

St. George on Yonge Anglican Church: 5350 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario

Advent 2019 Hope, Joy, Peace and Love

Advent is the first season of the Christian church year, and leads up to Christmas. This time of year is generally regarded as a period of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas, and His return at the Second Coming.

In many Christian churches, this season brings its own traditions, as the four Sundays and weeks of Advent help us prepare for, and remember the real meaning of Christmas. One of the traditions at St. George on Yonge is the lighting of the candles on the Advent wreath to remind us of the Christian virtues of hope, joy, peace and love.

You will find our Advent and Christmas calendar in this newsletter, and I hope that we will all take the time to be with our church family as often as we can. That being said, I draw your attention to the opportunities for worship on Wednesdays; and the lunch hosted by Lansing Retirement Residence after the midday service on December 18th.

The Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along on December 14th, when the church opens its doors to the community, will be an opportunity to share God's love with our neighbours. (see details on page 8). Above all, I hope that we will all consider some structured approach to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ, and to deepen our spiritual practice in the four weeks leading up to Christmas.

One possibility is to follow The Anglican Communion global online Advent Calendar by signing up at www.adventword.org to receive a daily email with a meditation and photo based on a different word each day. (see details on page 4). With John the Baptist, let us cry out in the wilderness around us: "Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, make his paths straight," Mark 1:3

This hectic season, when we are distracted by all that must be accomplished before Christmas, we are encouraged to spend some time in reflection and prayer. We must prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming of Christ, as we experience a more intimate walk with our Lord and Saviour this Advent.

Leonard ✠
Rev. Leonard Leader
Priest-in-Charge

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From the Wardens

Winter has come early this year and, with the snow, come preparations for the holidays. We hope that you will join in with many of our special holiday events and services, listed in this newsletter.

We welcome Kay Yuen to the leadership team. She has become our second Deputy Warden and we thank her for taking on this new responsibility.

As the year comes to an end, we think about how the church is doing financially. We will be having a presentation on stewardship on Sunday, December 8th. Our Joyful Giving program will ask you to look at your present level of givings and consider any increases that are possible. With an improvement in our financial situation, in some respects, we are now looking at a much increased assessment from the Diocese for 2020. As well, we have started repaying deferred expenses to the Diocese. Expenses had been deferred upon request from the Administration Team when we were experiencing cash flow difficulties. Please note: All financial donations for 2019 are due to the office by Sunday, December 29th. We appreciate everything everyone is giving with their time, talents and treasures.

We encourage all members to be welcomers when new people come to St. George. Our study group has been looking at how we can make people comfortable and engaged, and these ideas will be shared with our Mission Action Planning team. Let us know if you have some suggestions!

Thank you in advance to all those who help with the extra responsibilities that come along with seasonal celebrations. Special mention to the Altar Guild, our Worship Team, Michael and the Choir, the Ushers and Counters, our Custodians, Craig and our Clergy.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine Baillie, Kwan Luk, Aili Maki and Kay Yuen

Remembrance Sunday



Fall Craft Sale

St. George on Yonge Anglican Church was the place to be on Saturday, October 26th. Our Fall Craft Sale had something for everyone. Guests were greeted on Yonge St. by our friendly scarecrow, Matthew, and offered free apple cider by Chris. More than 20 crafters were set up in the Parish Hall with wonderful items for sale. Breakfast treats were available and a lunchroom featured an assortment of sandwiches and BBQ'd hot dogs. A children's craft area was enjoyed by the younger set. Crocheting skills were demonstrated by Geraldine. Our lucky draw had some wonderful prizes donated by some of the crafters. Congratulations to all our lucky winners. It was an enjoyable time, which also raised some funds for the church. Thank you to Canterbury Place and Delmanor for their donations to the lunchroom, to Lansing Retirement Community for door prizes. Special thanks to all the parishioners who helped, with special mention to Elizabeth Beecham for her numerous contributions.





Guidelines to prevent Anaphylactic Reactions

St. George on Yonge is a **nut-sensitive** and **seafood-sensitive** facility.

