



The Winged Ox

The magazine of the Parish Church of St. Luke, Winnipeg

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023

HOPE

For there is hope for a tree if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, that its shoots will not cease. Though the root grown old in the earth, and its stump die in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. – Job 14.2–9

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. – Hebrews 11.1–6

LOVE

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other,
just as in Christ God has forgiven you. – Ephesians 4.32*

*For God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us. – Romans 5.89*

JOY

*Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.
Be strong and let your heart take courage all you who wait for the Lord. – Psalm 32.11*

*Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord
comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. – Isaiah 49.13*

PEACE • SHALOM • SALAAM

*The Lord will give strength unto his people.
The Lord will bless his people with Peace. – Psalm 29*

*You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast,
because they trust in you. – Isaiah 26.3*



From the Rector



Holy Listening

I was away for over three weeks taking an intensive course in spiritual direction while on retreat with the Jesuits at Loyola House in Guelph, Ontario. The retreat centre is located on about 650 acres of farm and woodland.

There is also an old-growth forest there, where the land is protected from development. The land is very healing.

A retreat is a time of prayer, reflection, and study, sometimes with guidance and sometimes on one's own. Many retreats focus on a particular form of prayer or meditation. Spiritual direction is like pastoral counselling but often takes place over an extended period, maybe meeting once or more per month over a year or more, or perhaps while someone is on retreat over the course of a week or more. The focus of spiritual direction is deep listening. We help the person to be aware of where God is active in their life, by listening, hearing their story and helping them to reflect on their felt experience of the Spirit in their life.

Hearing someone's story as well as their struggles is a great honour. When people are hurting, I am often asked to come and be with them and to pray with and for them. I bring myself, and all the gifts that God has given me for helping and healing. Sometimes people need me to listen. Sometimes people are lonely, or broken-hearted, or grieving. Sometimes it is a great celebration like a wedding or a baptism, or an anniversary, or a birthday. It is a tremendous gift to be invited into your life. I am so very grateful!

As a priest, I am given the great and sacred privilege of being invited into the lives of our people and they tell me their story. Your story is a holy narrative, a gift that is shared. Of great benefit to me was learning how to better listen to others and be fully present when someone is sharing their story with me. I also learned how to better listen and discern for the way the Holy Spirit nudges me (and you!) in any given day. Here is a prayer that says it best.

Deep Listening

God of silence and God of all sound,
help me to listen.
Help me to do the deep listening
to the sounds of my soul,

waiting to hear your soft voice
calling me deeper into you.
Give me attentive ears
that begin to separate the noise
from the sounds that are you;
you who have been speaking to me
and through me my whole life,
for so long that you can seem
like background noise.

Today help me hear you anew. Amen.

Author Unknown

We are the Body of Christ together. In this season of Incarnation, we celebrate that God is with us. Emmanuel. You too are a member of the Body of Christ, and wherever you go, you bring the light of Christ with you. There is much to celebrate! Thanks be to God!

With love in Christ, Paul†

Advent Cheers - Keeping Awake

*An adapted homily by Rev. M. Dwight Rutherford,
Rector pro tem - St. Mary Anglican Church*

(3rd December 2023) Text: *Mark 13.24-37*

Today is the First Sunday of Advent – the first Sunday of a new church year.

Advent begins a time of discernment – where we begin to ask the question of “Who is Jesus for you?”

What does this mean for us? The following may be helpful.

Long before I entered seminary, I attended worship one year on the First Sunday of Advent at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. The senior minister, at the time, was The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Sinclair, who preached a short sermon entitled *Advent Cheers*.

All these years later this sermon still resonates. Dr. Sinclair, looked at the Advent season, through the characters of the 1980's sit-com *Cheers*, using as a backdrop the theme song “Where Everybody Knows Your Name”.

Each of us are like those characters on that show coming to church during this the season of Advent – we come with hope, expectation, wonderment, and yes, even fears of what lies ahead. This day, we begin once again the journey to Christmas. However, more importantly, we begin again the journey to the incarnation – Easter.

Everyone is known by name in the Advent story – as we meet familiar folks – again and again.

When you think about that TV show? What characters do you most identify with? It is Ted Danson or Shelley Long, the principals, or is it the cast of characters who gathered each week in community, to share stories, to share memories, to share their lives together, where each of our names are known?

As we enter into Advent, I invite you to think about where you are in your journey and what your expectations are for this Advent.

