



THE PEWS REPORT

TO UNIFY AND INFORM

A Publication of the Corporation of Christ Church, Dartmouth, Est. 1817



Advent 2020

“Hope makes you see God’s guiding hand not only in the gentle and pleasant moments but also in the shadows of disappointment and darkness.” -Henri Nouwen.

“We must move forward. But we don’t know for sure what the new normal will be. Fortunately, God’s rubric of love shows us the way.” - Bishop Michael Curry

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this year’s Advent letter, I recognize the stress, pain, and grief that many are experiencing at this time. This Advent and Christmas may be one of the darkest we can remember. Yet, amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, the church continues to live on, albeit differently. No longer can we shake hands at the door, gather for meals, or worship in the same way. Instead, online services and other methods of communication by phone, email, and social media have become the norm.

To date, 11 580 Canadians have died from COVID-19. Our nation is in a period of mourning, a time of lament. Currently, we are in a two-week lockdown as we try and get a handle on the virus. At this time, we are called to pray for all affected by this virus: doctors, nurses, care practitioners, scientists, government officials, clergy and laity, members of the retail industry, all essential workers, family and loved ones, and the souls of the dearly departed.

One might view darkness in the same way Jesus spoke of it. In Mark 13, our Lord says,

In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

This year our Advent theme is “Lighting the Darkness.” Our worship will be shaped around weekly dramas that look at the Christian faith in light of the current pandemic. I hope that you will be able to join us in whichever manner is most comfortable for you.

As I mention the darkness, there is light. Our role in the community has not been reduced. In some ways, it has expanded. The Christ Church Food and Clothing Bank continues to serve roughly 75 clients a week (this is an increase). This Christmas season, we will safely provide 110 Christmas Hampers to people in our community.

We have also made adjustments so community groups can use our space safely for their events. There are online Christian education opportunities, and we continue the critical pastoral ministry as we reach out to the sick and the lonely in new and innovative ways. However, we cannot help but recognize that our sense of community has changed. Change is hard. This change has, I am sure, been difficult for you and your family.

It has been particularly difficult for clergy, staff, wardens, parish council, volunteers, and the

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parishioners of our beloved parish. Yet, we move forward. We still proclaim the Gospel! For it is our baptismal promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving thy neighbour as thyself.” And we “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”

Even as we change, we can look to our past and see how today’s events are mirrored in history. In Steven Laffoley’s novel *A Halifax Christmas Carol*, the protagonist Michael Bell faces the hardships of returning from The Great War. In December 1918, Michael works at *The Halifax Herald* and is tasked with finding a missing boy—Tommy Suklis, before the paper’s Christmas Eve edition is published. Laffoley describes our city in a state of hopelessness. He reflects on the darkness, and an era of disease, brokenness and poverty, writing

Now by “the darkness,” I don’t mean the absence of light—though, in truth, it did seem at times as if everything was coloured in shades of grey and black. No, by “the darkness,” I mean something far worse. I mean the absence of hope.

Yet, the story is filled with hope. The young boy who is lost is found, and he reveals to Michael and a cast of characters what life is really about. This tale, inspired by a true story, mirrors what we are waiting for—a child. Laffoley opens his book, writing, “...and a little child shall lead them.” Isaiah 11:6. That is where we are—a period of darkness that leads to the light.

This Christmas will be very different from the ones of the past. The traditional family gatherings will be limited in number, and our ability to move freely in our neighbourhoods may not be feasible. Yet, in many ways, this Christmas will be like the very first one, simple. A small gathering, with few in attendance. A mother and father destitute, with no place to find shelter, except for a lowly barn. A young child, born into poverty as a refugee in a new land. A Saviour who turned the world upside down and loved humanity with compassion that knew no borders and a love that was not confined by walls.