There are children in the daycare who have **Anaphylactic Allergies** to:

- Peanuts
- Tree Nuts

There are members of the congregation who have **Anaphylactic Allergies** to:

- Peanuts and tree nuts
- Fish and Seafood

Contact with food containing the above ingredients can be **Life Threatening**.

Food products containing peanuts or tree nuts are prohibited throughout the building at all times.

For parish and outside events: *If fish or seafood are planned to be served, the Hospitality Coordinator or Parish Administrator need to be informed ahead of time. These foods need to be kept separate from all other food and should be labelled. The parish will endeavour to limit the amount of seafood/fish brought for events.*

Your co-operation is extremely important in this matter.

Thank you,

The Rev. Leonard Leader
Priest-in-Charge

Lorraine Baillie
Churchwarden

Kwan Luk
Churchwarden

Online Advent Calendar returns

The Anglican Communion is inviting Anglicans to join its global online Advent calendar and share their experiences of expectant waiting for Jesus Christ. Sign up at www.adventword.org to receive a daily email with a meditation and photo based on a different word each day. Participants are also invited to respond on social media using the hashtag #AdventWord and the word of the day.

#AdventWord

A Global Advent Calendar



Are you on facebook??
St. George on Yonge is there too!!

Be sure to look us up and "like" us at ...

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge>

Advent and Christmas at St. George on Yonge



First Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 1 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 8 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Community Christmas Carol Sing-along

Saturday, December 14 3:00 p.m.

Third Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 15 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 22 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Services

Communion & Reflection

Wednesdays, December 4 & 11 12:00 noon

Candlelight Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 7:00 p.m.

Taizé Service

Thursday, December 5 7:00 p.m.

Seniors' Christmas Communion

Wednesday, December 18 12:00 noon
followed by lunch provided by Lansing Retirement Residence



Pub Knights

Thursday, December 19 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
*at the "Frog & Firkin" (4854 Yonge Street,
 across from the Sheppard Centre on Yonge Street)*
Please note the change in date

Family Christmas Eve Communion

Tuesday, December 24 7:00 p.m.
with "Spontaneous Christmas Pageant"

Christmas Eve Visit to Area Emergency Workers

Tuesday, December 24 8:00 p.m.
with cupcakes, and other treats!

Almost Midnight Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24
 10:00 p.m. Singing Christmas Carols
 10:30 p.m. Festive Christmas Communion

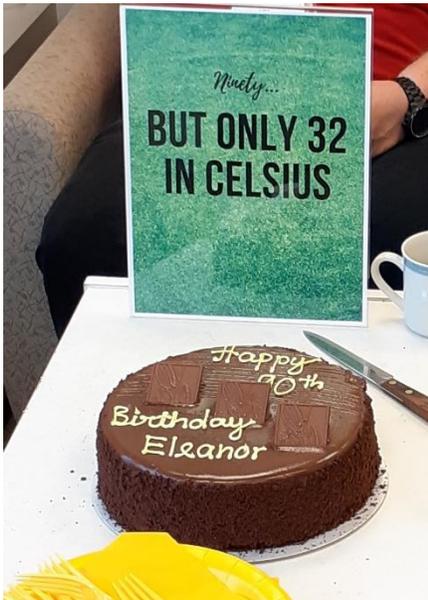
Christmas Day Communion

Wednesday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas Eucharist

Sunday, December 29
 10:30 a.m. (one service only)
singing favourite Christmas Carols





A big Happy Birthday to Eleanor Gilbert after the 8:00 service



In November we said goodbye to the Ferdinands who are going to St. Mary's which is closer to home for them.

Diocese of Toronto Synod November 8-9, 2019

Submitted by Laura Pummell

The Diocese of Toronto Synod was held on November 8th – 9th at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel. St George on Yonge was represented by Rev. Leonard Leader, Geraldine Sperling, Izu Umezinne, and Laura Pummell. The theme of this year's Synod was **"Created and Recreated in Christ"**.

Central to this theme is the notion that "we need to celebrate the glory of God's creation and reflect on our role as stewards of this diverse world. We are created and recreated by the grace and power of God's Holy Spirit."