Do you come to meet a baby? Do you come to the manger? Do you come to meet once again the Christ who enters into our lives with – the second coming? What questions of faith do you need to grapple with? What has changed in your life this year that may shape or re-shape this season?

That is what we begin again this morning with the First Sunday of Advent.

What is striking about our gospel reading from Mark, is that we begin Advent, with no birth narrative, with no mention of the main characters of the Christmas story – a baby, Mary, Joseph, shepherds, or angels. Instead we have Mark's discourse about the end times. This text is often called the "Little Apocalypse."

We hear Jesus tell his followers: "Beware, keep alert ... keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house is coming... And what I say to you – I say to all: Keep awake!"

We begin this season with a warning – with caution – to get ready – for the time is coming together. Thus we need to get ready for the events about to unfold.

Theologian and retired Church of England bishop, N. T. Wright notes, "Advent has stolen the old Christmas mystique. The symbolism of darkness awaiting dawn makes sense in a post-modern world where Christmas razzmatazz has been debunked, demythologized, and deconstructed. Hope in the night, not glitzy commercialism, is what we want and need."

N.T. Wright, notes this season informs our understanding, of just how important the birth of the Prince of Peace will be to the world and how significant his coming again will be as well.

"This is a deeply Biblical move. Cut Christmas out of the Bible, and you lose three chapters (the doctrine of the incarnation hardly hinges on it, as the evidence of Paul makes clear). Try cutting Advent, and you lose half of the Old Testament and most of the New."

Advent is a time to prepare – to prepare to meet again the Christ. It is a time to think about why we are here

– to come to terms with how counter-cultural an event the coming of our Lord is.

Our Lord's coming will shake the world to its core. Folks in the time of Jesus were not sure what to do with him. Jesus' ministry attests to this, and we only need to look at what happened when he died on a cross. Today, we are still not sure what to do with Jesus. How many folks really want to hear Jesus' first sermon in the temple – of which there is a precursor, in a couple of weeks, from the prophet Isaiah?

How many of us are ready to meet this Christ? This Christ is not the Jesus of the manger.

What is important is what this babe is going to do in this world. Maybe that is why the church struggles with its identity and place, because not only is the world unsure of Jesus, we too are unsure of him.

Do we want to hear the good news? Or are we willing to domesticate our Lord – make his ministry ordinary?

Consider Pope Francis. Pope Francis, calls for economic justice. He questions "winner-takes-all" capitalism. He criticizes trickle-down economics, which is the hallmark of conservative economic policy in both Canada and the United States. Francis calls for money to serve rather than rule. This pope's analysis is based on the gospel of Jesus, and for this, American commentators on the right call him a Marxist and a Communist.

This pope is calling us to be alert and to keep awake – for the coming of the Lord is at an unknown hour, and when he comes it will change the world. All too often we do not want to hear this type of news – for it can challenge our place of privilege, our power, our comfortable lives. In other words, it pushes us to a new way of living.

Folks seem to have responded to this pope. There is what is called the "Francis effect" – where attendance at church is in some places up and in some dioceses, there is an increase in folks preparing for priesthood – with many being younger people.

Then I ask – how do we respond – what is our place – what is our role?

Anglican writer, Herbert O'Driscoll frames a response, which can assist in our Advent preparations.

O'Driscoll writes "Our Lord tells us where to place our energies. We waste energy wondering if and when there is going to be an end of things. But this lies in God's hands. Instead, we are called to live responsibility in the present. No less than three times does Jesus demand

that we stay alert and awake. Awake to what? To the fact that Christian life is lived in accountability to one greater than the self. This is where Christian faith clashes sharply with contemporary western culture. Our culture is fascinated with the self as the ultimate criterion for all decisions and all actions. In Jesus' parable the servants go on doing their work knowing that they are answerable to one who will return. The same is true for the Christian."

Advent, the beginning of a new church year, marks the end of Pentecost. This season also reminds the church of its responsibility, and our responsibility to do the work of the kingdom.

That is why we need to keep awake and keep alert!

As the community gathers we are like the characters in the TV show *Cheers* – where our names are known – where all have a place – in the community of faith - as we come to meet once again, the Christ.

Advent Cheers! Amen.

The Rev. M. Dwight Rutherford



In loving memory of Someone Else

We were all saddened to hear of the death this week of one of our hardest working citizens, Someone Else. When Someone Else died it created a huge void in our community that will be difficult to fill.