As you gather safely, I pray that you are reminded of the first Christmas and how simple it was. How void of tradition, pageantry, and specific celebration. Perhaps God is telling us something? Maybe God is proclaiming: “It’s about my Son.” Indeed it is. It’s about following the star, for only in the darkness can we see the light! May God bless you and yours as we Lighten the Darkness!

Yours faithfully in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!



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Christ Church Visitors’ Group

Submitted by Rev. Bonnie Baird, Pastoral Visitor

An Invitation to Be A Light

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says your Lord. (Isaiah 40:1)

What is as comforting and as reassuring as someone reaching out to us when we feel all alone?

That letter in the mail. That email or text. That phone call. Or small package dropped on our doorstep or hung on the doorknob?

That says, “You are important. I’m thinking about you. You are in my heart.”

It’s been a long, hard year. A profound fatigue of the pandemic is setting in.

This Christmas there will be no home communions. Health restrictions prevent this. Same with in-person visits to the home-bound. That doesn’t, however, prevent Christ Church from reaching into people’s isolation.



We as pastoral visitors will continue to do so along with others who have done so in the past. A special thank you to the pastoral care committee and to Janice Silver for her organizational skills in this regard!

This year, I invite you to notice who might need a call or a note. It could be someone grieving the death of a family member or friend. Or coping with health issues or with fear. Someone disappointed at not being with family this time of year. Or simply overwhelmed with all the changes we’re experiencing right now.

And then to reach out to them, to listen and be a comforting presence to them. A light in the darkness.

Christmas for One

Submitted by Rev. Bonnie Baird, Pastoral Visitor

I spoke to a woman the other day who will be spending Christmas on her own this year. I thought her plans might be a revelation to those of us not able to be with family or friends in this year of pandemic.

She’s decorated her place for Christmas already. Emphasis on lots of brightness and lights. And, I suspect, with a whole lot of ornaments with special meaning to her from years gone by, though she didn’t mention this.

She’s planning her Christmas dinner menu. Something festive, more special than normal. With all the trimmings. Which she intends to enjoy at a table set up with good china and candles. Perhaps a decorative tablecloth and napkins.

Family photos will be all within view of the table.

“I’ll be thinking about those family members who have gone and I’ll be saying thanks to God for them,” she told me.

(Christmas to me has always felt like “thin time”: when heaven and earth come close. If I was an artist, I might draw this scene: sitting at a place at the table, candlelight, everything set for the celebration, and loved ones from the past unseen but gathered there too. In that moment. A sort of communion of Saints.)

Lights and colour and good food. Memories that speak to the heart. Giving thanks for loved ones and for being here. It sounds like a good plan.

Historical Committee

Submitted by Janice Silver

Past Christ Church Christmas Reports from Our Archives!

In late 1900, an announcement clearly demonstrated the gender differences of the times....

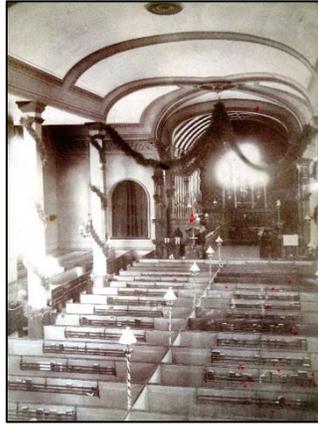
In the monthly Christ Church Parish Magazine, it was stated, “On New Year’s Eve Day, The Total Abstinence Society will give an ‘At Home’ to the men of the congregation and their male friends. The schoolhouse will be open from 2pm to 10pm. Refreshments will be served and games, books, music, etc. will be provided.”

The Christmas giving in 1901 could certainly be considered a forerunner of our current Christmas Hamper program!

As reported in the Christ Church Parish Magazine, “Our Sunday School children have certainly done much to give pleasure to others at this Christmas season. Anyone who took part in any way in our Gift Service will feel that the whole service from beginning to end was a great treat and the joy was entirely the joy of giving. This year the children’s gifts were exceptionally nice. There were plenty of provisions and fruits, as well as toys and books. It was supplemented by a large bundle of clothing made up by the Women’s Guild and the whole lot was divided into bags. Christmas cards were put in and sent out to about 20 families, who we are sure greatly appreciated the kind gifts of the children.”

