



Advent 2025

Dear St. George's,

I am very aware, as I write this letter to you in early November, how our season of remembrance dovetails into the season of Advent. In November, we are intentional about remembering the faithful people who have gone before us, particularly those in our community who died the previous year. We are intentional, too, about honouring the lives and sacrifice of those who fought and died in the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. This year, in particular, November has also been marked by the final stages of our Restoration Project, and by an embrace in our church and wider community of just how much St. George's and St. Catharines are the way they are now because of the people who so long ago had a vision for building this church and this city. Our remembrance isn't a distant thing. It is a recognition of the ways in which the lives and stories of our loved ones, of our fallen soldiers, of our fellow St. George's family, live in us. Our church was built, our lives were shaped and blessed, our peace was won, by the people who went before us, by their courage and generosity and love.

Advent, and then Christmas, are also seasons that are thick with our memories, with the carols and rituals, the food and the gatherings, that we repeat year after year, that represent traditions that have been passed along to us by our families or through our church. It is a living thing, our remembrance. We bring the worries, cares, and joys of our lives right now into the shared stories that we are always shaping and passing along, telling again and then making our own.

For Christians, our many unique stories and traditions are unwritten by the core story of Incarnation, God-with-us. At Christmas, we tell the story of Jesus' birth, not as a thing that happened thousands of years ago, in a land far away, but as a thing that is happening now. Now, here in our lives, God is being born, God is coming close, God is intentionally entering into the mess and mayhem of our lives. The season of Advent is one that clarifies the living nature of this long-ago happening. Advent invites us to be attentive' to look for where and how God is present, active, alive, revealed, in the people, places and circumstances around us. We light candles, we sing our favourite Christmas songs, we gather as a church community, we serve and we give, so that we better align our lives with this attentiveness. So that we are better able to recognize how God is showing up. We tell these time-worn stories once again, and it is amazing how they still have the power to touch us.

My hope for you and for us, Advent and Christmas 2025, is that this will be a time of rich, intentional, and living remembrance. I hope that you will watch a Christmas movie you have always watched, or bake a goodie from a family recipe, or hang an ornament on your tree that



was given to you by someone important, and that these little rituals will remind you of how very connected you are. How your story is not just yours, but an inheritance of so many stories and offerings that have gone before you. And, of course, I hope that you will participate in the worship, prayer, song, story and celebration of our beautiful church. I hope that our time-honoured traditions—passed down across the decades, centuries, and even millenia—will come alive for you, speaking to the deepest needs on your heart today, and most importantly, inviting you to tune in to the presence and love of the living God.

Yours in Christ,

Reverend Martha,  
with Reverend Tom.

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### **Christmas Services 2025**

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** - First Sunday in Advent

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** - 4pm Lessons and Carols Service

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** - 7pm Blue Christmas Service

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** - 4pm Family Service

7pm and 10pm Candlelight and Carols

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - 10am Christmas Day

**December 29<sup>th</sup>** - 8am and 10am services

**Church Office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> – January 2nd**

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