Someone Else was with us for many years. Someone Else always did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, overtime to pull, or a meeting to attend, one name was always on everyone's lips: "Let Someone Else do it".

Whenever there was a need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would volunteer. It was common knowledge that Someone Else was the hardest worker in our neighbourhood. Someone Else was a wonderful person who often appeared superhuman. In all honesty, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. So now that Someone Else is gone, what will happen to our schools, our children, our churches, our community?

Someone Else left a marvellous example for us to follow. But now who is going to do the work

Someone else did? Will it be you?

Or will it be Someone Else?

R. Mendoza

(sent to *The Winged Ox*, by someone else)

St. Luke's Award

During the early nineties I was invited to join the Capital Campaign Committee at St. John's College, the University of Manitoba. While our daughters Kerry-Jane and Gemma attended university, and for a modest sum of \$10.00, they were part of the student body at St. John's College, they did not apply for the St. Luke's Award. One privilege they enjoyed was the locked carrel room which supported individual study sites for students who could leave computers and other expensive equipment without fear of losing items. The popular cafe was "The Daily Bread" which served as a social and nutritional centre.

During the time I was on the committee, fund-raising events were organized to raise money for an award for students from St. Luke's Parish to receive financial assistance when attending university. Individual parishioners who supported this concept helped to raise the money necessary for the award. Laurie Wilmot, a well known priest within the Diocese who also served on the Capital Campaign Committee, attended the social events at the church and helped us raise the revenue for the award.

The award became a bursary and it was given to a student who showed evidence of financial need. In 1994 the first recipient of the St. Luke's Award was Kristine Line, the granddaughter of Pat Haimes. Pat was a devoted member of St. Luke's and very much involved in many activities.

For twenty-nine years, a student has benefited from the St. Luke's Award and received some financial help while attending university. Any student from any Faculty at the university can apply for the bursary providing they are registered as a student at St. John's College and paid their \$10 fee. This year there were almost forty students who applied for the bursary and it will be given to the successful candidate at the annual Convocation held at the Chapel on 5 November. The fortunate recipient will receive a gift of \$675.

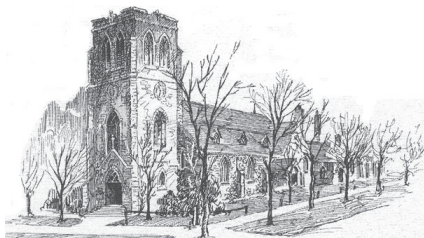
Colin and I would like to encourage students attending university to join St. John's College and apply for the bursary. This includes people who are linked to our parish through family members and the Sudanese

students who are now living in Winnipeg and are members of our parish. Successful recipients have been selected from several different faculties within the university.

Applications for the bursary were made this year (2023) by 31st July.

Application forms for the St. Luke's Award for the current year, 2024–2025, may be obtained from St. John's College on the University of Manitoba campus.

Elizabeth Briggs and Colin Briggs



Book Review

No Englishmen Need Apply

Cowichan Press, 2009, ISBN: 978-98110390-7

This small book is written by Ruth Steeves 'as a tribute to my grandparents who lived the events recounted here.'

I read this book years ago and finally was given a copy, through the generosity of a gentleman from St. Chad's/ St. Andrew's Woodhaven.

It is interesting because most "Canadians", whether born or naturalised think that only "immigrants" of many other nationalities and colours and genders are "not accepted" whether in the job or other markets because they are "foreign".

The character in the book going in to claim the job he applied for from Britain, was met with rude hostility.

First, he saw a sign on a door which said "No Englishmen need apply" Why not? I've learned the hard way that most are lazy and think they are entitled to an easy job which pays well, said the "Boss".

Well, OK, maybe a case of once bitten, twice shy ... but perhaps we have to consider that maybe many people who apply for a job have their colour, or gender, or many other irrelevant reasons excuses for "not hiring ..."

This kind of prejudice, while well known, has another, darker, side which we call "The Slave Trade".

No longer confined to bringing people of colour from Africa – like the old days – this slave trade offers, usually

to young girls and women from the poor of European countries, and a 'chance for a better life – with a well paid job.' On arrival, their passports are taken away "to keep them safe" and the well-paid jobs morph: beauty specialists by day, into prostitution for the evening shift.

