



E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 242nd Edition December 6th, 2024



From the Rector

During Advent, we're told to wait and prepare for a future that has yet to arrive. Hope and history are dissonant notes.

From a Christian point of view, this is because the actual coming again of Jesus has been so long delayed to the point that it's now become almost notional. We've given up on waiting and have instead turned to living in the here-and-now without much thought for the future. That's especially true at this time of year when the Advent message of waiting with patient

expectation has all but lost any meaning.

Isaiah spoke into the weariness when he wrote, "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence." He was expecting something grand, something cataclysmic, a great shaking of the heavens, a tidal wave of righteousness followed by a new world of Godly justice and perfect peace. That didn't happen—or did it?

Because the heavens *were* torn open and God *did* come down—but not in the grand way the prophet was hoping for. The tearing open and coming down happened in an ordinary way—the birth of a baby. Of course, it was a birth that would have earth-shattering consequences, but this truth was perceived only by those who could understand the meaning of what they saw.

These days it's become fashionable to rail against the "woke" culture. But at its heart, being "woke" is about opening our eyes to the truth of who we are, where we are, and what we're doing. These are truths we don't want to see, especially since it's destabilizing to admit our complacency in the injustice and competitiveness of the world and our short-sightedness in living for convenience and comfort.

Which is why we resist waking up to the truth of where and who we are. The chaos of this present time is too disruptive for folk like us who have come to embrace the routine of assumed assumptions. Yet there's no closing our eyes to the fact we live in a time of disorder and of looming societal and environmental catastrophes we didn't plan for. We've been caught unawares. So the only thing to do is to open our eyes and come awake to our

situation, for only by being awake can we be ready for catastrophe's opposite, which the dictionary tells us is salvation.

The Advent message of waiting with patient expectation isn't just another pious bromide. It comes true in our lives when we dare to be awake to the world around us, to the people we meet, to the humanity we share in common. And even more than this, it strengthens us to keep awake and be on prepared for the promised day when, as Seamus Heaney once wrote,

The longed-for tidal wave
Of justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme.

Grace and Peace,
Leighton

Dear Friends - As you know, **Keith Worrall** died on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at home.

A service to celebrate the life of Keith will be held at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 41 Byron St., Niagara-on-the-Lake on **Saturday, December 21, 2024, at 11 a.m.** Burial to take place privately in the springtime in the church cemetery.

Keith Worrall obituary

From the Wardens

We are delighted to report the great success of last week's **Tea with Teddy**. The tea and sale raised more than \$14,000 to support church operations, far surpassing expectations.

The idea for the event was born when Mary Scandrett donated her teddy bear collection to St. Mark's. Trudi Watson used her creative talents to develop a tea and Christmas sale around this wonderful gift and with her friend Elizabeth Jamieson went to work to make it happen.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Trudi and Elizabeth for their hard work over many weeks and the amazing results. We also offer abundant thanks to the volunteers who participated, both parishioners and friends of St. Mark's, and to those who donated items for sale. It would not have been possible without you. Thank you!

We are excited to announce that ticket sales for St. Mark's Christmas concert, "A Christmas Homecoming," have been fantastic! We currently have 40 tickets remaining. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please call the office soon to avoid disappointment and secure your tickets.

In other news, the Stewardship package is being delivered by hand as the Canada Post strike continues. Please take time to review the information and return the pledge cards.

Gene Anne Smith
Andrea Douglas
Wardens

Friends,

The Wardens and I are delighted to announce that Michael Bloss has been appointed Director of Music. Some of you may have even noticed the word "Interim" was omitted from the back page of last week's service sheet - the date when this appointment took effect.

Since he was appointed Interim Director of Music in June, Michael has brought renewed vigour and commitment to our music program. He's a musician of matchless skill and is also a delightful colleague. He and his partner Mona have already endeared themselves to the parish. So I know I speak for every one of us when I congratulate Michael on this appointment and am excited that he and Mona have become a part of our parish family.

Faithfully yours,
Father Leighton



We invite you to embrace the spirit of giving this season by using the "**My Christmas Offering**" and "**Christmas Flower Offering**" envelopes now available in St. Mark's pews. Your contributions allow the Altar Guild to create stunning Christmas arrangements that fill our church with joy during this special time of year. Moreover, **Memorial Flowers** serve as a beautiful way to honour and remember our loved ones who are no longer with us.

