



THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

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ABOVE: "NATIVITY" (DETAIL)
BY JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY, 1777



THE REV'D ANDREW
MACDONALD
ASSOCIATE PRIEST

In a parish that I once served, there was a practice that I had never seen done before in other churches. It wasn't about music, prayer books or coffee hour; it was about a 25-watt light bulb.

The reader of the first lesson would come up to the lectern from which the scriptures were read, and tug on the little pull-cord for the reading lamp mounted to the lectern. At the end of the reading, they would pull again on the cord to turn it off. When the second reader came forward, *CLINK*, they would turn it on again, and turn it off at the end of the reading. When it came time for the Prayers of the People, *CLINK*, the reader would turn on the lamp, and turn it off at the end. I watched this happen for weeks before finally asking, "Why don't they just leave the light on?"

Sometimes in the Church, things are less theological and more practical. The lamp was housed within a beautiful brass shade, but when it was on, it reflected the brilliant light in every direction, shining into the eyes of those sitting in the front pews. Thus, it was turned on and off between readings to spare those parishioners the discomfort of the gleaming light.

The glare of oncoming headlights on a snowy evening; the streetlights that penetrate our living room windows; the unforgiving glow of our cell phones; that red light on our TV that reminds us that it's never really off. *We're all too familiar with lights that blind and distract.*

But in this season of Advent now upon us, we bear witness anew to that brilliant light God holds out for us in Christ. In Advent, we testify not to a light that shines into our eyes to blind us, but rather one that overcomes the darkness around us, and helps us see more clearly Christ in our midst.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Holy Baptism

OCTOBER 7

Caitlin Alexandra Levere
Emily Victoria Levere

OCTOBER 28

Logan Thomas Lachlan Hopkins

NOVEMBER 4

Layla Sophia Dawes
Andre Folarin Sholagbade

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

OCTOBER 12

Thomas Edward Chambers

OCTOBER 18

John Stephen David Jeffrey

OCTOBER 29

Burhard Eric (Rick) Steinberg

NOVEMBER 8

Florence Elizabeth Christie

Holy Matrimony

SEPTEMBER 22

Natalie Alexandra Aziz & Edward Stuart Warner

OCTOBER 20

Ying Yu & Shuang Wu

NOVEMBER 3

Ashling McWilliam & Chun-Bong Lo

THE LIGHT SHINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Angels coming with bright light to dark fields of shepherds and sheep; A star in the sky, leading the Magi through field and town; The flicker of a candle, piercing through a dark room; The first ray of dawn after a long night. *These are lights that lead to Christ.*

And so are we as well. In Advent, we look to the coming of Christ, and at Christmas

we give thanks that God has given us the light of Christ to carry for others in the world to see, just as we have seen it. We invite others into that light, just as we have been invited into that Advent light, shining in the darkness.

And so as our early-winter days grow darker this December, ask yourself – Who was the first person who held out that light of Christ to you? Who has God invited you to share the light of Christ with? Who will they share it with?

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” May God grant that Christ’s light in us may always be switched on, that it may help others to see Christ in our midst.

Blessings for a holy Advent and a joyful Christmas season.



FROM THE VICAR

*The Light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

JOHN 1:5

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER – A CHRISTMAS POEM

Frail fragile Light
You pierce through the dark.
Cutting through barricaded doors
finding a way through the pitch and the inky shadow of a world that shouts – NO ROOM.

Silently beaming through the cold abyss with a pure, warm, holy sparkling love.
Faster than speed, You, Holy Light break in, beam through.
You SHINE.
Cold is now Warm.
Lost is now Found.
Fear is now Hope.

Shine again in our world. Come find your Way with us again.
We are a people who live in darkness, longing to see, to feel your great Light.

Darkness did not overcome you then.
Darkness will not overcome you now.

Tiny shiny babe – be born anew – shine once more in a radiance of glory that
transforms the darkness of our world, our souls.
Let Love Shine again.

Flicker us, flame us, gentle us, back into God's heart of hope.

Birth that is stronger than death, babe that is the wordless WORD of God,
Divine Logos, Divine Light, come.
Shine into the shadows of our fears, our broken hearts, our fractured world.
Shine, that we may remember how.
How we are loved and made for love.
Tiny One of God, frail fragile Light, fiercer than death –
Shine.

