

THE GOOD NEWS

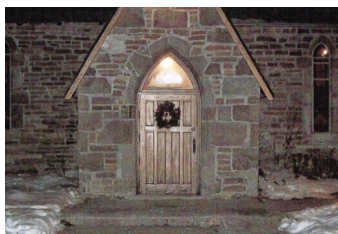
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Carol Challenge:

On next pages look for the Carol Challenge and match the lyric to the correct carol.



Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

REFLECTION: BE STILL

SUBMITTED BY SHARLEEN A. MCCORRISTER

Malachi 3: 1–5,
Psalm 25: 1–14,
Luke 1: 57–66

My reflection on Divine Love is being written on a dreary and rainy Summer afternoon in August in a middle of this year's Covid-19 pandemic. The unbearable heat this year makes it a little hard to envision a future time of Advent amidst the cold and snow. It is a most unique year in all of our lives as we become part of a historic worldwide event. Over these last 6 months the world has changed and so have each one of us. Many of us have made daily reflections a priority as we ponder the future, remember the past and endure the present. Living in the moment all of the time is new for all of us. It can be challenging, frustrating and almost unbearable. It also can be liberating, relieving and almost carefree.

It reminds me of a long walk I took 6 years ago along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. For over a month I became a pilgrim on a journey where the only care I had was to walk all day then find food and lodging by the day's end. I lived totally in the moment trusting in an internal compass to get me to my destination.

Although I encountered some hardships along the way, like falling down a tall hill of stones, nasty insect bites and a trip to the hospital; there remained within me a sense of peacefulness. My mind stopped the monkey chatter, my aches and pains became superfluous and I became still until I could hear that still small voice within.

Advent is a time of being still, of waiting, with anticipation and hope for the Lord is coming. In the book of Malachi, we learn to be patient and that we will have to endure a refining of our souls. This Covid year has taught us a lot about waiting and refining. During this pause in life we have had the chance to change, to become more appreciative of what we have and become better versions of ourselves. We continue to endure because of our hope in the Lord. In Psalm 25 the writer tells us to take refuge in the Lord. That we can let go and put our trust in Him and everything will be ok. Doing this shows a great leap of faith and this is what God keeps asking us to do; to believe in His undying and everlasting love. In the Gospel of Luke, he writes about Zechariah. Here was a man that had to be still, literally unable to speak for nine months

because he doubted the word of the Lord. Zechariah was humbled as he watched a barren wife ripen into pregnancy as foretold by the Lord. Witnessing the miracle of his child's birth and uttering the ordained name, he was freed from his silence. How often do we see miracles before us but doubt in their possibility? The gift of God's son to the whole world was the greatest miracle of all. It was His covenant of divine love. Advent is a time of renewing our faith in God's promise. We can step out of the shadows of darkness and into the light of God. We can overcome our trials and troubles of the present day because God so loved the world that he gave His only son to us as a blessed sign, so that we may know that we are not alone and that all will be well.

Blessings to all during this advent season

In light and Love



Forgiveness unleashes joy. It brings peace. It washes the slate clean. It sets all the highest values of love in motion.

George MacDonald



CAROL CHALLENGE #1

"looked down where he lay"

- A Away in a Manger
- B People Look East! The Time is Near
- C O Little Town of Bethlehem
- D Come Thou Long-expected Jesus



I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.

C. S. Lewis



CAROL CHALLENGE #2

"God and sinners reconciled"

- A While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
- B Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- C O Come All Ye Faithful
- D O Come, Divine Messiah

THE ADVENT WREATH

EXCERPT FROM "ADVENT WREATH & CANDELS BY LAURA RICHIE, CROSSTALK, NOVEMBER 9, 2020



Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Although there are different alternatives as to the symbolism of each candle, this is one view which appeared in CrossTalk November 2020.

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the **"Prophet's Candle."**

The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The **second candle** symbolizes **faith** and is called

"Bethlehem's Candle."

Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the **"Shepherd's Candle."**

To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** symbolizes **peace** and is called the

"Angel's Candle."

The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace—He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The **fifth candle** symbolizes **light and purity** and is called **"Christ's Candle."**

It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

No matter how we choose to celebrate the season of Advent, let's remember the beauty and grace of Jesus. He entered our dark, broken world on the first Christmas long ago, and He's working even now to restore light, peace, and life.

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Submitted by Pat Weir

St. George's Cemetery Gets an Early Christmas Present



The weather was exceptionally warm and the sunset was spectacular on November 9th when a beautiful bench was installed at St George's cemetery. This new cement bench was lovingly donated by Wayne Baskin in memory of his parents Freda and Russell Baskin



It will certainly be appreciated by visitors now and for generations to come. Thank you Wayne for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Pictured here are Wayne Baskin and Fern (Freda's sister)



LUKE 2: 8 - 14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

ADVENT MINI RETREAT MORNING

"Take some time out of your busy schedule for a mini-retreat. The retreat takes place in time, not place, at your home on Saturday December 19 from 10 am to 1:00 p.m. Details and sign up very soon on the parish website.:

BAPTISM

EVELYN ELIZABETH AGATHA GRAINGER

Submitted by Lorraine Madore



Congratulations to wee Evelyn Elizabeth Agatha on her recent baptism. It was a wonderful event, a bright light in the midst of a dark pandemic. Congratulations also to her parents Jay Harold and Candice Jane and her Godparent Amanda Brown. May God bless you and keep you. May He cause His light to shine upon you.

FRAN DAWSON PRAYER WARRIOR

Submitted by Lorraine Madore

Fran Dawson is an Ottawa girl with deep roots in Constance Bay and St. Thomas'. She was a young girl living with her grandmother in Ottawa, when her father bought a cottage in Constance Bay. She has been closely connected to the community since then.

Fran married in 1963. In 1967 she and husband moved to McKellar Park in Ottawa, her home for close to 40 years. He passed away in 2004 and Fran eventually bought and moved to the condo of a lady that she had helped. In 2009, the family cottage was torn down and a new house built, where her son now lives. Fran explains that God provided the people to do the work, sending different people to volunteer for what was needed at different times. In 2010, she moved to Constance Bay, on the property next to her son's home.

Fran has written her memories, telling her stories based on pictures she has, something she has been doing for the last 30 years. (I hope she will share this with us!) Fran is proud to have volunteered at the Anglican archives.

Fran's ties to St. Thomas' date back to when she was 13 years old. A friend's mother who lived near the family cottage in Constance Bay brought her to church. From then on, she went every Sunday, she was in the neighbourhood. Fran was first attracted by the rituals of the Anglican Church. She later joined the Anglican Young People's Association, where she eventually met her husband.

Fran's strong faith and ministry of prayer goes back to when she lived with her mother's mother. She recalls praying on her knees beside her bed, and she knows that her grandmother prayed for her before she was even born. She also describes her father's mother as a "strong Anglican."

Fran has experienced "God incidents" all her life and has kept close note of them. During her confirmation, she felt the Holy Spirit come on her. She has been to different churches and had different experiences. She went to Cursillo in 1980 which had an impact on her. At Westboro Anglican Church, Fran was on the first pastoral care team, set up by Barry Curtis. Prayer has always been a big part of her life. "I couldn't do anything without the Holy Spirit."

Fran reads through the Bible every two years and is now in Hosea and 1 Peter. Her favourite verse is Philippians 4:6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."



Her thought shared with us is this: "We need to trust the Holy Spirit and we need to pray. Nothing is too insignificant for God. We have to talk to him like he is here."



