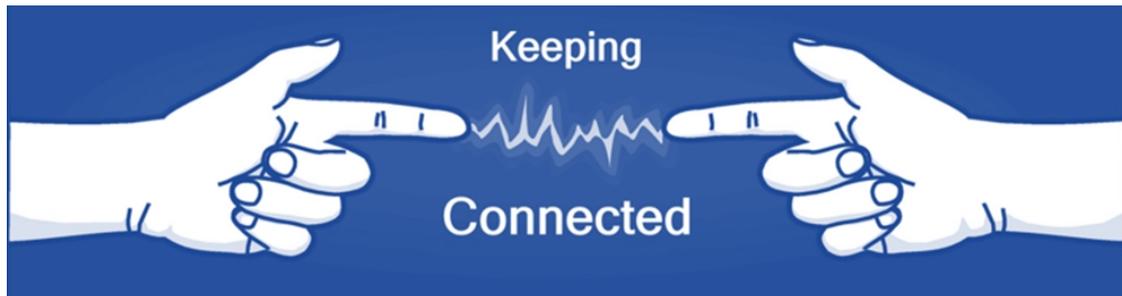


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For Sunday November 29 2020

Advent 1



See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)



Our journey towards Christmas begins.

Please read this jam-packed issue to find out what you can expect in terms of resources and activities in December.

There's a lot going on!

BE STILL MY SOUL

Come and rest in a candle-lit church for gentle music, inspirational messages, and silent prayer

Wednesday December 9, 2020 at 7:30p.m.

St Paul's Anglican Church,

In compliance with covid-19 protocols, pre-registration is required, and masks must be worn at all time in the church building.

To pre-register, call the Office at 613-256-1771 and leave a message with your name and telephone number.

To see all St. Paul's covid-19 worship protocols visit: stpaulsalmonte.ca



Annual Angel Tree



Every year in Advent, we remember our loved ones who are no longer with us. We write their names on a tag attached to a clear glass ball containing a white feather and hang these balls on our Angel Tree. While we listen to a beautiful piano arrangement of *Silent Night*, performed by our multi-talented Sandra Cain.

This year, our Angel Tree will be managed differently (pandemic protocols do not allow us to gather in close proximity around the Christmas tree).

BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY (November 29), you are invited to see Wendy at the back of the church and tell her the names of those you wish to memorialize.

Not attending in-person services? Call or email the office with the names you wish to remember.

All the names received BY **DECEMBER 11** will be transcribed on to tags. A video recording (physically distanced) of volunteers hanging the tagged feather-filled balls will be available on our YouTube channel on December 13. A *virtual Angel Tree* listing the names of those we want to remember this Christmas season will be published in *Keeping Connected* on Wednesday December 16.

Resources for Advent

As we did in Lent, we are offering an **group study for Advent**.

Since we can't meet in person, this will be via Zoom or you can participate by phone if you are not on the Internet.



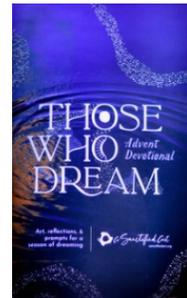
The study will be every Tuesday evening in December, starting December 1st at 7 p.m. We expect each session will take 1 to 1 and a half hours.

The Advent Study we will follow is called “At That Time” and is based on the Sunday morning Scripture readings. The weekly themes are: Hope; The Message; A Witness; and, A Servant. Each week’s study provides background information to enhance our understanding of the weekly Scriptures and some questions to stimulate group discussion

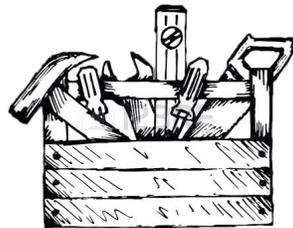
Call or email the Office **BY November 30** to let us know you’d like to participate. If you are not on the Internet, you can participate by phone – just let the office know that you are interested and we’ll link you in to the Zoom discussion.

You will receive the study guide as a PDF (Adobe Acrobat) document by email before the first study group meeting. If you wish to participate by phone we will organize delivery to you of a printed version of the guide.

A **daily devotional for Advent** is also available, for individual use - *Those Who Dream*, from A Sanctified Art. This too is focused on the themes of Advent, with a scripture reference and a commentary on that reading every day. We will provide a printed copy to anyone who requests it. Just phone or email the office to request a copy. We will either hand-deliver or mail it to you.



And coming later today, a **special issue of Keeping Connected**, a **Virtual Advent Toolkit** with suggestions for Advent activities: history and meaning of the Advent wreath and Jesse Tree plus instructions for making them; non-chocolate Advent calendars with suggestions for daily acts of kindness, daily scriptures or prayers for the season.



Christmas Services at St Pauls 2020



Christmas Eve (Thursday December 24): 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Day (Friday, December 25): 9:30 a.m.

Pre-registration for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services closes at noon on December 21.

A Message from Rev. Jonathon

All About Advent - Part 1

This is the first in a four-part series of articles about Advent. This week's article explores the history of Advent. During the season of Advent, I am also going to be writing a second article each week about a specific Advent tradition.



