

Cathedral CORNERSTONE



ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE - DECEMBER 2018

The Light Shines on in the Darkness.



Last Sunday we began our Advent Journey. In fact, in the liturgical life of the Church we mark the first Sunday of Advent as the beginning of a New Year. It is a time of preparation for that event, that moment in time, which defines us a Christian's; the birth of the Christ child, *Emmanuel*, the God that comes to dwell with us.

On our first Sunday of Advent we begin by lighting one of four candles on a wreath that mark our progression of light toward Christmas.

As I reflected on that first candle, which signifies HOPE, it occurred to me that this is something our world longs deeply for in this moment of history. Amidst a backdrop of division, fuelled by fear, arrogance, mistrust, and "fake news"; where indeed to we turn for signs hope?

The Rev. Allan Boesak, a member of the South African Dutch Reformed Church, a politician and

an anti-apartheid activist during the tumultuous years of transition in South Africa, in his personal struggle to find hope, was inspired by the message of Advent and in the sustaining faith of a God who comes among us, not simply as a single event in history, but as an ongoing reality. For the God that dwells among us also dwells within us. And through us, hope is continually reborn. That conviction led him to write this stirring declaration.

*Advent Credo**

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—
This is true: *For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;*

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—
This is true: *I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.*

It is not true that violence and



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hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: *Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councillor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.*

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—
This is true: *To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.*

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—
This is true: *I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions and your old men shall have dreams.*

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—
This is true: *The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.*

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the life of the world.'

May you embrace this season of Hope, and remember that light which grows ever stronger as these days move us closer and closer to the birth of our Lord. *"For the light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has never overcome it."*

With blessing to you, and those you love, at Christmas and always,

Dean Paul

**From Walking on Thorns, (2004) by Allan Boesak*

Remembrance Sunday Display

Howard D'Arcy, our Cathedral Verger, prepared yet another wonderful Remembrance display in the Cathedral. This year the focus was on the 100th Anniversary of WW1. Thank you Howard!



From the Register *Burials*

Jamie Cochran

Janet Cochran

Tony Hauser

Christine Greenwood

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Parade of Lights Hot Chocolate Booth

With the assistance of a very merry band of helpers, this annual event proved to be yet another success.



A Man for All Seasons

I am thinking of Jesus here, and the word 'seasons' is an image or metaphor for life in its different stages. Yet, it is necessary first to see Jesus as St. Peter did, as the Christ or Saviour. The bible witnesses to Christ as being both human and divine, as did the early writers, (or Fathers).

However, it would be several centuries before the relationship between Jesus and the heavenly Father would be confirmed, in the church councils, in the face of differing understandings about Jesus and those who denied either his manhood or divinity.

A man for all Seasons- We like to think of Jesus' human nature, one who lived like each of us. He experienced life, felt pain, got tired and discouraged at times. We view him as a good man, a teacher of morality and ethics. This is the Jesus that many feel comfortable with, a man who accepts our faults and loves us unconditionally.

Yet, this picture may fail to include his divine nature, which enabled him to do many great things, and to make promises about the future. He was the incarnate 'son of God', come to save people from their sins, and he healed many of sickness in mind, body and spirit. He turned water into wine and he promised eternal life to his followers. He spoke with an authority beyond the religious leaders of the day.

Scripture says first that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament predictions. The law was summed up in Jesus, particularly in the Sermon on the Mount. The hope for a Messiah during the time following King David was realized in the person of Jesus. He became a spiritual descendent of David. The call to the Gentiles to become followers of God was furthered by Jesus. And by his death Jesus established a 'new covenant, replacing those in the OT.

In addition, Jesus would re-interpret and expand on the OT law, even criticizing it at times, i.e. in regards to the purpose of the Sabbath. Not only was it wrong to murder, but one should not have

thoughts which can lead to the same. The law of retaliation, an eye for an eye, would be replaced by a call to love one's enemies. Jesus stressed the spirit of the law rather than the letter of the law.

And Jesus introduced a 'new age'. His very presence in the world indicated new revelations about God. Indeed, Jesus and the Father were one, 'Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father in me. (John 14: 11) Faith would be the prime requirement of followers, rather than the OT law, but not rejecting the law. This faith would center on a personal relationship with God, being open to his ways. And the message of Jesus would be for all believers beyond the confines of Palestine.