Sadly in 1918, within 2 months, (presumably in late fall) 14 Christ Church members died and were buried, as a result of the influenza epidemic that raged at the time. Not a joyful Christmas for many that year!

In 1924... It was reported that on December 24th, “In spite of slippery streets and driving rain, there was a large gathering for the first celebration of Holy Communion at midnight Christmas. The hymns and carols were beautifully rendered and the old church was a picture of loveliness in its Christmas garb.” Between Christmas and New Year’s the annual “Christmas Treat” event took place for the primary department of the Christ Church Sunday School. “300 kiddies attended and had a jolly romp, after which each child was presented with an orange and candy. A large Christmas tree was a feature of the entertainment and at an appropriate moment, Santa Claus appeared and wished the little ones Happy New Year.”



Above right: Christ Church, Dartmouth, decorated for Christmas (approximate date early 1900s)

Music Ministry

Submitted by Tessa Short, Music Leader

In difficult times, we are often drawn to things like comfort foods, beloved TV shows, or other small everyday joys. These long-standing favourites are a sure way to put a smile on our faces, because they remind us of good memories and days when we were at peace. For me, this kind of nostalgia is easy to find as Christmas approaches, because one of my favourite things about this season is, of course, Christmas music.

I am the only musician in my family, but each member of my family has a strong appreciation for music. My sisters and I grew up surrounded by it, with a wide variety of genres and artists being played at any given time. I remember hearing Andrea Bocelli, Carlos Santana, Cesaria Evora, The Beatles, Steely Dan, Led Zeppelin, Erik Satie, Sarah Harmer, and Elvis Presley, and that is a vastly shortened list. At Christmastime, there were a few favourites that always made the rotation. Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters was a staple, accompanied by Leon Redbone, Emmy Lou Harris, Johnny Mathis, Barbra Streisand, Nat King Cole, Jewel, and a number of other Newfoundland-based, Celtic, or orchestral options.

This may be a long list, but I have memories with so many individual songs from each of these artists and

albums, enough to fill a lifetime. One year, my younger sisters and I performed “Mele Kalikimaka” (Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters) along with the CD for a roomful of my parents’ Christmas party guests. We may have even dug out our plastic grass skirts and coconuts for the occasion. “Christmas Time’s A-Coming” (Emmy Lou Harris) will always make me think of my mother singing it to me with a smile on her face, excited for the coming festivities. “Christmas Island” (Leon Redbone) reminds me of driving with my father through darkened streets, looking at the beautiful Christmas lights throughout the neighbourhood.

As for more traditional carols, “What Child is This” has its own special story. One December while in university, I was just getting over a cold, and was thankfully well enough to sing in the Christmas concert. My choir was performing in a cozy, informal setting, and our director leaned forward to tell us the next song: What Child is This. I may have been feeling better, but I was *not* well enough to hear her properly through my plugged ears. I heard “What time is it?” and promptly looked at my watch and responded “six twenty” in front of the rest of the choir and our small audience. It’s truly an unforgettable carol for me now!

I hope that as the Christmas season continues, you are all able to draw upon your own holiday memories to bring you comfort and joy, and perhaps create some new traditions to share with family and friends in the coming years. We may not be able to sing carols together as freely as in the past, but we can still keep a warm place in our hearts and hearths for our loved ones. I will be thinking of you all as I sing along to carols and decorate my tree. Stay safe and warm, friends, sing a few favourite tunes, and may your days be merry and bright. Merry Christmas!



Isabel Creighton ACW Unit

Submitted by Joan Henlser



certainly have created lots of fun and discussion in the Wagner household! Again, thank you to Heather and all who take the time to teach the stories of Jesus to the young children in our parish.

