

## Greetings:

“And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

“It won’t be the same this Christmas”, I’ve heard people say with much regret. This statement often precedes all the concerns and frustrations that many are feeling during this uncertain time of COVID-19.

But I get it. We are living at a time of restrictions on worship, family gatherings and travel. Many are feeling the effects of economic loss, people are lonely and mental health conditions are on the rise. The disadvantaged are more severely affected by health concerns, homelessness and poverty.

This must be acknowledged. However, I challenge each of us to think of any two Christmases that have been the same; for inevitably something changes in the intervening 12 months. Nevertheless, there is one familiar story of Peace, Love, Joy and Hope for the Christmas Season.

I mention this season reluctantly, because it often feels that we have condensed the three liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany into a “mega-season” called the Christmas or “Festive” season. Perhaps this is an appropriate description, because it is all one continuous story about God’s redeeming love for us.

Chances are you will receive this newsletter in the season of Advent, as we prepare to greet the “father’s only son”. In this time of continuing uncertainty, how do we connect, look for what’s familiar to give us comfort, and help others make those connections? Perhaps, we could deepen our relationships with those in our own household, and reach out to our neighbours to share God’s love.

As we read this Christmas Newsletter, I hope that we will be encouraged by the articles and ideas from our church family. May we be revived from pandemic fatigue, and be prepared, with room in our hearts, to meet our Saviour.

*Leonard +*  
Rev’d Leonard Leader  
Priest-in-Charge

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## From the Wardens

We hope you are feeling connected with St. George on Yonge - watching the services on Facebook, taking part in tapings, having good chats by telephone. Parishioners have been taking part in Coffee Hours, Bible Study, Pub Knights and meetings through the technology of Zoom. Our Telephone Tree continues to keep our non-internet members involved and informed about what is going on. Many thanks to Hazel and her team for their calls. Please let us know how you are doing and how else the church can be a support. Keep reading the weekly emails and we challenge more people to complete the "I read it" quiz each week.

Much appreciation is given to Leonard and the team responsible for our worship services. With Egan's expertise we quickly moved to online worship as it became necessary. Taping or livestream, the services have been produced at a high level of quality and appreciated by those taking part online. Leonard has risen to the challenge of being filmed each week, mastering speaking through a mask, and continuing to lead our parish with dedication, perseverance and tremendous effort. Thanks also to our readers, intercessors, sub-deacons and soloists.

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed two new staff members, as well as hired a Treasurer. Kathy Baillie has accepted a further six month contract as our Office Administrator, so will be with us until the spring. Sarah Layman took on her position of Children and Youth Ministry Leader at the beginning of October. We are very happy to have Sarah and her children with us, and grateful for the YMAP program of the Diocese which covers half of her pay for nine months. Most recently, we welcomed Larry Iwamoto as our new Treasurer. He will be working with the Office Administrator and Wardens to ensure good accounting practices and help us have a better understanding of the state of our finances.

We thank our other staff for all their contributions. Michael for his continued support of worship through music. Our custodians Philip and Ramey for their upkeep of the building. Ramey has been on a leave for a number of weeks and we look forward to having him back with us. It has been wonderful to have Sister Connie broadcast sermons from the convent.

As we head toward the end of the year, we would like to remind you that expenses for salaries, building maintenance and worship support continue to be paid. We rely on the donations of our parishioners. Our fiscal year is coming to an end but the church year is just beginning with Advent. This is a good time to reflect on your givings. If you find you are able, please consider increasing the amount you are giving through preauthorized givings, envelopes, or general offertory. If you are not on PAR presently, please consider it. This gives the church leadership a better idea of the amount of income we expect and allows us to set a budget that is realistic. All contributions for this year need to be received in the office by December 31st.

The weather is starting to show signs of winter and Christmas music is being played. This year's festive season is going to be very different from our traditional celebrations. We hope that all our members will find joy in starting some new traditions and finding new ways to mark the birth of our Lord Jesus.

Please take care and stay well,  
Lorraine, Doug and Aili

## Community Connection

The effects of the Covid-19 virus and the resulting efforts made by both the church and the various government levels have made it very difficult for us here at St George on Yonge to reach out and interact with our community, but through various modifications in actions we have still managed to keep several programs operating. Sadly though of course a number of the activities that we had hoped would occur this year have been impossible to put in place.

St George on Yonge has continued with our program of Gift Card distribution to members of the community throughout the year in a modified format. We currently contact each individual who has requested assistance near the end of the month prior to distribution to determine if they wish to physically come to the church on the day/time set or if they wish their card to be mailed to them. Gift cards have been made up for a larger amount each time, to cover a two month period rather than one, and this change has been most welcomed by our guests. At the day and time allotted a table is set up either on the front porch or just inside the front door, where using physical distancing, the card is placed on the table one at a time and they come up, pick up the card, and exit the area. If you can help out with the phone calls or distribution on the first Tuesday of the month please let Lorraine or myself know.