To ensure your loved ones are honoured please submit **Memorial Flower** requests to the office by Friday, December 13. Your generosity enriches St. Mark's Christmas celebrations, enabling us to create a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

Men's Communion and Breakfast
Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 8:00AM

Quiet spoken Eucharist in the Church at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m.

If you would like to join, please contact:

Greg Walker by email: gregoryfwalker@gmail.com by Noon on Tuesday prior so that numbers for breakfast can be confirmed.
We look forward to seeing you!

Great news!

40 tickets are available through St. Mark's office. Contact Erin to secure your tickets.



*St Mark's Anglican
Church presents*

A CHRISTMAS HOMECOMING

*A Festive Celebration in
Story and Song*

— *with* —

ST MARK'S SINGERS · TRILLIUM BRASS
MICHAEL BLOSS
Music Director

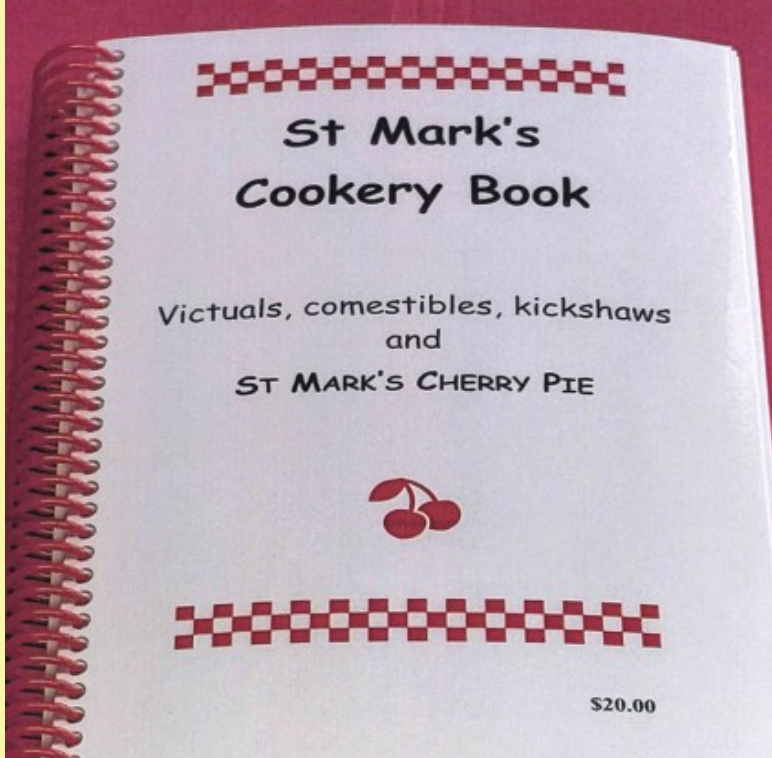
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
AT 4:30 PM

Tickets: \$25
\$5 from every ticket sale
goes to Newark Neighbours

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ANGLICAN CHURCH**
41 Byron Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
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Parish Updates

In-Person Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist [Watch the live stream on YouTube](#)

On Duty this Week

December 8th - Greeter(s) - Chris Bjorgan and Marilyn Bardeau

Reader - Wendy Steele

Intercessor - Larry Bourke

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize and Jennifer Smith

Server - Bob Cross

Order of Service

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Website Page](#)

Church Bells

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 p.m. Enjoy!

Staying Up to Date!

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [Visit our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook Page](#)

You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "F".

Prayer Cycles - We pray for:

In St. Mark's parish: Bob and Linda Cross, Terence and Sandra Davis, and Cort Day and their families.

In the Niagara Diocese: St. Paul, Hamilton, The Venerable Terry DeForest, Rector; The Reverend Dr. Charles Meeks, Assistant Curate (on leave); The Reverend Dr. Michael Knowles, Honorary Assistant, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer: The Acting Primate Archbishop Anne Germond and the staff of the Primate's Office of the Anglican Church of Canada, National Bishop Susan Johnson and the national staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Rev. David E. Bennett, President of the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America.

[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



St. Marks Anglican Church | 41 Byron Street P O Box 582 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S
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