CAROL CHALLENGE #3

"round yon virgin mother and child"

- A We Three Kings
- B It Came upon the Midnight Clear
- C What Child Is This?
- D Silent Night



O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,

Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Key of David,
come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads
on high,
And close the path the misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel



CAROL CHALLENGE #4

"O tidings of comfort and joy"

- A Ding Dong Merrily on High
- B God rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- C Good King Wenceslas
- D In the Bleak Midwinter



CAROL CHALLENGE #5

"and Heaven and nature sing"

- A Once in Royal David's City
- B No Crowded Eastern Street
- C Joy to the World
- D Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



Looking for a very special gift? The Fitzroy Parish Cookbook will fill that need! Copies are available by contacting the Office at 613-623 3882, Victoria Emerson or Lorraine Madore.



CAROL CHALLENGE #6

"On a cold winter's night that was so deep"

- A It came upon a Midnight Clear
- B The First Nowell
- C All Poor Folk and Hungry
- D Angels from the Realms of Glory

CHRISTMAS BASKET SPONSOR PROGRAM THANK YOU ST. GEORGE'S

Submitted by Lorraine Madore

For over 25 years Pat Weir or someone from her family have spearheaded the Christmas Basket Program at St. George's. and her family have been involved in supporting West Carleton families with Christmas baskets for over 25 years. Recently, St. George's received a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts in 2019.

Pat describes the organization as "very simple." She receives the information from the Parish of Huntley about the sponsored family ID Code plus a list of grocery items, and a list of family members (i.e. Mother, two children aged 8 and 10, etc.).

Pat then puts up a tree in St. George's with tags listing all the items needed sometime during Advent, (i.e. two cans vegetables, one box cereal, cash donation for 3 bags of milk, cash donation for cheese, etc.). And of course, gift tags for the sponsored family (i.e. girl, 4 years old, likes dolls.). The people of St. George's very generously take the tags and return the items back to the church. It is a basket of food items plus gifts for a family in need.

Pat then buys the perishable items from the cash received and if there is extra cash (and often there is), it goes forward as a donation to the food bank. On a predetermined date, all items must be placed in boxes for the sponsored family and

taken to St. James Church in Carp for drop off. Once there, they have a master list where there are volunteer drivers to deliver the hampers to the sponsored families.

The recipients are never known - it might even be your neighbour.

In years past, Pat and the people of St. George's sponsored two large families each Christmas, but in times recent past only one family. But no matter the amount, the people of St. George's are reaching out. As Pat says, "I cannot stress enough how generous our congregation has been over the years to support this Christmas basket program."



DONATE TO CHRISTMAS BASKET 2020

In the world of COVID-19 the Angel Trees at the back of St. Thomas' and St. George's are going virtual! In a combined effort, the Parish of Fitzroy is coordinating the sponsorship of two families through the West Carleton Food Access Centre Christmas Basket program. In years past, a collection of required items (food, cash, gifts) was assembled at the individual churches for a designated family and then deliver to Carp (Huntley Parish). But during the pandemic, only monetary donations can be accepted.

You can contribute the virtual Angel Tree over the next few weeks through several different ways:

Online (Anglicanfitzroyparish.com/angeltree) through CanadaHelps. A receipt is generated automatically for donations over \$20.

Donations given to Pat Weir or Darlene Weir; to Mary Braun or to the

church office on Thursday or Friday.

Donations mailed to Parish of Fitzroy Harbour, P.O. Box 191, Shirreff Street, Fitzroy Harbour ON K0A 1X0. Please make cheques payable to St. Thomas' or St. George's. Mark on your envelop "Angel Tree" and provide your name and address in order for the Office to issue you a charitable receipt.

For more information, please check the website or call Pat Weir or Karen Wilson. Please help spread the word!



THE CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK

Submitted by Lorraine Madore

The Canadian Foodgrains Bank, set up 41 years ago, is a Canadian Christian response to ending hunger in the world. Funds raised through the sale of crops by Canadian farmers is matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government and used to respond to hunger around the world in several ways:

- Providing food in emergencies
- Supporting agriculture and livelihoods around the world
- Reducing malnutrition
- Improving food and humanitarian assistance policies
- Involving Canadians in the mission to end hunger.