My friends, blessings and peace be with you this Christmas. As we each receive the Gift of God in Christ, may we allow this Light to shine in our lives, so that love, peace and hope will bring healing and life to the world. Be a reflection of God's glorious light. Merry Christmas.

To God be the Glory,

THE REV'D LOUISE PETERS
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AND VICAR

The Season in Review



CATHEDRAL LIGHTING PROJECT UPDATE

The Cathedral lighting project is on track for a spring installation with much activity behind the scenes. If you are not familiar with this project, the exterior of our Cathedral will be lit so that its beauty can be seen at night as well as during the daylight hours.

Lighting a building like the Cathedral is complex and expensive. The process has included testing of different light fixtures on the stone and brick to see which lights are most suitable and then costing out different tiers of lighting.

In the match of price to the scope of work, the vision for lighting has been defined to include:

- 10 light standards around the Cathedral that will light the entire building, clock tower and spire
- Lighting attached to the Church to highlight detailed stone and brick work at the entrances
- Lighting attached to the Church to light at ground level the windows and brick on the east and west side of the building

The Cathedral received tenders for the work to achieve our vision and we are now in the process of making some adjustments. The City of Toronto has been a major funding partner of this work with their vision for the park and this historic area of the city very much in alignment with our vision. We received \$315,000 from the City towards the costs of this project. We are currently in discussion with the City about possible modifications to the scope of work and funding available.

The Cathedral is an integral part of the community that it serves. Each week 'The Friends of St. James Park' walk through the park and neighbourhood to observe and assess the needs of the park and those who use it. We have participated in this group and hosted a number of meetings. A common theme is lighting. St. James Park is undergoing a major reconstruction which started this year with the children's playground and will continue with a new bandstand, pathways, and lighting. The entire neighbourhood is looking forward with great anticipation to the completion of this project. You will be updated in Connections as we achieve significant milestones.



ROBERT SAFFREY
DIRECTOR
OF OPERATIONS
& FINANCE



4



5



11



12



13



14

1-3: CHORISTERS SANG AND CLERGY BLESSED PETS AT THE ANNUAL BLESSING OF ANIMALS SERVICE CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, OCTOBER 6.

4-7: THE MINISTRY FAIR IN SNELL HALL, NOVEMBER 18.

8: VOLUNTEERS DECORATED THE CHANCEL FOR HARVEST THANKSGIVING, OCTOBER 6.

9-10: "THE LAST GREAT PLAGUE: THE STORY OF THE SPANISH FLU" AN EXHIBIT ON VIEW IN THE CATHEDRAL, OPENED OCTOBER 17.

11: THE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S HORSE GUARDS AND THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADA IN ATTENDANCE, NOVEMBER 11.

12: A COMMEMORATION SERVICE AT THE MEMORIAL CROSS ON REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 11.

13-14: "CRÈCHES FROM ACROSS THE WORLD, AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURE OF THE CRÈCHE" AN EXHIBIT ON VIEW IN THE ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM, OPENED DECEMBER 5.

ALL PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

UPCOMING DATES

Two weekly organ recitals are offered year-round,
Sundays at 4:00pm and Tuesdays at 1:00pm.
For more information visit stjamescathedral.ca.

- JAN 1** **The Naming of Jesus; New Year's Day**
12:30pm Holy Eucharist
1:30-2:45pm The Bishop's Levee
3:00pm Festive Music
3:30pm Choral Evensong & Presentations
of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto
- JAN 5** **La Nativité du Seigneur Concert**
WITH ORGANIST ROBERT DIXON
OPEN EVENT, DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
7:30pm in the Cathedral
- JAN 6** **The Epiphany of the Lord**
LITURGIES AT 8:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM,
1:30PM (MANDARIN), AND 4:30PM
- JAN 8** **Bilingual Taizé Service (Mandarin/English)**
7:00pm in the Cathedral
ALSO HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 5, AND APRIL 9
- JAN 13** **The Baptism of Jesus**
LITURGIES AT 8:00AM, 9:00AM, AND 11:00AM
- The Installation of Bishop Andrew Asbil
as the 12th Bishop of Toronto**
4:00pm in the Cathedral
- JAN 20** **Trinity College Service**
4:30pm Choral Evensong