A Man for all Seasons - By his coming into the world Jesus revealed the nature of God. He was the creator and the source of all life, all knowledge and answers about life, truth, justice, goodness and other. Particularly he was the source of 'love', for he was love, and first loved us. Man was to be guided by love in all his thoughts and actions. He was to love God and his neighbour, (and himself). For God wanted all people to come to him; love brought out the best in people and allowed them to be the people God wanted them to be. It helped create a bond between people, and to value each person and their uniqueness.

In addition God was a 'righteous' God. He willed what was right or best for his creation; all his actions were designed to build up and encourage life. For man was to reflect God's nature in the world, and to have a right relationship with God and his neighbour. And this could translate into seeing that justice was done. Righteousness was to be a pattern for living.

A Man for all Seasons - The ministry of Jesus was carried on within the context of the Kingdom. The Kingdom embraced the Spiritual world beyond our world and universe. Jesus called his hearers to 'repent, for the Kingdom of God is near'. It was within the Kingdom that God's ways could be experienced. He offered an alternate life style which could allow people to live in the best ways,

using their abilities for the benefit of all. And it would be within the Kingdom that one would enjoy the blessings of God, initially found in the assurance of eternal life.

Yet, being a follower presented challenges. Jesus called for a commitment and a willingness to take up one's cross in the face of opposition. And he spoke with an urgency that now was the time to embrace the Spirit, in order to wrestle with the temptations in the world. And it was felt that the end of the world may be near.

Despite the assurance of a loving God there is an element of 'jealousy' in scripture. God is jealous of the attractions in the world which appeal to man. He wants man for himself. As well, there is the underlying command to love, because God says so. Some anomalies or strangeness can be attributed to God's supremacy, as the creator, and his purposes not known to us. And God has endowed man with a freedom to respond in ways that seem right to him.

A Man for all Seasons - Despite some anomalies the overall view in scripture is of a loving God, and love as a guiding principle in our lives. For in him is life and he is able to satisfy our spiritual longings, for inner contentment and security. And scripture suggests ways of life that can help us to grow in our relationship with God and within ourselves and with one another.

We are called to live by 'faith' each day. And in so doing to be assured of God's presence in our lives. It allows us to trust in his providence and to hope for tomorrow, being assured that what we plan and do can be realized at some time. Coupled with faith is a call to 'humility', acknowledging our limitations, yet, striving to grow within ourselves and to contribute to society. It allows us to value all persons and to see the hand of God at work in the world. Humility is not a sign of weakness, but calls for an inner strength to stand firm despite what's going on around us.

The 'process' in living is important too; it is in growing and maturing that we can experience the



steps along the way. As Jesus described in the parable of the 'Growing Seed', night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how! We cannot rush nature. We must grow at our own pace, over time.

A Man for all Seasons - St. Luke says that Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins, from a way of life where God does not have a part. In so doing he promises a 'fullness' in life to the faithful, and a satisfaction and assurance not found in the world.

-The Reverend John Swain

Ruth Ballah Memorial Bible Quiz #3

1. When Jesus enters Jerusalem, what's the word used to describe our Lord in Matthew's Gospel?
2. Name two OT Prophets who refer to a Messiah?
3. God appointed a divine beings to guard the Garden of Eden - name?
4. How does the Angel of the Lord appear to Moses?
5. Name of the Angel who speaks to the Blessed Virgin Mary?
6. Name of the Angel who visits Daniel at prayers?
7. What Book in the New Testament Bible announces that Jesus is the Christ, fully God, fully man?
8. Who gives the phrase "the Lamb of God" to describe Jesus?
9. What Gospels in the New Testament refer to Jesus as one like a bridegroom?
10. The genealogy of Jesus has two lines of ancestry, one back to Adam, and one back to Abraham—Name the 2 Gospels

Answers on page 6

Changing Tides

HALIFAX ORGAN FESTIVAL

— JULY 7-11, 2019 —

FESTIVAL D'ORGUE D'HALIFAX

Music Beyond Advent & Christmas...

Pentecost 2019 arrives in six calendar months, and then a few weeks following, the HRM and our Cathedral Church will be the site of the upcoming Royal Canadian College of Organists National Convention. Our Cathedral is front and center for the happening, a week of much music!

The title of the event is *Changing Tides* and the dates are July 7- 11. Some of the Recitalists and Clinicians set to be there are: Rachel Laurin, Craig Humber, Stillman Matheson, Rachel Mahon and Sarah Svendson. Rachel and Sarah are featured as *Organized Crime Duo*.