In Bishop Andrew Asbil's charge to Synod, he used the analogy of the vine with its strong trunk and many branches that spread but often need to be pruned to remove the dead wood and leaves in order to grow. Similarly, the mission of the church is our root of the vine and the pruning of its branches needs to give life and make room for new ideas. Communities (our parishes) gather to be pruned Sunday by Sunday. And it takes time for every parish and community to be pruned by God and shaped by God over time. The branches need to course through the community and live with expediency, always looking towards the future. Now is the time for us to repurpose our resources, accept that we have made mistakes and move forward boldly.

This year's guest speaker was Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, who is an adjunct professor at Trinity College and Wycliffe College. Dr. Keesmaat's presentations discussed the creation process as a covenant between God and humanity as well as a covenant between God and earth. Using scripture verses, she told "The Biblical Story" using two paths, one highlighting positive(creation) stories and the other highlighting negative(destruction) stories that intersect at the center with Jesus, the Messiah. Then as the story is told by the disciples, how the church progressed through Pentecost and Early Church to a point where we are Now but then Revelations (New Creation) provides us with a map to re-create and establish a fertile environment. An environment where we, as stewards of God's gifts, should invest in local initiatives, train all especially youth to observe and serve God's kingdom, including both humanity and earth. The Synod is also a time to deal with a host of business items(motions) that are drafted by the Diocesan Council, clergy and laity. According to our Constitution and Canons, these motions are presented to Synod and voted on by the Synod representatives and cover a wide variety of topics.

There were also opportunities for Missional and Outreach presentations. This year there were two presentations that I felt were particularly impactful since the presentations were on topics that SGY is wrestling with. One was about how one parish (St. Martin's, Pickering) has approached the topic of Social Media and how it has been a journey of learning how to develop and communicate via Facebook and websites. The other presentation concerned Youth Ministry and the Youth Ministry Appreciation Program (YMAP). This presentation offered insight into developing youth programs, stressing that not one model serves all and that mentoring the youth and enabling them to connect so that learning can happen together yields the best results.



Children's Ministry



St. George Sunday Children's Program –

takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service. There is one class for all children 3-11 years old. Help would be appreciated for setting up the area and putting things away after the service. Please talk to Kathy Baillie if you can help with this.

Did you know?

Did You Know... Alan Sperling represents us with the Willowdale Church Coalition. This group was the motivating energy for our Community Carol Sing. Thanks Alan.

Did You Know... Nigel Philips is working hard to help us be better stewards of the earth. He arranged the city to make a presentation to parishioners, staff and daycare staff. Stay tuned for more information as he is organizing presentations for everyone after services.

Did You Know... FaithWorks Donations – 15% of all donations come back to the Church. The other money goes to help many different agencies and groups throughout the Diocese. Please return your envelope as soon as possible.

Did You Know... Roshni Sircar is a great-grandmother (which makes Raj a great-grandfather). They are spending some time in India visiting with family. Congratulations! Welcome to Thierry Ari Martin.



Did You Know... The Advisory Board approved a policy to ban the use of plastic water bottles at the church. Rental groups and church events will be able to use beverage containers or jugs to serve water from the tap. At Synod a policy to eliminate single-use plastic in the next 4 years was approved.

Now you know!

Where there is a will there is a Church...

Submitted by C. Ravi Andrews

Tucked away deep down on the south western side of India is the state of Kerala often referred to as **"God's own country"**. The landscape is a symphony of lush green vegetation, pristine beaches, rugged mountains, abundant wildlife and a network of canals. If you ever wanted to slow down and get away from WhatsApp and Facebook and everything electronic, then this is the place that you need to book your tickets to.

Another interesting aspect of Kerala is that according to Indian tradition, the Christian faith was introduced to India by Thomas the Apostle, who supposedly reached the Malabar Coast (Kerala) in 52 AD. According to folklore, it is said that St. Thomas worked hard at evangelizing the gospel but initially met with little success. Then, one evening at one of his meetings he spoke on the miracle of water being converted into wine. Lo and behold, the next morning when he opened his door the whole village and people of the surrounding villages were lined up to be adapted into Christianity. Notwithstanding this "tale" Christianity is India's third-largest religion after Hinduism and Islam, with approximately 65 million followers (more than the population of UK and nearly twice that of Canada). A significant percentage of this Christian population are in Kerala.