Happy New Year! This Sunday marks the beginning of a new year in the Church's calendar with the First Sunday of Advent. (If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to watch a short video on the theological and liturgical meaning of the Church calendar, which you can find on St. Paul's Facebook page). This season in the Church year is much more than simply a lead-up to Christmas. It has a long, complex, and varied history in the Church.

The English word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming, approach, or arrival". This in turn is related to an earlier Greek word *parousia* which early Christians used to describe the second coming of Christ at the end of time.

The earliest recorded references to Advent in Church history date back to the fourth and fifth centuries. Advent was described as a time of preparation for the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. This was the original day in the Church's calendar on which Jesus' birth was celebrated. In fact, the Orthodox Church still celebrate Christmas on this day. You may be surprised to know that originally Christians prepared for Christ's birth not as we do with decorating and parties, but with a season of penitance, prayer, and fasting.

Advent originally began on St. Martin's Day (November 11) and continued for forty

days until January 6. This is actually fifty six days, but Saturdays and Sundays were not observed as fast days, much as we do not observe Sundays as fast days during Lent. This time was known as "The Lent of St. Martin's". The Orthodox Church still observes this period as the "Nativity Fast".

In addition to penitence, prayer, and fasting, Advent was traditionally a time of preparation to welcome new Christians into the Church. Baptisms were usually only celebrated at specific times of the Church year, times that held special theological and liturgical importance. In this case, Advent was a time to prepare new Christians for their baptism at Epiphany.

It was not until the sixth century that Advent was specifically linked with Christ's second coming. And this was only recognized in the Western Church (from which the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Protestant Churches originate).

Over time in the Western Church, Advent was shortened from six weeks to four. But Advent remained a very sombre and penitential season, much like Lent, until the 1960s. The Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church (Vatican II - a worldwide council of Catholic bishops which took place at Vatican City from 1962 to 1965) differentiated Advent from Lent by placing more of an emphasis on the hopeful spirit of Advent.

It could be said that the British led this shift in emphasis for Advent from penitence to hope. The liturgical colour for Advent has traditionally been purple (which is associated with penitence) but more and more churches are now using blue (which is associated with hope). Blue was first used as a liturgical colour for Advent in the eighth century in England, anticipating the shift in emphasis at Vatican II by nearly thirteen hundred years!

And so here we find ourselves as Christians in the twenty first century. We honour and follow the Advent traditions of those who have come before us. But we do not need to be bound by those traditions, especially since they have changed so much over time. Please accept my prayers and best wishes for you and your family as you mark this holy season (in whichever way you feel is appropriate), and as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

In next week's article, I am going to explore the theological meaning behind Advent.

Our online shop is now open!

"Trees are as close to immortality as the rest of us ever come."

— Karen Joy Fowler

Home Hospice North Lanark

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REID GARDENS, CARLETON PLACE, IS HOLDING A

Tree Fundraiser

Order early for best selection!

Home Hospice
North Lanark

Reid
GARDENS
Garden Centre

EVERY PURCHASE WILL SUPPORT HHNL'S ABILITY TO DELIVER COMFORT, COMPASSION AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Hmmm....

Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said.

We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.

- Ira Byock.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Advent 1

Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

First reading: [Isaiah 64:1-9](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19](#)

Second reading: [1 Corinthians 1:3-9](#)

Gospel: [Mark 13:24-37](#)



A Prayer for December (Fr. Wally Hycla)

Jesus, Light of the world,

When I am afraid and unsure, Comfort me with the light of your presence.

When loneliness chills me, Warm me with the light of your love.

When the road ahead seems dark, Guide me with the light of your way.

When I don't understand and my thoughts are unclear, Fill me with the light of your wisdom.

When I seem spent like a candle consumed, Replenish me with the light of your life.

Then, so filled with your light, use me, So that I, with you, may be light for the world.

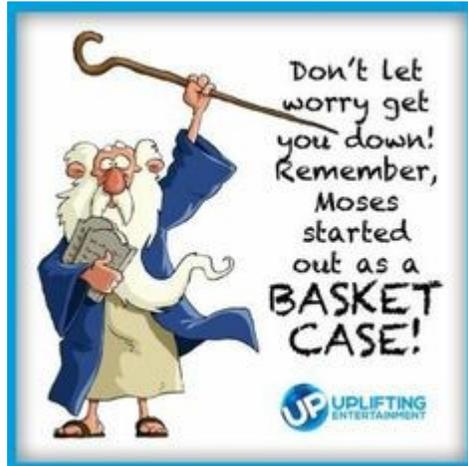
In the World. Pray for the Lusitanian Church, a member church of the Anglican Communion in Portugal. In our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, we pray for The Virgin Mary Episcopal Church, Irbid, Jordan.

In Canada. Pray for the people of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In our Diocese. Pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; for Centre 454, a Diocesan Community Ministries, and for their Acting Executive Director Rachel Robinson.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for the volunteers and clients of our local food bank satellites in Almonte and Pakenham.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other.
We ask for God's healing and comfort for Richard Lewis and Murray Pierce.
We ask that God's loving presence be made real to Linda Macdonald and the Macdonald family and friends as they mourn for Ted Macdonald.
We ask for God's blessing on our members John and Irene Emig, Richard and Barbara Evans, Sue Evans, David Carter and Bonnie Everitt, and Victoria and Chris Fabricius..
We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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