- JAN 24** **Choral Composers' Workshop**
OPEN EVENT, DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED
5:45pm in the Cathedral
- JAN 27** **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service**
4:30pm Choral Evensong
- FEB 2** **Candlemas at St. Bart's, Regent Park**
10:00am Candlemas Ceremonies, Procession
& Sung Mass
509 DUNDAS STREET EAST (EAST OF PARLIAMENT)
LEARN MORE AT STBARTSTORONTO.CA
- FEB 3** **The 67th Anniversary of the Accession
of Her Majesty the Queen**
4:30pm Choral Evensong
- FEB 5** **Cathedral 101**
ALSO MEETING FEBRUARY 12, AND 19
6:00pm Service in the Cathedral
6:30pm Light Supper in the Cathedral Centre
7:00pm Lecture in the Cathedral Centre
WATCH FOR DETAILS
- FEB 24** **The Annual Meeting of Vestry**
1:00pm in Snell Hall
- MAR 5** **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**
7:00pm in Snell Hall
- MAR 6** **Ash Wednesday**
7:30am, 8:30am, 12:30pm, 5:15pm, 6:30pm
LITURGIES WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES
- Ash Wednesday Cathedral Exploration Day**
9:00am-3:30pm Event for Children and Youth
of the Diocese ages 6 -14; Watch for details.

THIS CHILD IS OUR SPARK



ROBERT BUSIAKIEWICZ
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Almost 60 years after fleeing devastating violence in the Hungarian Uprising as a child, the poet George Szirtes writes of the Christmas story:

*We move on for ever
our feet leave no mark
you won't hear our voices
once we're in the dark
but here is our fire
this child is our spark.*

This comes from a poem called The Flight which was written in 2015 as part of a collaboration to create a Christmas carol with composer Richard Causton. As the Cathedral Choir sings these words on

Christmas Eve at 4:30pm, the tale of Mary, Joseph and their newborn son escaping the fatal paranoia of Herod leaps into our modern consciousness with a startling confrontation.

The music of this season is inevitably conflicted. Andy Williams will certainly blare out into the streets that 'it's the most wonderful time of the year', and we will offer liturgical music that croons of 'lovely fragrances': we cannot go without 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' (can we?) It surely wouldn't be Christmas without the 'playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.' If the music of the Anglican church fails to fill a congregation with uplifting zeal, optimism and that certain *je ne sais quoi* of a warm fuzzy feeling this December, then what is it for? Here at St. James we walk a tightrope in acknowledging that this great rejoicing cannot exist without the admixture of some darkness. The Ox and Ass and Camel only retain their bucolic tranquillity against the harsh reality of a refugee crisis, both of which have inspired musical

**MAR
7**

Catechism begins

A THURSDAY EVENING COURSE FOR THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, AND RECEPTION INTO THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION. WATCH FOR DETAILS.

**MAR
14**

York Group Speaker Meeting

1:00pm in the Cathedral Centre Lecture Room
ALSO APRIL 11

Holy Week and Easter at the Cathedral

**APR
14**

The Sunday of the Passion with the Liturgy of the Palms

LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM, 1:30PM (MANDARIN), AND 4:30PM

**APR
19**

Good Friday: The 3-Hour Devotion

12:00noon Choral Mattins
1:00pm Ante-Communion & Reading of the St. John Passion
2:00pm Choral Evensong & Veneration of the Cross

**APR
15**

Monday in Holy Week

7:00pm The Way of the Cross
ALSO ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

**APR
20**

Holy Saturday: In the Holy Night

9:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter

**APR
16**

Tuesday in Holy Week

10:30am The Chrism Mass: Renewal of Ordination Vows & Blessing of Oils

**APR
21**

Easter Day

8:00am Said Eucharist
9:00am Sung Eucharist
11:00am Procession & Choral Eucharist
1:30pm Mandarin Service
4:30pm Choral Evensong

**APR
18**

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm Institution of the Lord's Supper, Foot Washing, Stripping of the Altars, Watch at the Altar of Repose until 10:00pm

compositions. At Christmas, more than at any other time of year, it becomes starkly apparent that without tradition, originality cannot exist: for it is only against a tradition that it becomes perceivable. Tradition and originality are two components of a single process, a balancing act of liturgy and music designed to provoke us. The singular ability of sacred choral music to penetrate the modern mind at Christmas is something in which we can take great confidence. It is reassuring to think that church musicians might be called by Saul Bellow, "to think, to discriminate and to feel. The purer, subtler, higher activities have not succumbed to fury or to nonsense. Not yet. It may be more difficult to cut through the whirling mind of a modern listener, but it is still possible to reach the quiet zone." Where better to attempt this than at one of our Sunday Choral Evensongs at 4:30pm this winter, which are filled with musical commentary on the scriptures?

THE CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

The Cathedral Church of St. James

CHURCH: 106 King Street East
OFFICE: 65 Church Street,
Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2E9

416-364-7865 | info@stjamescathedral.ca

stjamescathedral.ca | @stjamesto

His light keeps conquering the darkness

Darkness certainly is gathering, as nights come sooner and sooner, days get greyer and colder, and world events seem more and more threatening. Advent offers us the promise of light – yes, with solstice, the sun will return, but also with our eyes opened by hope, we see many examples of the light brought to the world by Jesus.

One such source of light for me is my work as a lay pastoral visitor. This is a ministry overseen by the Parish Nurse and the Vicar, aiming to ensure that anyone in the parish who is cut off from worship services or who is struggling with a life crisis is not alone. I have been visiting two elderly parishioners of quite different backgrounds. One lives in an elegantly comfortable retirement home with many perks and activities, and she is loved by an attentive family. The other lives in a very basic city-run long-term care facility; her family is far-flung and visits are rare. For both, the ailments of aging make it difficult to get out, and both have suffered losses – of partner, home, valued work, companionship. For them, and for most of those around them, the end of life is not very far off. Some residents of these homes do “go gentle into that good night” (aided by sleep or drugs), and some do rage, but on my visits I am struck by the power of life. I see willingness to learn and question ideas, delight in a staff member who shares a culture, the release of laughter, the lure of a childhood village waiting outside the window, the joy of an old familiar hymn or a cello concert, the comfort of a beloved psalm or gospel story, the pleasure of sharing company. There are so many moments when the eyes light up.

In John’s gospel, Jesus often speaks of bringing both light and life. He said “I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Loneliness is a major threat to that abundant and healthy life, especially in older age; the lay pastoral visitors help to lessen loneliness, and we are given a glimpse of the courage, patience and humour that faith can build. Even when age and illness threaten, Jesus keeps offering abundant life, and His light keeps conquering the darkness.



SHEILA GOULET
LAY PASTORAL VISITOR

LAY PASTORAL VISITORS: SHINING A LIGHT

If you look at the Book of Alternative Services pages 159 and 160 you will see the questions each of us are asked at each baptismal service:

“Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?”

“Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Providing personal presence and spiritual support to people who are hurting or old, frail, sick or homebound is not just for clergy. Pastoral visiting is a fundamental dynamic of a worshipping community of faith.

The St. James Lay Pastoral Visitor Team’s vision is that every parishioner feels supported as a full member of the church community throughout their life. Our mis-

sion is to offer confidential, competent, ongoing support and comfort to parishioners not able to participate in regular parish life at times of isolation or distress in their lives. We meet regularly for education and mutual support.

Here are some points about the Lay Pastoral Visitor Role courtesy of The Rev’d Joanne Davies, May 2018:

Sustain: Comfort, support, company, prayer for/with the person.

Guide: Help the person find their own solutions to problems or life’s questions by providing reflective listening, referral, and clarification.

Heal: Aid the person in seeking and finding wellness or wholeness spiritually and emotionally.

Reconcile: Help the person restore or understand a relationship that has been broken with a person or a group. Helping them to seek reconciliation for themselves with God.¹

To explore joining the LPV team or to suggest someone in need of our support please contact any clergy member or the parish nurse.

¹ Original Source: Clebsch, William A., and Charles R. Jaekle, *Chaplaincy care in Historical Perspective: An essay with exhibits with a New Preface*. New York: Harper and Row, 1964



LANADEE LAMPMAN RN
PARISH NURSE