We all miss getting out in public at our monthly Pub Knights dinner in a local establishment but after a few months of the pandemic we began meeting at the usual time over Zoom, to share conversation, support and encourage each other in this time in the comfort of our own homes each month.

Our latest effort has been, as a result of a request by the city to obtain warm clothes for the refugees housed in the old Hydro building on Yonge north of Finch, to again request items in good condition or new clothing to be distributed. As you know several men from this center had come to our church and joined our weekly services regularly prior to the closedown in March. Items can be dropped off at the church during the day on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday or if needed, contact me and we can arrange a time to meet. They will then be packed together and delivered. Some items donated were distributed on the 22nd to calls of Bless You All and Thanks Be To God to the parish.

If you can help us out in any way, please let us know. The old saying of many hands make light work is certainly true, and even though the building is closed the work still goes on.

Doug Heyes



## It's a Month before Christmas 2020



It's a month before Christmas,  
And all through the town,  
People wore masks,  
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun  
Way back in the Spring,  
When a global pandemic  
Changed everything.

They called it corona,  
But unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times,  
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,  
This virus spread fast,  
Like a wildfire that starts  
When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,  
Travel was banned.  
Borders were closed  
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown  
To flatten the curve,  
The economy halted,  
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July  
We rode the first wave,  
People stayed home,  
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged  
The lockdown was lifted.  
But away from caution,  
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November  
And cases are spiking,  
Wave two has arrived,  
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,  
Doctors and nurses,  
Try to save people,  
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,  
This COVID-19.  
There isn't a cure.  
There is no vaccine.

It's true that this year  
Has had sadness a plenty,  
We'll never forget  
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -  
The holiday season,  
But why be merry?  
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house  
And put up the tree,  
When no one will see it,  
No-one but me.

But outside my window  
The snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself,  
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,  
The garland and bows,  
As I play those old carols,  
My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled  
And neither is hope.  
If we lean on each other,  
I know we can cope.

Christmas isn't cancelled,  
It never could be.  
Cause Jesus was born  
to save you and me!



Author unknown  
Submitted by Roshni Sircar

## Advent Reflections

The season of Advent inspires us to think about why we celebrate Christmas and for whom we are waiting. In preparation for Christmas, many Christians take the opportunity for additional prayers and devotions. Join us by zoom for Advent Reflections as follows:

Session I	Thursday Dec 3	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Mark 1:1-8
Session II	Thursday Dec 10	7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Zoom instructions

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4136849381> You may have to download Zoom. **You must use a passcode 1922**

To join by phone – Call **647-374-4685** When prompted to enter the Meeting ID number, enter **4136849381** Then press #. If prompted to enter a participation ID, just press # and stay on the line. **You must use a passcode 1922**

## Advent and Christmas 2020 at St. George on Yonge

Dec 3 Advent Reflection by  
Zoom 7:30 p.m.

Dec 6 Advent II  
10:00 a.m.



Dec 10 Advent Reflection by  
ZOOM 7:30 p.m.

Dec 13 Advent III  
10:00 a.m.



Dec 17 Blue Christmas  
Service by Zoom  
7:00 p.m.



Dec 20 Advent IV  
10:00 a.m.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve  
8:00 p.m.



Dec 25 Christmas Day  
(tentative, subject to safety  
guidelines) 10:00 a.m.



Dec 27 First Sunday after  
Christmas 10:00 a.m.

### Children's Ministry

We welcomed Sarah Layman, our new Children and Youth Ministry person in October. Each week a booklet with stories, bible stories, etc. one for children and one for youth, is included with the Parish updates.

We had zoom classes throughout the summer and have just started up again. We had 2 sessions by Zoom: one for the 3-5 year olds and the next for 6-11+. Please keep checking the weekly updates for information on our next sessions.

### From the Office

Bulletins along with recordings of the service (sermons and announcements) are available on our website. Click on the "Latest Sermon" or "The Sermon Archive" links on the front page. Bulletins are available through the "Next Service" link on the front page; from there you can look at past services.

2021 Church calendars are for sale for \$6 each. Please contact the church office if you would like to purchase one.



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>

### Did you know...

we will be celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022?

A committee has been formed and meetings have started. Volunteers for various jobs will be requested once organized. We will also be interviewing various members of the congregation for their memories and stories about St. George's.