Life in the Parish Office

Submitted by John Gallant

As I write this it came to me that next week December 19th I will have had the honour of being the Parish Administrator for this great church for one year. What a year it has been!



November and December are busy months in the life of the Parish. The preparation for Advent and Christmas along with our fiscal year end fill my days.

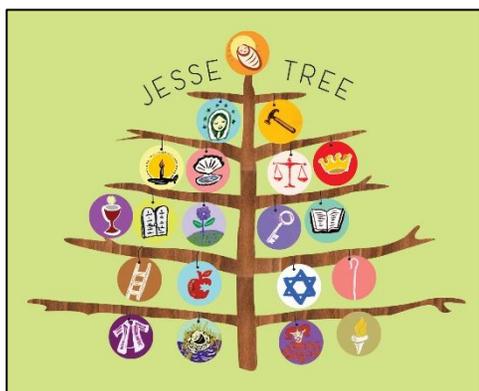
Youth and Family Ministry

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner

This year, with the inability to gather because of COVID-19 restrictions, children and their families have been unable to gather in person. However, this past month we have begun our Zoom Sunday school lessons. Heather Downey has shared with the children the Jesse Tree. Many of you may remember this process from your childhood. The Jesse Tree helps prepare for Advent as people of all ages journey through the stories on Jesus's family tree. Each day of Advent, a bible story is read about someone on

Jesus's family tree, and an ornament is

hung symbolizing the story on your tree. As the tree is decorated, you see how God prepared for Jesus to be born through



many generations. The Jesse Tree tradition is rooted in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

This Advent season, families each received a packet which contained the biblical stories, along with ornaments so they could be hung on the family tree. Also, Advent calendars were distributed, and they

Any of you who have ever helped with the Christmas Hamper Programme know how hectic it can be. I only have one small part of this wonderful event which is a highlight of my Christmas season.

Several weeks ago the office was contacted by a young lady named Natasha to ask if Christ Church Food Bank would accept food donations. Natasha wanted to organise a neighbourhood Food Drive in her Crichton Park neighbourhood. Natasha is a 16-year-old Prince Andrew High School student. She is also a member of our parish confirmation classes.

In her words,

"every year my family and I try to support a cause that's prevalent either locally or around the world, such as donating money to a Red Cross Relief fund or other similar causes. This year I noticed how many people were struggling financially due to the pandemic, such as due to lost work or by the pandemic making it harder for them to access some of the resources they relied on before. I wanted to find a way to help support people who were struggling,



especially around the holiday season as for a lot of people who struggle financially this can be a stressful time of year anyway. I decided to organize the food drive to help these local families by ensuring that they have access to enough food to help make the holiday season better for them. I also felt like it would benefit the community as a whole to organize the food drive, as the pandemic has forced us all apart from each other anyway, so by making the food drive a community effort rather than just personally donating, it helped to bring us all closer together for a great cause - supporting other people who live right here in Dartmouth.”

Sunday December 13, 2020 Natasha and her parents arrived with over 1100 food items! This is the true meaning of Christmas and a wonderful example of living the Gospel. Thank you, Natasha you are amazing!



CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all who have donated & helped make this Christmas a little brighter for those in our community. To date we have been able to raise over **\$14,000** which supports more than **110 Christmas Hampers**, & food for our community food bank for the winter months!



Live
Worship

10:00AM



CHRIST CHURCH
DARTMOUTH

STREAMED

ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

2020 Christmas Hamper Support

Submitted by Marg Seaman

We have exceeded our goal! Through the generosity of our Christ Church family and the surrounding community we are able to supply and deliver 110 Christmas Hampers to those in need. The hampers include the ingredients for a Christmas (a chicken or turkey, fresh vegetables, and dessert), household supplies like paper towel and dish soap, canned food, and a grocery gift card.



Food and Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Christine Hoehne

Our food bank is still going strong, thanks to all the generous support of our congregation, Vel's wonderful, frugal shopping and Feed Nova Scotia's ongoing support. The need is so great.

Feed NS has been very good to us. We received a capacity fund donation to buy a second (upright) freezer and thankfully

Wednesdays both freezers and the fridge are well stocked for our clients.

At this time we have about 25 deliveries on Wednesdays and about 70 walk in people on Thursdays.

A big thank you to our drivers and packers on Wednesdays and the servers on Thursdays. We could not do this without you.

For acute emergencies we received emergency boxes from Feed Nova Scotia. They contain 1 week of non-perishable food.



We have had to change systems and volunteer numbers because of the changing situation with Covid19.

Since it's colder, 20 clients are allowed in the hall on designated chairs 6 feet apart, wearing masks and social distancing. Most clients are quite compliant. We took this step with the approval of the Department of Health.

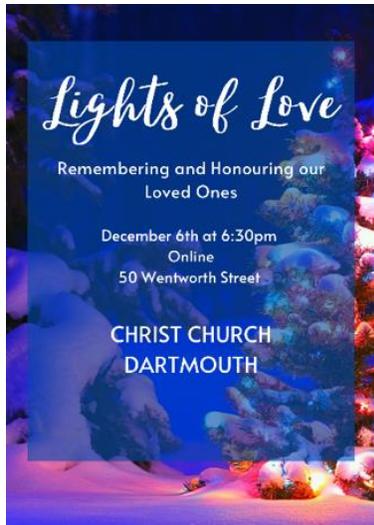


In November, we had a coat, hat, and boots give away, and in December, a scaled-down Christmas room. In the New Year, we will do a giveaway day for coats, waterproof mittens and winter boots once a month if we have enough to give away.

We had four Christmas trees given to our clients by a kind person at Carls tree lot, where we got the trees for the church.

Lights of Love!

As the days grow shorter at this time of year, we all could use a little more light in our lives. We remember the scripture passage, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!" As we navigate the difficult road of COVID-19, the Parish of Christ Church, Dartmouth, embarked upon a new tradition. We call this event and fundraiser "Lights of Love."



On December 6th at 6:30pm parishioners gather virtually for a tree lighting ceremony and blessing as we lit up a beautiful tree. With this lighting, we have become a beacon of light in the downtown core, and it is hoped that people will see our property as a place of safety and light. We aim to make our community that much brighter!

Having a tree lit on our campus grounds is also a reminder of the critical ministries that are a part of the fabric of Christ Church. As such, the tree lights support our parish ministry, as we remember a loved one or as we honour that particular person in our lives.



Each light represents a donation that you have made, which will support parish ministry. Thank you!



PAR

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING
Supporting the growth of our ministry.

Many of us pay our monthly bills online. Just ask the Parish Administrator for the PAR Form. The same form can be used to change your monthly givings if you are already using PAR. Knowing what to expect financially each month helps us at Christ Church budget and plan the good works we do.

How can I give?

Your time, your talent, your treasure.

- In person
- By Mail
- E-Transfer
- PAR (Pre-Authroized Giving)
- Online



Partnerships: have a heart

At Christ Church we are all about partnerships! We are so happy to be working with the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission on a great project! Over the next few weeks, you will see temporary art installations that showcase inspirational, uplifting and thought-provoking words and phrases on various buildings.

The campaign is meant to create surprise and curiosity amongst visitors to the district and inspire them to capture social media pieces.



Our temporary sign reads “Have a Heart.”

Advent at Home 2020

The Advent wreath marks the passage of the weeks of the season of Advent. It was initially devised to encourage family observance of Advent and was introduced to congregational worship only to provide a model for family use.



The lighting of one, two, three, then four candles during the weeks of Advent is a reminder that we await Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. To wait for Jesus is to be ready to meet him in all the ways he comes. It is important that Christians observe Advent not only as a time of preparation for Christmas but also in the realization that Christ’s coming kingdom stands in judgement over the injustices of our present world.

For many years, the church often used a dark “royal purple” for the liturgical colour of Advent and, therefore, for three of the candles on Advent Wreaths. In more recent years, there has been a reclaiming of a deep blue for the season. Both colours symbolize preparation, penitence, and royalty to welcome the new King.

Deep blue is the colour of the clear, predawn sky, the colour that covers the earth in the hours before the sun rises in the east. Most of us are not looking at the sky at that hour – perhaps we’re still asleep or too weary to notice it as we get ready for work or school. Nonetheless, a deep, dark blue is the colour that covers us in the dark, cold hours before the sun dawns. Thus, the deep blue

for Advent reminds us of the season of expectation and anticipation of the dawn of Christ.

The fourth candle is pink and is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent when we celebrate special joy. Some people light a white candle, the Christ candle, in the wreath’s center on Christmas Day.¹

Explanations from *The Book of Occasional Services*, Anglican Church of Canada and *Faithful Celebrations: Making Time for God from Advent Through Epiphany* edited by Sharon Ely Pearson.

A Suggestion for At Home Prayer and Conversation with an Advent Wreath (from *Seamless Faith: Simple Practices for Daily Family Life* by Traci Smith)

Light the Candles:

1. Decide which day and time the candles will be lit during Advent. Choose a consistent time for each of the four weeks.
2. Gather everyone together with a special dessert (suggestions include candy canes, hot cocoa, cookies, ice cream).
3. Light the candle of the corresponding week (as well as the candles from the previous week[s]) and follow the readings below. Take turns reading and lighting the candle(s) from week to week. Candles can remain lit for the evening until the last adult goes to bed.

Week 1 – Hope: The leader says, “*This is the first week in Advent, and we light the candle of hope.*” The leader lights the first candle and asks, “*What does it mean to have hope as we wait for Jesus’ birth?*”

Everyone takes turns answering the question while enjoying the dessert. Family members can take the conversation wherever it leads. At the conclusion of



¹ Special thanks to the St Stephen the Martyr in Burnaby BC for sharing their resources with our parish.

the sharing time, someone says, *“Let us leave with hope in our hearts.”*

Week 2 – Peace: The leader lights the first candle, then says, *“This is the second week of Advent. Last week we lit the candle for hope. This week we light the candle of peace.”* The leader lights the second candle and asks, *“What does it mean to have peace as we wait for Jesus’ birth?”*

Everyone takes turns answering the question while enjoying the dessert. Family members can take the conversation wherever it leads. At the conclusion of the sharing time, someone says, *“Let us leave with hope and peace in our hearts.”*

Week 3 – Joy: The leader lights the first two candles and then says, *“This is the third week in Advent. We have already lit the candles for hope and peace, and today we light the candle of joy.”* The leader lights the third candle and asks, *“What does it mean to have joy as we wait for Jesus’ birth?”*

Everyone takes turns answering the question while enjoying the dessert. Family members can take the conversation wherever it leads. After the sharing time, someone says, *“Let us leave with hope, peace, and joy in our hearts.”*

Week 4 – Love: The leader lights the first three candles and then says, *“This is the fourth week in Advent. We have already lit the candles for hope, peace, and joy. Today we light the candle of love.”* The leader lights the fourth candle and asks, *“What does it mean to have love as we wait for Jesus’ birth?”*

Everyone takes turns answering the question while enjoying the dessert. Family members can take the conversation wherever it leads. After the sharing time, someone says, *“Let us leave with hope, peace, joy, and love in our hearts.”*

Christmas Eve: The leader lights the four candles and says, *“Tonight is Christmas Eve. We have already lit candles for hope, peace, joy, and love, and we have talked about what it means to have these things as we wait for Jesus’ birth. Today we celebrate the coming of Christ into the world and we light the Christ candle.”* The leader lights the Christ candle and asks, *“As we think about Christmas, how do we experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus in our lives?”*

Conclude the Christmas Eve sharing time by singing “Silent Night” and saying Merry Christmas to one another.

Note: The questions for each week are deliberately simple, open-ended, and repetitive. If the response is thin this first year, remind family members that the same question will be asked next year. They might have more to say the next year!

Some Adjustments You Might Find Helpful

This suggestion is designed as an evening ritual for families with verbal, school-aged kids. Your circumstances may be different but lighting each candle week-by-week and taking some time to contemplate the themes can be a powerful way to mark the season, counter the consumption-heavy Christmas prep, and try-on a contemplative prayer practice. You could certainly use the same ritual in the morning, as a lunch-time practice, or during a mid-afternoon break.



One guide for prayers at any time is the “Home Prayers” included in the *Book of Alternative Services* (known as BAS) beginning on page 687. The BAS is the green book from which we draw much of our Sunday liturgy. If you do not have a copy at home and would like one, please check with Pastor Kyle.

If you are alone: You might want to sit with the questions each week. Perhaps set a timer or use a piece of music to create a space for reflecting. Writing or drawing can be useful tools for reflection. Don’t worry too much if your mind wanders. If you are new to contemplative practice, even 2 or 3 minutes of sitting in stillness can seem very long and is enough.

Connecting Virtually: This format could be used during a weekly video or audio call with relatives or friends. This might be fun to do with a grandchild or among cousins. Two friends might commit to having the same time of contemplation and then sharing a phone call to discuss what came up.

Alternatives to Sweet Treats: Because this suggestion is designed with families in mind as a kind of after-dinner ritual, the suggestion is to share a special dessert during the time. That can be a great way to help mark the time

– and give participants something to do with their hands and mouths while they think. If you are inclined towards alcoholic beverages, this is a great tradition to do with a special drink for the adults (rum in your eggnog?), but a good cup of tea works too. It can, obviously, also be done without eating or drinking.

Adding Scripture: If you are in an adult-only home or sharing this ritual with older children or teenagers, it might be worthwhile to read a short bit of Scripture as a part of your time. You could use the readings assigned for each Sunday. You’ll find those below. You could also read through the Gospel of Mark. Lessons can be found online at <https://www.christchurchdartmouth.com/fall-2020-readings.html>

Christmas Eve: Depending on when you are lighting your Advent Wreath, you might light your Christ Candle in the evening of Christmas Eve or the morning of Christmas Day. This might also have to do with your other Christmas commitments.

Ending the Time: You may find the suggested closing needs modification. Perhaps the literalist in your home objects to the term “leave” for just moving from your dining table into bedtime routine. Doing this alone as a contemplative practice might call forth a feeling of wanting a slightly longer prayer.

Heritage Oak Columbarium Perpetual Care Committee

Heritage Oak and the Perpetual Care Committee have been busy over the past several months.

There is a growing interest in Heritage Oak by the greater Dartmouth community. To date (December 2020), we have sold 29 niches, five scatterings of ashes in the Garden, and had 16 internments.

The Perpetual Care Committee reminds everyone that niches are available for sale in our Heritage Oak Columbarium should you wish to inquire as part of your estate planning. Pre-planning provides peace of mind and can relieve decision-making at a difficult time. There are also many financial advantages to purchasing a niche; NO HST is charged. An income tax receipt is issued for that portion of the



cost over \$750.00. There are no opening and closing fees. A brass plaque, engraved is also provided. If you wish to view the columbarium, please contact John Gallant in the Parish Office. Remember that Heritage Oak Columbarium & Memorial Garden is a peaceful and historical setting for remembrance for all denominations. PHONE: 902-466-2443 or John 902-430-5687 www.HeritageOak.ca

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PHONE: 902-466-2443
or John 902-430-5687
www.HeritageOak.ca



Let’s Share the Light: Christmas Eve at Home

Submitted by Kyle Wagner

As this year’s Christmas Eve experience will be vastly different, and even historical, many of us lament the fact that we cannot gather in the usual way. An online worship experience is not ideal, but it does show us how faith can be different when it needs to be. Remember, it was not until the Last Supper that the “first eucharist” was celebrated! Perhaps at this holy season, we can remember Jesus’ words

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:6.