SUPPORTING THE CFGB

Submitted by Lorraine Madore; Pictures by Pat Weur

Gary Weir of St. George's estimates that this year's contribution to the Canadian Food Grains Bank is approximately \$7,000, with final figures to follow. He described the soy-bean crop as "average".

In September, local MP Karen McCrimmon and Food Grains Policy Advisor Andrew Defor met with Lisa Probst and Gary Weir.

To support the FoodGrains Bank Cheques can be made out to St. George's Anglican Church with Foodgrains in the subject line. For a receipt, please ensure your name and mailing address are included. If you would like to find out more information about the Canadian

Foodgrains Bank or want to help in other ways, please contact Gary Weir or Lisa Probst through the parish office



Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 82:3-4



CAROL CHALLENGE #7

"Disperse the gloomy clouds of night"

A O Come, O Come Emmanuel

B Good Christians All Rejoice

C Brightest and Best

D O Come Little Children



"to give up one's very self – to think only of others – how to bring the greatest happiness to others – that is the **true** meaning of **Christmas**."



CAROL CHALLENGE #8

"Joyful and triumphant"

A Shepherds in the Field Abiding

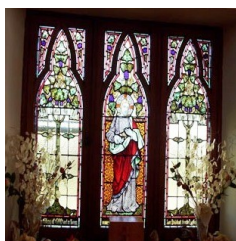
B O Come all ye Faithful

C Silent Night

D As with Gladness. Men of Old

December Parish Services

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. St. Thomas's Church, Woodlawn

Christmas Eve,

Zoom Service, December 24th at 4:30 p.m. Information to follow

Holy Eucharist

December 24th at 7:30 p.m. St. Thomas's Church, Woodlawn

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Check out our parish
twitter feed
@AnglicanFitzroy

facebook.com/stthomaswoodlawn
facebook.com/stgeorgesfitzroyharbour



If you know
of or have
any pictures
of events
that you

would like to have included in
the next newsletter please
send them to Cathy or
Lorraine at church office
613 623 3882



The Parish of Fitzroy Harbour is a community inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit guided through spiritual discernment, to Support, Share and Serve in the World

St. George's and St. Thomas' are strong churches, beautifully warm sanctuaries brimming with history, love and devotion. The sacred religious traditions are carried out by Father John Stopa. The dedicated congregations, actively keep the church-going practices alive.

PROTECTION GUIDELINES

SUBMITTED BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

- If you have been out—Self Isolate
- If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested Positive—
 - Quarantine Yourself
- Wear a mask in public to protect others
- Stay at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance from others
- No conversations longer than 10 minutes
- Wash Hands often
- If cannot wash hands use sanitizer
- Stay Home as much as possible (exceptions Grocery Store, Drug Store or Doctor Appointments)
- Stay in contact with family and friends

Fitzroy Parish and other Anglican Services

Fitzroy Parish continues to meet online at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings. Please join us by Clicking on the Fitzroy Parish website: <http://www.anglicanfitzroyparish.com/videos> Videos of past services are available on the same page.

Our Parish is active on social media. You do not have to have special accounts to view any of the posts:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AnglicanFitzroy>

Facebook (St. George's): <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgesfitzroyharbour/>

Facebook (St. Thomas'): <https://www.facebook.com/stthomaswoodlawn/>

You can also find worship services across the Diocese by clicking on the following page:

<https://www.ottawa.anglican.ca/images/COVID-19/ADO-Virtual-Service-Schedule-I.pdf>

LET US PRAY

Submitted by Father John Stopa



Almighty God, our Light and our Life; as we journey through these seasons of Advent and Christmas, we pray that you will reveal your Self and your Grace. In this time marked with joy for some and pain and loneliness for others, we pray that by your Incarnation you may shatter the suffering of those whose lives are in darkness and grief. Touch also those whose lives and whose faith is marked by apathy. Send into all our hearts your true love which melts away the cold and let us radiate the warmth of your peace. We pray this in your Son's name. AMEN



Answers to Carol Challenge: 1. a 2. b 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. a 8. b