Concerts include our Cathedral's Pipe Organ and a special tribute to the Late David MacDonald - past RCCO Halifax President. There will be a premiere of a composition by Nova Scotia's Peter Togni. The Convention has the RCCO National Organ Competition, and there will be a Hymn-Sing with hymns 1919- 2019!

Please visit changingtides2019.ca

Mission to Seafarers Annual Shoeboxes Appeal



Just as the Church's year after a long season of Trinity/Pentecost, and the Harvest Thanksgiving passed by, our congregation, our children, our families, our outreach groups, and households, rallied to an invitation to fill shoeboxes for the Missions to Seafarers annual Shoebox Campaign. The Mission delivers approximately 1600 shoeboxes to the crews and sailors, whose ships dock in our harbor at Christmas. Now into Advent, our

outreach and our congregation's devoted service to all sorts and conditions of others, begins to collect and provide more Christmas Cheer – a visible sign of the spiritual gifts that are in the birth of our Saviour.

Advent Consideration

From Time to Time one should frame a personal lively RULE OF LIFE. That suggestion of a RULE OF LIFE comes from a useful part of our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and found in A SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTION. (pages 552-5)

Of all the vantage points that a Christian may choose to engage in, the subject of personal, loving service to others, a **volunteer**. It is a fitting idea to consider as the Advent Season begins.

It appears that from Latin to the period of Middle French (that is from the 14th to the early 17th centuries) the word **volunteer** used in the English vocabulary as a noun or verb, covers a person's offering to serve somehow, somewhere, and not to be paid for the service.

To drive a person from an appointment or a meeting with no payment, just a kind way to help – that's a volunteer action. To seek payment and get gas money, that's a paid service.

Anglican Catechism and instruction teach the practice of personal service to the Church and the community. Volunteers are an astonishing source of energy and of beautiful outcomes in human society. It is likely that an early application of this word **volunteer** was the way to describe persons who came to offer to be soldiers for their country.

And now in our time, volunteers are found busy and devoted to all sorts, conditions, and activities that really need that part of human endeavor. The Late Mother Theresa said,

“We ourselves feel that what we do is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Here's a list of some time and energy freely offered that is almost omnipresent: collection, sorting, preparation, and delivery of food, emergency re-

sponders to natural disasters, firefighters who serve freely their community, health professionals who serve freely in war zones, palliative, hospital, and home volunteers, members of church guilds, of choirs, of servers, of greeters and sides persons, of church and Sunday School teachers, and the many persons who give of their expertise and knowledge in matters of church fabric and grounds keeping, and finances. Our schools, our sports, our youth groups, and our political organizations and the sudden needs in our fishing villages, all rely on the committed volunteer.

Like all centres with their various religious frameworks in our country, our cathedral operates our religious purpose day by day, most grateful to so many who freely give their time and talents to the welfare of our ministries.

“ Arise, shine, for thy light is come, /and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.”

Thank you dear volunteers of our Sacred Space.

-Kent Doe

For persons interested in Belief as a part of their journey—

“Nothing in life is more wonderful than faith~ the one great moving force which can neither weigh in the balance nor test in the crucible.”

-Sir William Osler, Canadian Physician (1849-1919)

Answers to Quiz #3

1. the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee
Matt.22: 11
2. Isaiah, Jeremiah
3. Cherubim Gen3: 24
4. Burning Bush Exodus3: 2
5. Gabriel Luke 1: 26
6. Gabriel Dan 9: 21-23
7. John's Gospel 1: 14
8. John the Baptist John 1: 29
9. Matthew, Mark, and Luke
10. Abraham-Matthew / Adam-Luke



Services for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, December 2 *Advent 1*

8am Holy Eucharist
9am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 9 *Advent 2*

8am Holy Eucharist
9am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist
4pm Advent Procession with Carols

Sunday, December 16 *Advent 3*

8am Holy Eucharist
9am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Children's Pageant

Sunday, December 23 *Advent 4*

8am Holy Eucharist
9am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

4pm Christmas Celebration with Holy Eucharist
7pm Holy Eucharist
11pm Holy Eucharist preceded by music for brass and organ at 10:30pm

Tuesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

10am Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 30 *First Sunday after Christmas*

8am Holy Eucharist
9am Holy Eucharist
10:30am Holy Eucharist
4pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, January 1 *New Year's Day*

10am Holy Eucharist followed by the Bishop's Levée until 1pm

*The Most Revd R. Cutler & Mrs. M. Blair Cutler
are pleased to invite you to the
Holy Eucharist at 10:00am
followed by the New Year's Levée*

