Cathedral has a unique opportunity to work collaboratively with the City of Toronto on a jointly funded lighting project for the Cathedral.

The Cathedral Council has met with Councillor Pam McConnell and city staff from the Heritage Preservation Services group at City Hall to discuss a joint lighting project. In the short time between when the city plan was produced in 2010 to now there have been significant advances in the energy efficiency, dynamicism, and cost of lighting a building such as the Cathedral. The Cathedral has been working with a lighting consultant and the city on a lighting plan that will illuminate all sides of the Cathedral.

What will implementation look like? Existing lighting poles (including the unsightly lights affixed to the building at the back of the Church that illuminate the stained glass in the sanctuary) will be removed and replaced with eight or ten poles at strategic points around the Church. In addition, lights will be affixed directly to the Church to highlight windows, carvings, and entrances. The end result will be stunning.

In addition the obvious aesthetics of adding lighting, there are some practical benefits to the Church and surrounding community. A lighter space is a safer space. Lighting will encourage more pedestrian traffic in the park and around the Church. It will make the Cathedral a more inviting space and a destination point during the day and night.

ROBERT SAFFREY
(DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & FINANCE)

RENDERING OF THE EXTERIOR LIGHTING PLANNED FOR ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL, BY GABRIEL MACKINNON LIGHTING DESIGN