## **"My Moonlight Sonata"** A true story from Mrs. Dorothy Ewer, as told to Lorraine Baillie



Cutter – one horse open sleigh

Background – My father lost his job in the city and was moved to manage a farm when I was six years old. It was a big change for our family. In the city we had electricity, flush toilets and other amenities. At the farm we had coal oil lamps, a wood stove, a pump for water and no indoor plumbing. It was quite an adjustment and I was given many responsibilities at a young age. The story took place when I was about 12 years old.

It was a lovely, clear, bright night. The snow was up to the horse's belly. My father and I were going to the Christmas concert being put on by the school children, at the one room school house about a mile and a half away. We had presents with us in the cutter for exchange that night. My mother had chosen a lovely, pale green cushion for me to give the teacher, Miss Archer.

We went down our lane, through all the snow, without a problem. When we reached the township line it was another story. The snow had filled in the end of our laneway, and the horse was disappearing into the great whiteness. All of a sudden the cutter turned over on its side. The presents, as well as my father and me, went flying out of the sleigh and landed on the coldness. Luckily the moon was so bright that we could see, just like it was day.

Father climbed out of the snow, unhooked the cutter and turned it upright. He fastened the sleigh to the horse. We retrieved the gifts and got back into our places in the sleigh. Off we went to the school, arriving a bit late, but in time for the program presented to the parents and neighbours by the school children. A good time was had by all, and a memory for life was created.

### **Shout Out to...**

Hazel and the telephone tree volunteers for keeping in touch with those not connected through email.

### **Shout Out to...**

Egan for all his work with the online services.

### **Shout Out to...**

Leonard and the Wardens for their leadership through these challenging times.

### **Shout Out to...**

All those who take an active role in our worship services.

### **Shout Out to...**

Izu for getting the services live on Facebook every Sunday morning. And to all those joining in and commenting.



**THANK YOU!**



## Don Valley Refugee Resettlers Update

The DVRR is very happy to announce that Nawres and her three boys, Moamel, Malik and Zaid will be finally arriving in early December. Their flight in March was cancelled due to COVID-19 and it has taken this long to get it rearranged. The DVRR has been working on collecting furniture and household items.

Unfortunately Nawres was widowed when her husband was killed. She fled Iraq with her boys when the people who murdered her husband threatened her children if she pressed charges. She will be settling in Brampton near her grandparents, who she is very close with, and her uncle and his family. She is very excited and grateful to be coming to Canada. It will be a different settlement with the challenges around the pandemic, but we will figure it out.

Thank you for your donations, and the purchases of honey and amaryllises, which support this important work. For more information on how you can help, contact Aili Maki ([aيلي@makifamily.ca](mailto:aيلي@makifamily.ca)).

Brenda Burton, DVRR Chair, edited by Aili Maki, St. George on Yonge DVRR representative

## Cinnamon Nut Quick Bread



This is one of our family's favourites, and disappears in a flash – Geraldine

Prep time 15 min, cook time 1 hr

- $\frac{1}{3}$  c dark brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c chopped walnuts or pecans
- 2 tsp powdered cinnamon
  
- 2 c all-purpose flour
- 1 c white sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
  
- 1 egg
- 1 c milk
- $\frac{1}{3}$  c vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray 9x5-inch loaf pan with baking spray. If desired, line with parchment paper and spray again

In a small bowl, combine dark brown sugar, chopped nuts and cinnamon.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, white sugar, baking powder and salt.

In a medium bowl, whisk together egg, milk, oil, sour cream and vanilla.

Add wet ingredients to dry, mix with a spatula just until combined (batter may be slightly lumpy – this is okay.)

Add half the batter to prepared pan. Sprinkle with half the cinnamon mixture. Top with remaining batter, then rest of cinnamon mixture. Using a butterknife, swirl through the batter to give the cake a marbled look.

Bake 55 – 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Allow cake to cool completely before slicing to serve.

## Services

With the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases and advice from the City and the Diocese, the leadership team of St. George on Yonge decided to suspend in-person worship at this time.

### Virtual Services

The online services are being streamed live on the St. George on Yonge Facebook page Sunday Mornings **at 10 a.m.** <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge>

Services are available any time after the live stream.

## Staff

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Children & Youth Ministry	Sarah Layman
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Office Administrator	Kathy Baillie
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria
Assistant Custodian	Ramey Khurshid

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out sometime in the spring. **Deadline** will be decided closer to the date. Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at [fambail@hotmail.com](mailto:fambail@hotmail.com)



**We're on the Web! See us at:**  
**[www.StGeorgeonYonge.ca](http://www.StGeorgeonYonge.ca)**

**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."**

**5350 Yonge Street, North York**