Being a Malayali (resident of Kerala), though an uprooted one – the very Christian upbringing was strictly prescribed by my late Mom whose commands could beat that of any Sergeant Major. Ever since I remember the daily family prayers were a must and these very strategically, used to be just before dinner time. The underlying message, I guess was no prayers no dinner and if you prayed earnestly then it meant a larger portion of the chicken curry. To date I could never figure out how my late dad went missing at these family prayers but still managed to get a sizeable portion of the chicken curry. Therefore, given this very Christian upbringing, the Sunday church worship was an absolute must. My Mom would ensure that we wake up early, get dressed, carry her hymn books when necessary and then either walk or take the bus to church. Here again I could never fathom how my dad managed to keep away from Church on all the regular Sundays. The only times Dad attended church were on Christmas, New Year, Easter and Good Friday. Though Dad was not overtly religious he seemed to have a special connect with God – I never saw the wrath of God strike him down.

When I started my working life and branched out on my own the daily Sunday worship continued for me. I just felt the need to "Check-in" with the good Lord on Sunday mornings. It was also a way to connect with the community and during my bachelor days it also helped me get introduced to some pretty young ladies. During the latter part of my work life I started travelling a lot to different countries and regions within those countries. It used to be, that on Sundays I would often find myself in a new place and finding a church, the right denomination and being in time for worship became a challenge. I therefore made a pact with God to lead me to the Church where I should worship. On Sundays I would therefore just step out around 7 am and start walking in any direction and keep walking till I reached a church and then attend the worship there.

This really paid off, most times I reached a Church with the right denomination and when it was not I still worshipped there and I felt very much at home and enjoyed the worship and fellowship there. In fact in one of these Churches I discovered that the Priest leading the worship was the one who confirmed me over fifteen years ago. Such pleasant surprises led me to continue my style of discovering churches. It also led me to worship at some of these churches for extended periods of time during my stint in those countries or places. Like St. Thomas Cathedral – the oldest Church in Fort Mumbai, The United Methodist at Broadway, Belmont in Chicago, St. Pauls in the beautiful village of Beckenham in England, St. Albans in Copenhagen Denmark, Merciful Redeemer in Mississauga and St. Marks Cathedral in Bangalore.

Therefore when I landed in Canada on 11 of October 2019 a sudden change of plan led me to temporarily shift home to North York. I was then trying to figure out where to worship when one of my good friends indicated that there is a Church on Yonge and Church that I could check out. A quick search on google and I pleasantly discovered that St. George was an Anglican Church and part of Church of England which was also within walking distance from

my place of stay. That, my friends was how I discovered St. Georges and I have been worshipping at the 8.00 am service.

So, on a cold wintry morning on the 20th of October I stepped out of my flat and started moving towards St. Georges. Having just landed on 11th I was still getting used to the cold and with the wind it was quite an effort but just kept plodding on. Finally I reached the church and was relieved when I walked into the building. Relieved for two reasons firstly for getting out of the cold and secondly for being just in time for the service. I was a bit baffled that the main service hall was empty, I then realized that it was the 8.00 am service and it would be a thin congregation. I then wandered about and heard some noises emanating from the end of a short corridor I just followed the voices and reached the smaller worship place. The tall and very genial Reverend broke into a warm smile of seeing me and gestured me in, since the service had already commenced.

I then had a quick glance around and noticed that there were less than ten of us – a typical morning service strength what also struck me was the vibrant colored sartorial gear that most were in. Immediately I knew that I was in the midst of some Caribbean folks and I was very happy since I have always been a big fan of the West Indies cricket team and my all-time favorite team was the playing eleven under the Captaincy of the “Big Cat” Clive Lloyd. I was also delighted to observe a very young Indian couple and that already made me feel at home. It was a good very uplifting service with the benevolent Rev. Leonard leading us like he was leading a cricket team to victory.