A Different Angle to Consider our Christian Journey in an Anglican Way

Advent - Christmas - Epiphany

A Church Calendar that Sanctifies Our Days into three Seasons

	<i>BAS</i>	<i>BCP</i>
Nov. 30	Saint Andrew the Apostle	
Dec. 1	First Sunday of Advent	
Dec. 3	Francis Xavier <i>Missionary</i>	
Dec. 4	Nicholas Ferrar <i>Deacon</i>	Clement of Alexandria
Dec. 5	Clement of Alexandria	
Dec. 6	Nicholas Bishop of Myra	
Dec. 7	Ambrose <i>Bishop of Milan</i>	
Dec. 8	Second Sunday of Advent	
Dec. 8	Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Dec. 9	Prophets of the O.T.	
Dec. 15	Third Sunday of Advent	
Dec. 16		O Sapientia Ancient Advent Anthem
Dec. 17		Saint Ignatius Martyr
Dec. 21		St. Thomas the Apostle
Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	
Dec. 26	St. Stephen the Martyr -Deacon	
Dec. 27	St. John the Apostle and Evangelist	
Dec. 28	Holy Innocents	
Dec. 29	Sunday after Christmas Day	
Dec. 29	Thomas Becket Archbishop of Canterbury	
Dec. 30		John Wycliffe of Oxford
Dec. 31	John West Missionary, Red River	
2019		
Jan. 1	The Naming of Jesus	Octave of Christmas and Circumcision of Our Lord
Jan. 2	Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus - Bishops & Teachers	
Jan. 6	Epiphany of Our Lord	

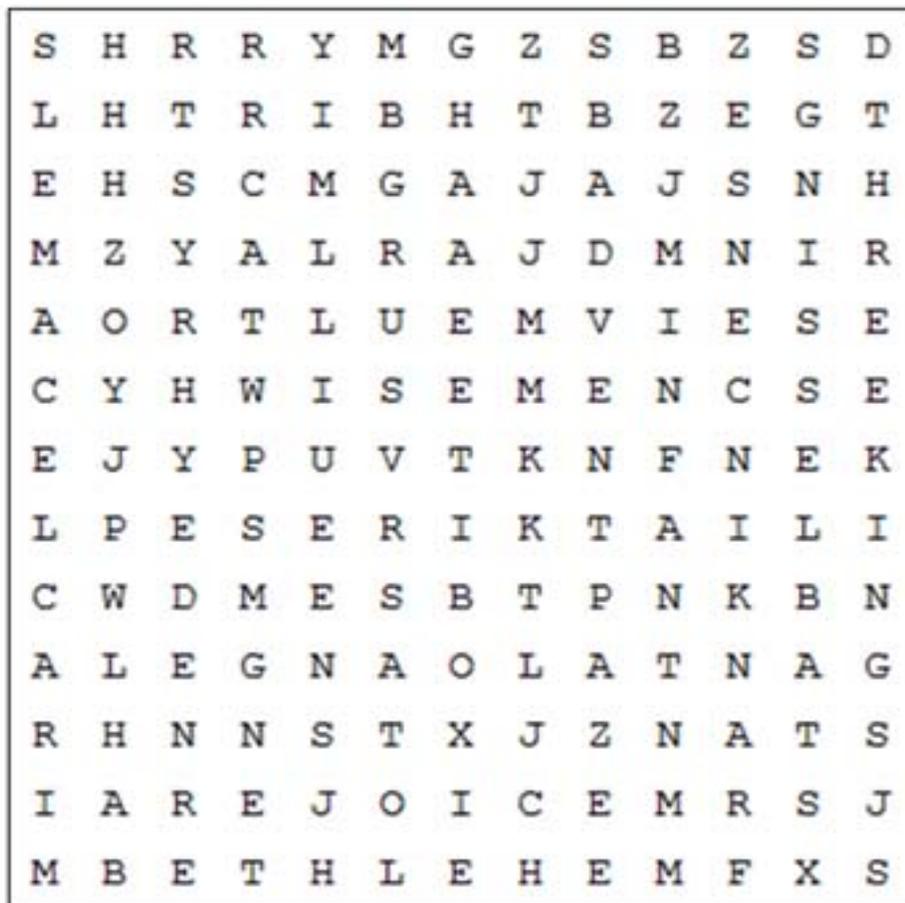
Fall foliage out front of the Cathedral



Children's Page



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN

