

Advent/Christmas 2022-23

THE BRIDGE

Bringing together the Parish of St. Joseph and St. George

St. John's
Hilton Beach

Holy Trinity
Jocelyn

St. George's
Echo Bay

Chapel of the Intercession
Llewellyn Beach

From the Incumbent's Desk

Advent is, once again, nearly here. The year has gone by very quickly as always. Beginning on Sunday, November 27th – The First Sunday of Advent – we will be hearing from the Prophet Isaiah and the Gospel writer, Matthew, each Sunday until Christmas.

Isaiah paints, for us, a picture of the beautiful world that awaits – a world in which swords are beaten into plowshares (Is.2:4), where God's wise and loving judgment brings total peace for all creation (Is.11:1-10), all will be healed (Is.35:5-7), and sorrowing and sighing will flee away leaving nothing but joy and gladness (Is.35:10).



Isaiah reveals to us that a child born of the royal line of the famous King David will be the one to bring us this beautiful world – the world of God’s fully arrived kingdom, on earth as in heaven.



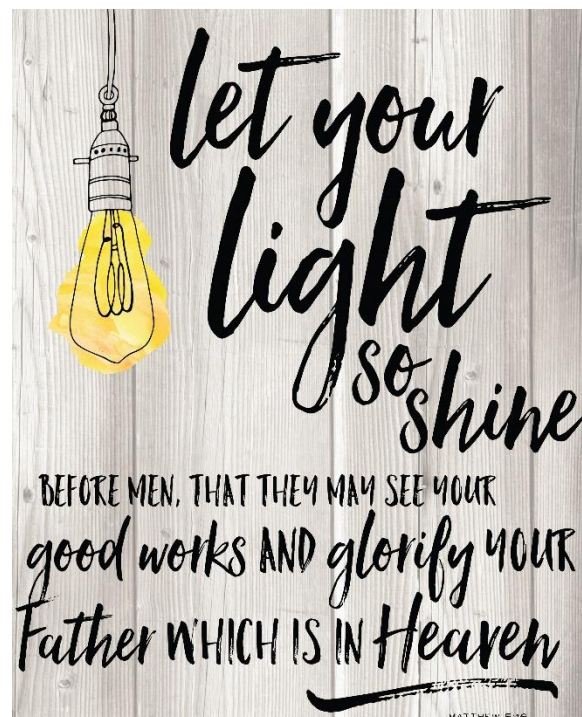
Matthew begins his Gospel with the story of the birth of this child – but that isn’t what we hear from Matthew throughout Advent. A child named Jesus, born of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, brought the kingdom. This child grew into a man and walked among us, teaching us how to live in this kingdom and, during Advent, Matthew tells us four very important things about Jesus the Christ and his kingdom.

1. **Jesus will come again** in glory to bring about the perfection of God’s kingdom and we must be ready – we must live according to the way of love and generosity of God’s kingdom now. Why? Because...
2. **Judgement awaits.** When Jesus comes again, he comes to judge. Some people find this a very frightening thought since we are so very imperfect. But, remember, God is a God of love not punishment. On the 2nd Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist tells us that Jesus will have his winnowing fork in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire (Matt.3:12). It may sound like Jesus is going to save the “good” people – the wheat –

and burn the “bad” people – the chaff. But that is not what is going on here at all. Wheat and chaff are *together* on the stem – the wheat is for eating and is kept. The chaff is the tough husk and is burnt. Each one of us is a mixture of wheat and chaff...our good stuff will be kept, the bad stuff will be purged from us.

3. ***The kingdom is here already.*** On the same day we hear Isaiah tell us that all will be healed in God’s kingdom, Matthew shows us Jesus telling John’s disciples that he is, indeed, doing exactly that – the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised (Matt.11:5). The presence of Jesus *is* the presence of the kingdom. Well, if the kingdom is here, where is it? It doesn’t feel like we live in God’s kingdom...but we *do*. We call Jesus “Lord” and we say things like, “God rules over all the earth” – this *is* God’s world but there is still brokenness in it too. All of creation, though, is being drawn toward its eventual perfection. God’s purpose will be accomplished. How?

4. ***Let your lights so shine before others – that’s how.*** On the final Sunday of Advent, Matthew tells us that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, is born. And the Light of the World does something amazing...he gives *us* that light too. Through the mystery of baptism, we are buried with Christ and raised with Christ – clothed in the righteousness of Christ and bearing Christ with us. Jesus truly is Emmanuel – “God With Us”. God, who could accomplish all things without any help from us at all, chooses to work *with* us to bring about the perfection of the kingdom because the perfection of God’s kingdom is love...love of God, love of others, love of all creation.



I pray you have a glorious Advent and let your lights shine!
Susan+

Doing **God's** Work...



Preparing and supplying meals to those in our communities who need a little help.



Sending some food "TLC" to parishioners to let them know we are thinking of them.

We raised nearly \$200 to send to Akany Tafita (school - pictured) and Akany Famonjena (orphanage) in Madagascar. These are Anglican mission projects started in the 1990's by Mary Sherwood. *Madagascar is the world's poorest non-conflict country.*



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Doing God's Work...



Pastor and parishioners raised money and walked in the annual "Coldest Night of the Year" walk to end homelessness in our communities.

We collected mugs and bought toiletries, warm men's hats, mitts, and socks to hand out this Christmas.



We have an ongoing collection of money and items for our local food banks.



We collected \$135 for our local Alzheimer Society.



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Doing God's Work

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We are investing in a sustainable future by taking steps to be more environmentally friendly and to take good care of the beautiful bits of creation on which our buildings rest.



We give at least \$1000 each year to local non-profit organizations. The hard work of our ACW allows us to do this. In 2022 we were able to open our doors for the **Echo Bay For Sale** community yard sale at St. George's as well as the well-received **Jubilee Tea** in June. "Jubilee" muffins are pictured below.



We are currently preparing for our final ACW event of 2022 – The Annual **Cookie Tray Sale at the Legion in Richards Landing** on November 20th! Large trays of cookies and Treats are just \$15!!

Doing God's Work



Our yearly Advent Outreach is in full swing. We are in the midst of **buying children's gifts** for young people whose families are struggling financially. The gifts will be distributed through the Lunches for Learning at St. Vincent Place.

We will also, as usual, "adopt" a family from **The Women in Crisis Centre** and buy gifts for the mother and her children.

I provide a service of **Holy Communion every Friday for the folks at Collegiate Heights** and, on Friday, December 2nd, it'll be a little more special...I'm bringing Christmas baking, our organist from St. George's will play Christmas hymns, and a few choir members from Emmaus Anglican Church will help us out with the singing.

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, I team up with The Rev. Canon Rosalie Goos, and Lutheran Pastor Brad Mittleholtz to provide a service of **Holy Communion at Great Northern** and at Pathways Retirement Residences. This month, I'll be bringing Christmas baking to them too!

Exciting news for the new year too: St. George's will host a once per breakfast with a guest speaker. Stay tuned for details.

If you can help us to do the work of God through the work of the church by contributing your time, your talents, or your treasure, that would be fantastic and very much appreciated! You can donate safely online: [Canada Helps: The Anglican Parish of St. Joseph & St. George](#) or send a cheque to us: The Anglican Parish of St. Joseph & St. George, Box 61, Richards Landing, ON, P0R 1J0.

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Not only do we help others in our communities and around the world, we worship together too!

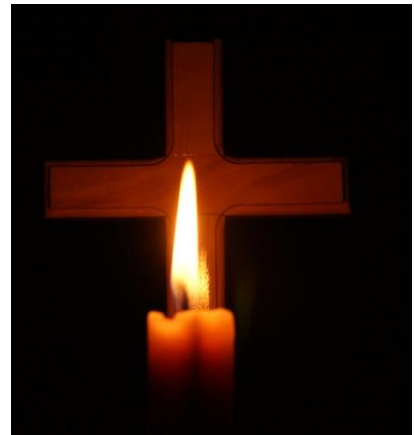


We gathered at the beach at the W.I. Park in Richards Landing for our much loved (and much missed during COVID shutdowns) worship in God's great outdoors.



This year, we were joined by some people from The Church of the Redeemer in Thessalon.

We also had a lovely "Taize on the Beach" worship service this past summer, joined by many from the United Church as well – who also joined us for a spirit-filled Good Friday time of worship. We had, too, a beautiful All Souls' Day Commemoration at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn Township.



We would absolutely love to have you...

Come join us for Worship

Sundays 9am at St. George's in Echo Bay

11am at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn Township

Christmas Eve Services: 4pm at St. George's in Echo Bay

8pm and 11pm at Holy Trinity, Jocelyn Township

If you'd like to contact me (The Rev. Susan Montague Koyle):

Phone: 705-253-6456 Email: susan.montague2@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook: [The Anglican Parish of St. Joseph & St. George](#)

And don't forget about our website: <https://stjosephandstgeorge.com/>

We even have a You Tube channel (St. Joseph and St. George)