After the service and when I was introducing myself to my extreme surprise the young Indian couple happened to be from the same town and the same church where I worshipped back home – St. Marks Cathedral. This was truly coincidences of coincidences and I still recall fondly the look of utter surprise and amazement on all present. It was also the day when a very young lady of around 30 years of age with 60 years of experience was celebrating her birthday. So we all moved to the ante-room for the birthday celebrations. While I was getting used to the atmosphere and the very friendly folks around me, a bit overwhelmed, I noticed this very sweet and charming lady whose birthday we were celebrating walk up to me and reach out with both hands towards my neck. Now having lived in England for a long time and given their traditions there-I have got used to being given a welcome peck on my cheek by ladies over eighty or below eight. Therefore when this lady reached out towards my neck I very gallantly offered her my cheek when she blurted out that it was only to straighten my collar. Now that was the biggest comedown in all my years and it left us both laughing and a bit red faced. I also got my first volunteering assignment in Canada when I was made the official photographer for the birthday celebrations. Mission accomplished I have already mailed the photos to the good reverend.

And since that first Sunday, I have been a regular to St. George I enjoy worshipping here. The warmth and affection is catchy and though it's been just a few weeks I always feel like I am worshipping at home with family and friends. There is always some event happening where even a newcomer like me can get involved. The church itself is so aesthetically designed in a minimalist style. The sermons are simple, straight, meaningful and down to earth. I recall the sermon by Rev. Morning Wang such a simple practical message and it made me feel like I indeed was a Saint myself. The Remembrance Day message by Captain MacAllaster, CE on the brave Canadian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives was also very moving and inspiring.

So here I am feeling very much part of the St. George family and indeed will continue to worship here as long as I am in the neighborhood. How long this would continue I know not that I leave to the good Lord. But until then, you can bet that on a Sunday early morning you will see me plodding towards St. George from Yonge and Sheppard.

Welcome to St. George on Yonge Ravi

WE ♥ WILLOWDALE

Christmas Walking Parade

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30
 5-6PM PARADE PREP: FACEPAINTING, PAINT
 A GIANT GREETING CARD, FOOD TRUCKS
 6-6:30PM PARADE
 7-7:30PM CAROLLING & HOT CHOCOLATE
 WITH VISIT FROM SANTA AT LEE LIFESON
 PARK

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Meet at Willowdale Baptist Church (Yonge & Olive)
- Walk south on Doris
- East on Byng
- South on Kenneth
- West on Princess
- End at Lee Lifeson Park

For more info & to sign up to volunteer or participate:
WWW.WELOVEWILLOWDALE.CA

Hosted by: We Love Willowdale, Willowdale Church Coalition
 Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association & North York Moms.

Community Events

COMMUNITY Christmas Carol Sing - Along



Joy To The World
 Silent Night
 Hark! The Herald Angels
 Little Drummer Boy
 The First Noel
 O Holy Night
 Huron Carol
 Holly and the Ivy
 God Rest Ye Merry...
 and more

**Come join your Community Singing Together.
 All Carols - No Service
 Feeling Nostalgic, or Learning for the First Time.
 All Ages, All Backgrounds, All Welcome**

SATURDAY, December 14. 3:00 p.m.

St. George on Yonge Church
 5350 Yonge St. (at Churchill)

Free Underground Parking visit: stgeorgeonyonge.ca

FREE! That's Right! Just Come!
 Food Bank Donations Greatly Appreciated. 

Community Connection - Please donate warm items to help those in need keep safe and warm this winter. Drop donations of warm toques, mittens, scarves and warm socks in the food cart each week for later distribution. Thanks for your help to make a difference in someone's life.

Staff

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Assistant Curate	The Rev. Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodians	Philip Ikhuoria / Ramey (Faisal Ramme)

Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)

Wednesday	12:00 noon	Worship at Midday
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BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a "harbour for love," where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.

衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。

盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上

帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。

BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out sometime before Easter.

Deadline will be announced closer to the date.

Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at fambail@hotmail.com



**REMEMBER,
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AT ST. GEORGE ON YONGE CHURCH**

**"To nurture our relationships with God in Christ,
with one another, and with our community."**

**We're on the Web! See us at:
www.StGeorgeonYonge.ca**

5350 Yonge Street, North York