Sheila Welbergen

The phantom galaxy



From the Hubble and James West telescopes.

This is a large spiral galaxy in the constellation Pisces. It is about 32 million light-years away.

The red colours mark dust threaded through the arms of the galaxy, lighter oranges being areas of hotter dust. The young stars throughout the arms and the nuclear core are picked out in blue. Heavier, older stars towards the galaxy's center are shown in cyan and green, projecting a spooky glow from the core of the phantom galaxy. Bubbles of star formation are also visible in pink across the arms. Such a variety of galactic features is rare to see in a single image. – Google

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of. – Psalm 8.1–6.

You are made in the image of God, grander, and more majestic than the stars and the moon, than the mountains, and the hills, and the oceans. You are more majestic than any of those.

Charity Begins at Christmas

After the church service, eight year-old Lee said to the preacher, "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the preacher replied, "but why?" "Because my father says that you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

A Homily from Deacon Susan

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Here we are at the first Sunday of Advent. A very short Advent because the last Sunday in Advent is Christmas Eve. A short time to prepare, to find a newness in an old, familiar story that is needed to be told again.

We have the beautiful poetry of Isaiah, asking God to relent, to forgive us our many sins, and to show his face. The people are remembering the deeds that have been done by God for them over their history, and beg him to come again, to show himself to them, to strengthen their faith.

In our troubled world these days, how similar might be our prayers. *Come Lord, let us know you better, let us meet you, and strengthen our faith.*

In the early part of Corinthians, Paul is thanking God for these faithful people. They are new Christians who have been given the story of Jesus and have been filled with the faith and joy of belief; already there are signs of dissention among them.

Although Paul stays with the theme that they are faithful, and that God will keep them strong in the faith, in the part we read, there is an admonition in the next verse. *Do not fall into dissention, stay in harmony with each other.*

How difficult it is to stay in love and charity with your neighbour! How difficult it is to love the different, the poor, the addicted.

Mark adds to the “be prepared” stories that we have been reading in Matthew. Mark presents a parable where Jesus teaches us to be prepared. He is saying that when he comes again, no one will know, and when you consider it, no one knew he was coming the first time either. No one expected a babe to arrive, especially to an unwed young woman and her betrothed. Indeed, it was difficult for them to continue their plans.

Think of the norms of the time.

In a discussion this week, someone said it took her an age to realize the significance of “no room at the inn”. Here were two people going “home” for the census, but family did not make space for them, then the inn, too, was full. Mary was too much with child.

So, how do we prepare – prepare for the coming of Christ into our hearts and lives? Not the preparations for the big meals, the presents under the tree, the cards to friends and acquaintances, and all the expenses of

Christmas, which, important though they be, are only a part of the Advent preparation.

How do we prepare to live with the hope that we will be able to live like Christ – the gentle, inclusive, forgiving, generous, kind, and loving being that he was on earth?

Do you have a time of quiet scheduled? If it is not booked, it will be lost.

Do you have a study of scripture to follow? Fr. John (Wortley) would have suggested that you read all of Mark.

Do you have a list of shut-in folks that you will visit?

Maybe an evening of carols that you will sing for lonely people?

Do you have a list of people that you need to reach out to in forgiveness, or to say sorry for an unkindness that you have done this past year?

What other kinds of preparation will you do, so that you become a beacon of hope in this weary, despairing old world?

Today, the first candle was lit – “Hope” – and we have Peace, Joy, and Love to come. We need to work through those thoughts and behaviours and to work out how we will prepare to share them too.

Advent: a waiting and preparing – for Christians: joy and work.

In the name of the Holy Three. Amen.

*The Rev. Deacon Susan Roe-Finlay
Sunday, 3rd December 2023*



Will the Christ Child come?

One Christmas, we had an interesting experience that I would like to share. Halfway through December, we were doing the regular evening things, when there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find a small package with a beautiful ceramic lamb inside. We looked at the calendar and realized that the 12 days of Christmas were beginning! We waited excitedly for the next night's surprise – the gift of a matching shepherd ... and a lamb.

