



ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Oldest Church with the Youngest Ideas

Advent 2020

Dear Friends,

Five years ago, The Reverend Kevin Block—friend of St. George's—wrote a Eucharistic prayer for our brand new Advent Café community. It begins with these words:

"Loving God, we wait for you and for each other. 60 million refugees wait for help and a home. Syrians, Nigerians, Jews, and Palestinians wait for peace. We wait for lab results, jobs to call back, parents to understand, children to come home. Sometimes waiting for God is all we can do, but even then, we proclaim the glory of your name."

Those words of holy waiting have been echoing in my mind as we go into the season of Advent this year. We could all add to the list of things for which we wait. We wait for daily COVID counts, for news about unfolding public health protocols, for the creation of a vaccine. We wait to be able to hug the people we love and for guidance about what we can, and can't, do to celebrate Christmas this year. We wait, and all too often our wait is accompanied by worry and by grief. Regardless of where we are in which wave of the COVID pandemic, we know that Christmas will be different this year, that we will be separated from one another in ways that feel unnatural and disappointing. For many people across our community, the separation and isolation of these months has taken a significant emotional and spiritual toll. We wait for there to be an end in sight.

The Christian season of Advent speaks with powerful honesty into our current times. This season is devoted to the prayerful stance of waiting. The colour of Advent is deep blue, the colour of the night sky just before the dawn breaks. The figurehead of the season of Advent is Mary, expecting the birth of her first child. So much courage and strength is asked of her to be able to take on this risky business of bringing this child into a world that is so desperately waiting for its Saviour. We know that she finds that courage and strength in surrender and trust: *"let it be with me according to your word."* Mary, who is little more than a child herself, will be part of God's extraordinary plan because she knows the loving and justice-making character of God. Come what may, she is prepared to align her life with that simple truth. In doing so, Mary becomes an integral part in how the waiting hearts of God's people are opened in a whole new way to the presence and power of God's love, come among us.

There is strength on which we can draw from the faithful examples of those who have gone before us—whether it's Mary two thousand years ago, the generations of people who lived through enormous upheaval and years of chaos in the wars and depression of the last century, or those all across our world who have chosen to align their lives with God's love and light, even in the most troubling of circumstances. In their witness, and in our season of Advent, we discover that this time of waiting is not the same as being stuck. We aren't stuck. We haven't been given the game plan, and collectively and in our individual lives, there are answers we wish we knew and things that we hope, or worry, might happen. And we, like Mary, can draw courage and strength in that simple choice to align our lives with the God whose character we can trust; the God who loves us, blesses us, and raises us from darkness to light and from death to life. We can look with Mary and the expectant people of her day to the Eastern horizon, to the dark blue of the sky, and for the dawn which is about to break upon us.

Yours in the love of the Christ Child,

Martha Tutani +

Reverend Martha



December 20th

Lessons & Carols 7pm Online Only

(pre-recorded)

December 23rd

Blue Christmas—7pm Livestream & In-Person

December 24th - Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Family Service— In-Person

December 24th - Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Livestream & In-Person

December 24th—Christmas Eve

10:00 PM—In-Person

December 25th - Christmas Day

10:00 AM Livestream & In-Person

Christmas Services

E-mail: info@stgeorgesanglican.ca Website: <http://stgeorgesanglican.ca>

Facebook: "St. George's Anglican Church"