At this time, I invite all parishioners and their families to worship online in a way that works best for your context. Gather the family around the TV or computer, with a hot cup of cocoa, and worship. If you are alone, remember that you are not, that a whole community of people, your friends and family at Christ Church, are worshipping right alongside you.



As each worship experience in our homes will be unique, I'd encourage families to take a picture of their advent wreath or light a candle and document the experience.

Please send your pictures to christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com so we can share them on social media, and create a display that we can have for years to come to share what Christmas 2020 was like.

At the Wagner household, we have been lighting our advent candles each week, and we look forward to gathering around our family wreath on Christmas eve to complete the journey of Advent as we light the Christ candle.



Parish E-Mail List

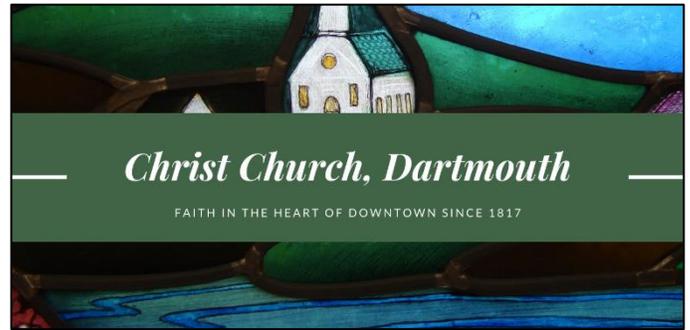
Are you on our parish e-mail list? Every Wednesday, Mid-Week Announcements, and every quarter the PEWS Reports are sent out from the office to all parishioners on this e-mail list. When other important events happen during the week, they too are sent out. This is a great way to stay informed and up to date on events happening in your Parish and Community. Please e-mail the parish office christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com to be added to our e-mail list.



Email Issues?

With our recent update of software in the parish office, some email addresses have unintentionally been dropped from our list. If you no longer are receiving email from the parish, or would like to be added to our list, please email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused!



Parish Contacts:

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Pastoral Visitor: The Rev. Bonnie Baird
Honorary Assistants: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke,
The Rev. Canon David Greenwood
Parish Administrator: John Gallant
Music Leadership: Tessa Short, John MacDonald
Sexton: Andrew Smith
Wardens: Christine Hoehne, Steve Smith, Don Murray

Office Phone: (902) 466-4270

Email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

Web: www.christchurchdartmouth.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday 8:30 am-4:30pm,
Tuesday 1-5 pm, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 – 1:30,
Sunday 9:00 am-11:30 am
(Note: hours may vary)

Church Hall: 61 Dundas Street

Postal: 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth
Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5





A Festival of
LESSONS & CAROLS
CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH
ONLINE
DECEMBER 27TH AT 10:00AM
WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM



CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH
CHRISTMAS EVE 2020
Online Children's Service uploaded at 12:00pm
Includes a special visit from St. Nicholas and the
telling of the Nativity Story



All services will be available on our
YouTube Channel, Facebook, and
parish website.



Christmas at Christ Church, Dartmouth

Online Services 2020

December 23rd

Christmas Gathering: 6:30pm-7:30pm Via Zoom

Christmas Eve December 24th

Children's Service 4:00pm

Service of Light 6:00pm

Christmas Day December 25th

Rector's Christmas & New Year's Message 10:00am

December 27th:

Lessons & Carols 10:00am

January 3rd:

2nd Sunday of Christmas 10:00am via Zoom

CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH

OFFICE PHONE: (902) 466-4270

EMAIL: CHRISTCHURCH@CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM

WEB: WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM

CHURCH HALL: 61 DUNDAS STREET
POSTAL: 61 DUNDAS STREET, DARTMOUTH
NOVA SCOTIA, B2Y 4H5