Each night we grew more excited to see what piece we would receive. Each was exquisitely beautiful. The kids kept trying to catch the givers, as we slowly built the scene at the manger and began to focus on Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, all but the Baby Jesus. My 12-year-old son really wanted to catch our benefactors, and began to devise all kinds of ways to trap them. He ate dinner in the minivan, watching and waiting, but no one came. Finally, we called him in to go through our family's Christmas Eve traditions. But before the kids went to bed, we checked the front step – no Baby Jesus! We began to worry that my son had scared them off. My husband suggested that maybe they dropped the Jesus, and there wouldn't be anything coming. Somehow, something was missing that Christmas Eve. There was a feeling that things weren't complete. The kids went to bed and before I went to bed, I again checked to see if the Jesus had come. No, the doorstep was empty.

In our family, the kids can open their stockings when they want to, but they have to wait to open any presents until Dad wakes up. So, one by one, they woke up very early, and I also woke up to watch them. Even before they opened their stockings, each child checked to see if, perhaps during the night, the Baby Jesus had come.

Missing that piece of the set seemed to have an odd effect. At least it changed my focus. I knew there were presents under the tree for me, and I was excited to watch the children open their gifts, but first on my mind was the feeling of waiting for the ceramic Christ Child.

We had opened just about all of the presents, when one of the children found one more for me buried deep beneath the limbs of the tree. He handed me a small package from my former visiting teaching companion. This sister was somewhat less active in the church. I had been her visiting teacher for a couple of years and then, when she was asked to be a visiting teacher, she

requested to go with me. I had learned over time they didn't have much for Christmas, so that their focus was on the children. It sounded like she didn't get many gifts to open, so I had always given her a small package – new dish towels, the next year's Relief Society lesson manual – not much, but something for her to open.

I was touched when at church on the day before Christmas, she had given me this small package, saying it was just a token of her love and appreciation. As I took off the bow, I remembered my friendship with her and was filled with gratitude for knowing her and for her kindness and sacrifice in giving me this gift. But as the paper fell away, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box the Baby Jesus had come! I know Google sometimes has it wrong ... but I will believe this. The Baby Jesus had come!

I realized on that Christmas Day, that Christ will come into our lives in ways that we don't expect. The spirit of Christ comes into our hearts as we serve one another. We had waited and watched for him to come, expecting the dramatic “knock at the door and scurrying of feet”, but he came in a small, simple package that represented service, friendship, gratitude, and love.

This experience taught me that the beginning of the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and actively focus on the Saviour. But we will most likely find him in the small and simple acts of love, friendship, and service that we give to each other. This Christmas I want to feel again the joy of knowing that Christ is in our home. I want to focus on loving and serving. More than that, I want to open my heart to him all year, that I may see him again.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

– Matthew 1.21 AV

Gaye Willis



Suggestions for your summer holidays

How would you like to go visit Williamston, Kentucky and marvel at Noah's Ark theme park – complete with animals including dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs?



But you say: “they died off 65 million years ago, didn’t they?” Hmm. Well, that depends on what you believe.

Some people say the Earth is only six million years old, so it depends on how you read the first chapter of Genesis. If you are a Creationist, the Earth is only six million years old, so it is quite likely dinosaurs could have hitched a life-saving ride with all the other animals on the ark of course, so then they would not likely be extinct now.



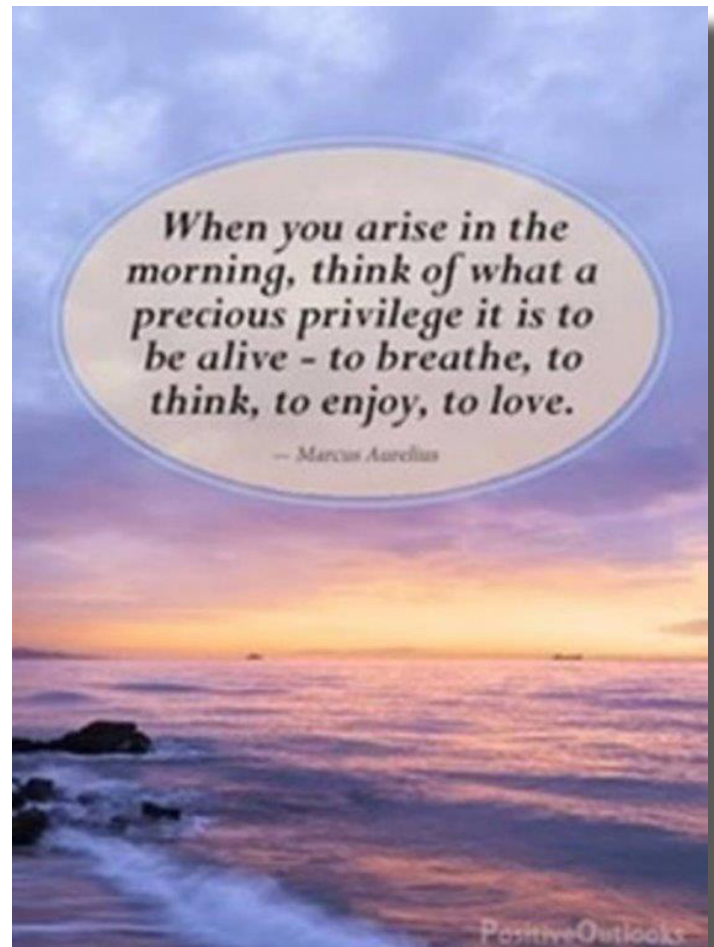
But if you side with Charles Darwin, then you have a have different time-frame for creation, and then all you can say then is, “Thanks to our God-given minds and modern telescopes, which are ever-expanding our knowledge.”

