Redeemer/ St. George's December Newsletter 2025



From the Pastor's Desk



"Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming...Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." - Matthew 24:42-44

Continued on the next page......

Service schedule

Services in December will be as follows.

Dec. 7 Advent 2 Morning Prayer

Sunday Dec. 14 Service of the Word/Children's pageant

Sunday Dec. 21 Service of Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 PM

Evensong Wednesdays Dec.

3,10,17 at 5:00



My dear friends,

This Advent/Christmas season I am reminded of the wide-eyes wonder of youth. The Christmas lights go up, rows of houses are decorated, streets are lit, garland is hung and finally stockings are, too. People seem more friendly and a little more forgiving. Snow falls and silence enfolds you. There is fresh baking, houses smell inviting. All of this, and more, contribute to that sense of magic, at Christmastime.

As a child, I remember staying up extra late Christmas Eve. I don't think I was hoping to see Santa Claus (though that would make for an easy comparison with what Jesus is talking about in referring to His second coming, in the passage referenced above). I think I was just excited. Excited to see the gifts people had gotten for me; excited to see people's reactions when they received the gifts that I had gotten for them – things that I thought they would be grateful for. The anticipation would keep me up late, and wake me up early.

When Jesus exhorts his followers to stay awake, and to be ready, He isn't saying that otherwise they might miss it. When He comes again, they will certainly receive the promises He has made, and will not miss out. But when He says to stay awake He is challenging the auto-pilot setting that we drift toward. Does life just happen to us, or do we happen to it? Are we making decisions that influence how we live, what we do, what we say, how we think?

St. Paul challenges us to walk in the light, no more in darkness. The kind of 'awake' that Jesus means is an attentiveness, that includes an intentionality.

I once fell asleep while driving. There are lots of circumstances I could give for what brought that about, but I once fell asleep while driving in the right lane on the Transcanada, heading east out of Calgary, only to wake up as we were going into the ditch in the centre (so I had drifted across the left lane). My father had been sleeping in the passenger seat next to me. We made it to Portage before we stopped for the day – we were wide awake, after that. We were aware. There was an attentiveness and an intentionality to what we did for the rest of the day. Jesus' invitation is to be awake, not to sleep at the wheel.

This is what St. Paul means when he challenges us to walk no more in darkness. Be awake! Be attentive! Be intentional! May our lives bring glory to the One who has given His Name to us – we are His people, Christ-followers! This is how we prepare Him room in our hearts.

God bless you all, this Advent and Christmas!

Jonathan+

This month at church:

Choir Practice Will be Tuesdays. All are welcome to join.

Dec. 2,9,16 at 6:15

Wednesdays Dec. 3,10,17 Confirmation classes

Wednesdays Dec. 3,10,17 Evensong at 5:00

Thursdays Dec. 4,11,18 at 2:00 bible study led by Jonathan

Christmas Eve candlelight service Dec. 24 at 7:00

Samaritan House and Christmas Cheer donations due Dec.

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Every Sunday remember your Loonie for the little church donation for Samaritan House safe and warm shelter.

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.

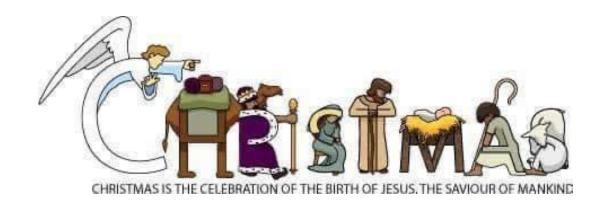
Christmas flower donation needs to be in by Dec. 14.

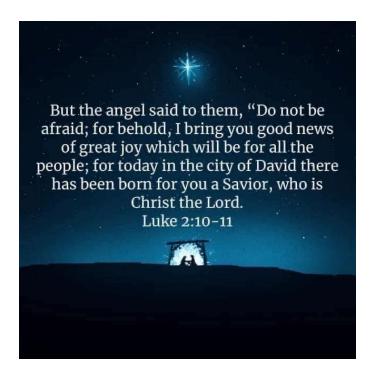




How do
Christmas trees
get ready for a
night out?

They spruce up!





How to contact us:

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A peek around church



Choir performance



Fabulous musicians



All Saints' Sunday





The children's talk is Always entertaining

Remember Your Loonie for the Little Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|------------------|---|------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 30 | _ | 2 Chair 6:15 | 3 Confirmation classes 4:00 Fairview 10:30 Escuris 2:30 | 4 Bibe Stody 2:00 | | 9 |
| 7 morning Advent Z Adventa (anding | 80 | 9 Choir 6:15 | 10 (cnf): Mation (11 classes 4:00 Hillcrest 10:30 Diresdale 2:00 Evensoring 5:00 Bible Study 2:00 | 11 3: ble Study 2: Φ | 12 | 13 |
| Children's children's Advent 3 Service of the | 15 | 16 Choir 6:15 | 17 Hillorest 10:30 18 Dinsdale 2:00 Confirmation Classes H:00 EVENSORY 5:00 Bible Study 2:00 | 18 s Si ble Słvdy 2:00 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Lessons + Carols Advent 4 | 22 | 23 | 25 Christmas EVE Christmas Cardlelignt 7:00 | 25 Merry Christmas t | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Communion | 29 | 30 | 31 | Happy New Year! | 2 | c massi-sements |