We marvel at the creation in which we *now* live. Current observations suggest that the universe is about 13.7 billion years old. We know that light takes time to travel,

so that if we observe an object that is 13 billion light-years away, then that light has been travelling towards us for 13 billion years. Essentially, we are seeing that object as it appeared 13 billion years ago.

Google

Getty images from Google
on Noah's Ark Theme Park



Bonaventure's Three Great Truths

Father Richard finds a hopeful vision for the cosmos in the teachings of 13th-century Franciscan theologian Bonaventure.

The lovely symmetry of St. Bonaventure's theology can be summarized in what Bonaventure himself named as the three great truths that hold everything together for him.

Emanation: We come forth from God bearing the divine image, and thus our inherent identity is grounded in the life of God from the beginning. (*Genesis 1.26–27*)

Exemplarism: Everything, the entire chain of being, and everything in creation is an example and illustration of

the one God mystery in space and time. No exceptions. (*Romans 1.20*)

Consummation: All returns to the source from which it came. (*John 14.3*) The *Omega* is the same as the *Alpha* and this is God's supreme and final victory.

What a positive and safe world this describes! In Bonaventure's teachings we have a coherent and grounded meaning the post-modern world no longer enjoys – and yet longs for. Note this is clearly not the later reward/punishment frame that almost totally took over when people did not experience God, but only believed propositions. Most people today are not sure where we came from, who we are, and where we're going, and many do not even seem to care about the questions. What if we could recover a view of the world and God that was infused with Bonaventure's teaching? It would provide a foundation lacking in our often aimless and adrift age. It could hold our lives together during times of despair and cynicism. Is it possible for us to regain such a positive world-view again? Our later limited notion of individual salvation works much better if it is all held together inside of a primary cosmic salvation; the part then replicates the whole. Right now, it feels like we're all on our own. There is no whole to be a part of!

Bonaventure described the great chain of being both in a historical and linear way – but also in terms of cosmic connectedness along the way. He was following Paul: "In [Christ's] body lives the fullness of divinity, and in him you will find your own fulfillment," or "There is only Christ: He is everything and he is in everything". (*Colossians 2:9–10, 3:11*) We were created in unity, proceed forward insofar as we are in unity, and return to God's full gift of final unity, according to Bonaventure.

It is grace before, during, and after.

For Bonaventure, creation is quite simply the mirror and image of God, and he uses metaphors like footprint, fingerprint, effigy, likeness (*vestigia Dei*) to make his point. This unitive vision is similar to that of Jesuit priest and scientist Teilhard de Chardin. These two teachers first gave me the confidence to believe and teach that "everything belongs." Both describe and defend the universal belonging of all creation, and show us that such a cosmic divine victory makes the fear-based preoccupations of later exclusionary and punitive Christianity seem so small and unnecessary.

Everything Belongs. The fact that God has given us so many different faces and temperaments and emotions

and histories shows us how God honours each unique journey and culture. God is not threatened by differences.

R Rohr, 11.24.23

First Peoples' Prayers and Hopes

I found all the following prayers while looking through Google. I think they follow well on Fr. Rohr's last paragraph above. They 'work' for any colour of skin, or gender, political affiliation, or religious belief, time or place. - Editor

O Great Spirit, help me always to speak the truth quietly, to listen with an open mind when others speak, and to remember the peace that may be found in silence. – *Cherokee Prayer* (The Trail of Tears was what followed the forced removal of Indigenous Peoples from their lands to facilitate the expansion west in the United States.)

Treat the earth well. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. – *Native American Proverb*

In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations. – *From The Great Law of The Iroquois Confederacy Seneca. Cayuga. Onondaga. Oneida, Mohawk. Later: Tuscarora.*

There can never be peace between nations until it is first known that true peace is within the souls of men. – *Oglala Sioux, South Dakota*

We are all flowers in the Great Spirit's garden. We share a common root, and the root is Mother Earth. – *Hopi Prophecy, Arizona*

Man did not weave the web of life – he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself. – *Chief Seattle, 1854 treaty oration, Suquamish and Duwamish chief.*

Follow your dreams, to the fields unknown, to where wild flowers sink into the sun. I will meet you there, and we shall dance until the sun rises once again. – *Red Deer, Naticoke/Algonquian*

This is the Earth, healed again, growing green and blue. I want you to remember this exactly as it is, and then go and tell the people that if enough of us hold this image in their minds, we can heal the Earth and make it like it was a long time ago. – *Grandfather Rolling Thunder, Cherokee Medicine Elder*

Sunset. Then I was standing on the highest mountain of them all, and round about beneath me was the whole hoop of the world. And while I stood there I saw more than I can tell and I understood more than I saw; for I was seeing in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being.

And I say the sacred hoop of my people was one of the many hoops that made one circle, wide as daylight and as starlight, and in the center grew one mighty flowering tree to shelter all the children of one mother and one father. And I saw that it was holy ... But anywhere is the center of the world. – *Black Elk*, who became a Catholic in 1904, when he was in his 40s. He was christened with the name of Nicholas and later served as a catechist in the church.

Gitche Manitou (Gitchi Manitou, Kitchi Manitou, etc.) means “Great Spirit” in several Algonquian languages. Christian missionaries have translated God as Gitche Manitou in scriptures and prayers in the Algonquian languages.

Manitou is a common Algonquian term for spirit, mystery, or deity. Native American churches in Mexico, United States, and Canada often use this term. (see Spruce Woods Park and Kitchi Manitou Campground, Hwy 5. MB.)

From Pope Francis

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried? But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: “Never again war!”; “With war everything is lost”. Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons

of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words “division”, “hatred”, and “war” be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be “brother”, and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

Pope Francis

Church building news

You may have noticed some changes in Church House.

Good stewardship includes looking after the things we have – maintaining our building as best as we can, and passing along things we no longer need to someone who can use them. These are all part of that obligation.



Photo showing lead paint flaking in a characteristic “alligator” pattern.

Repainting: the cozy corner is cozy once more.

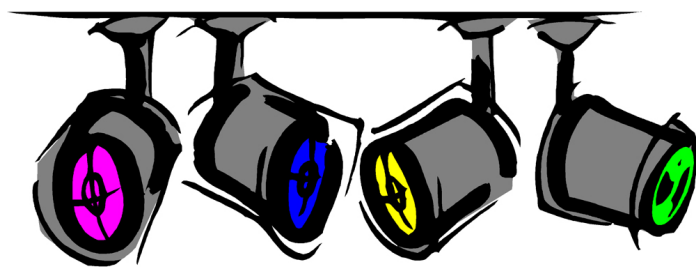
Our long-term renters, Fubuki Daiko, have begun using the storage room (also known as the Sunday school room) to store some of their equipment. As the room was being cleared out, the peeling paint showed a pattern characteristic of lead paint. Testing by a certified lead paint removal company confirmed our suspicions. The company followed recommended safety procedures to remove the flaking lead paint prior to repainting of many (but not all) problem areas. These include the storage room, the cozy corner, the stairwell to the balcony, and the entrance at the top of the Daycare stairs.

Leakage from ice damming on the south roof of Church House has contributed to the deterioration.

Going forward, the snow load on the roof needs to be monitored, so that timely removal can be done to prevent ice dams.

Clearing out the crypt

Times change – There were a lot of items stored in the crypt for which St. Luke's had no further use. A small but mighty team of volunteers moved, cleaned, and prepared items for a rummage sale in October, and a clothing sale in November. Items remaining after the sales found a new home. *Centre Flavie* sent a truck for 80 boxes after the rummage sale in October. Further trips by individuals completed the donation with several more boxes. In November, 25 bags of leftover clothing were taken to *Centre Flavie*, and 15 bags were taken to Siloam Mission.



You're a Star!

The film company, Kingdom Story Productions, has rented Church House. Set up and filming will be from 11th – 22nd December inside Church House and outside the church building, with a return date for further filming outside the building in January 2024.

Corporation is very pleased to have this opportunity to host these renters and receive some welcome revenue. Watch for signs around the building to indicate any temporary restrictions to accessing Church House, the parking lot, and the yard surrounding the Church.

To accommodate the film crew, the reception following this year's *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* will be held in the nave of the church.

Now you're cooking!

Not quite yet!

The kitchen renovation is complete. Our kitchen has been designed as a servery, not a commercial kitchen, so provincial health regulations require any food served to be prepared offsite in a commercial kitchen (not in private homes).

The next step is to obtain a Food Service Permit from the Manitoba Department of Health. This is proving to be a long and complicated process.

Firstly, we need to submit a detailed application. Then a provincial health inspector will visit to inspect the facilities and ensure that all regulations can be followed, such as: personnel have Food Handling Certificates, people using the kitchen understand how to use the dishwasher, and thermometers must be available to test fridge temperatures.

Until we have "passed the test," our parishioners – or any group – cannot legally use the kitchen to serve food.

Corporation appreciates your patience with all these changes.

Stay tuned for further updates via the weekly newsletter.

Ted Rennie

2024 – Coming Soon!



Every instant of time is a pinprick of eternity.

Marcus Aurelius, 121–182 CE

*The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.*

Omar Khayyám, 1048–1131 CE

In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

John 16.33

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38–39

AMEN. AMEN. AMEN.

St. Luke's Book Mart

Delays in completion of the kitchen renovation have resulted in increased costs. With this in mind, Colin and Elizabeth Briggs thought they might make a small contribution by starting a Book Mart.

From our appeal to the parish, and with supplies in the crypt, we had the beginning of a small library.

The parish had responded with support of the Book Mart and our stock grew. We added CDs, DVDs, and specialist magazines. There were pots scattered amongst the books to take donations as, when we were not on-site, Fubuki Daiko had always supported our sales in the past.

After coffee on Sundays, we had our regular clientele to check our wares and any additions to the stock. We received generous donations for which Erwin promised tax receipts. To make life easier for our customers we identified groups of books under various subject headings. Yvonne, St. Luke's Administrator, had been interested in this project from the beginning and donated hand-made book marks with personalized bags to hold the chains. Rosalie made quilted book covers to protect paperbacks. Both ideas made great Christmas gifts.

We were able to raise funds to cover the cost of one of the stoves in the new kitchen and we raised some money towards the cost of the second stove. In all our parish raised \$1,563.15 towards both items.

Our thanks are due to Rosalie who looked after the Book Mart when we were forced to take a step back. We appreciated the help from Yvonne and Erwin in the parish office. Blair was patient and kind with regular notices in the weekly newsletters and pew leaflets. Sara Sakowski and Ted and Anne Rennie offered guidance and muscle when needed.

Finally to all who donated supplies or purchased items you have our kind appreciation.

Colin and Elizabeth Briggs



I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me — they're cramming for their final exam.

George Carlin

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

Winston Churchill



The clergy and staff of the parish wish you all a very Merry Christmas, adorned with the blessings of Heaven's grace and the cheer of this festive season!



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Parish Church
of St. Luke
Nassau St. N. at Stradbroke Ave.

4:00 PM
SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER

A familiar, traditional service
of lessons, carols, and hymns
in celebration of Christmas.

Online and In-person.

Won't you join us?

Information:
ocm@stlukewinnipeg.com



The next Winged Ox
will be the
Lent and Easter edition.

Deadline:
Sunday, 10th Mar. 2024

The Winged Ox

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*The opinions expressed in these articles published
herein are the views of their authors
and do not necessarily reflect the views
of the editor or the Parish of St. Luke.*



The Parish Church
of St. Luke



Services to note:

Sunday, 24th December
Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:30 A.M. - SUNG EUCHARIST

Christmas Eve
3:30 P.M. - FAMILY EUCHARIST
WITH CAROLS
10:30 P.M. - CHORAL EUCHARIST

Monday, 25th December
Christmas Day
10:30 A.M. - SAID EUCHARIST
WITH CAROLS