

The Sower Advent 2022

A Newsletter for the Anglican Parish of Douglas & Nashwaaksis

HOPE

I WAIT FOR THE
LORD, MY
WHOLE BEING
WAITS, AND
IN HIS WORD
I PUT MY HOPE.

PSALM 130:5

PEACE

... MY PEACE
I GIVE YOU.
I DO NOT GIVE
TO YOU AS THE
WORLD GIVES.
DO NOT LET
YOUR HEARTS
BE TROUBLED
AND DO NOT
BE AFRAID.

JOHN 14:27

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near.

Isaiah 55:6



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus,

The Season of Advent is a time of expectation. It is a period in the year in which we, with gratitude, anticipate the return of King Jesus and his restoration of all things. I cannot imagine a time in my faith life and in the life of the church in which I have longed for this restoration more.

Last year I was at one of my favourite places in the world – a monastery in Rogersville. It was winter. I had just arrived and had a conversation with a brother who was in charge of hospitality. I asked how he was doing, and with real sadness he shared how a young novice recently left the community after discerning he was not called to a monastic life. In his discouragement, the brother said, “I just do not know how much longer we can continue in this place.”

I was deeply grieved by this statement for two reasons: First, it echoed what I often hear from faithful Christians who are deeply grieved and discouraged with the absence of the younger generation. Second, this particular monastery has been such a blessing to me – I could not bear the thought of losing it.

With the words of the brother ringing in my ears I later went out to walk the grounds and with tears in my eyes I looked over the buildings that I have come to love. Then, as often happens to me in that place, I heard God speak to my heart, “The grandeur of this place is nothing compared to what is to come!” I have come to realize that this is not simply true of the monastery but of the Kingdom Movement in general. The best is yet to come. The question is how do we best anticipate and engage in what God is and will be doing?

JOY

... DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS THAT WILL CAUSE GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE

LUKE 2:10



This past year, with the lifting of restrictions, we have been able to gather in person for such events as the Clergy Conference, the Medley Lectures and the 138th Session of Diocesan Synod.

In these three events there has been a common theme: In this time of mourning and uncertainty we must learn to be still in the presence of Jesus so that we might better discern his will.

This Advent I want to encourage all of us to guard against the busyness of the Commercial Christmas Season so that we might secure time for stillness and discernment. As we seek God may He bless us with the presence of his Spirit that we might receive and share more fully the gifts of Hope, Faith, Joy and Love.

The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents but in His presence.

Matthew 1:23

LOVE

THIS IS LOVE: NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS AN ATONING SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS.

1 JOHN 4:10

Yours in Christ,
Paul

CHRIST

SHE WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU ARE TO GIVE HIM THE NAME JESUS, BECAUSE HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

MATTHEW 1:21

Christmas Services

- Blue Christmas Service: Nov 29th at 7:00pm
- Traditional Christmas Eve Service: Dec 24th at 10:00am
- Christmas Eve Family Service: Dec 24th at 1:30pm
- Contemporary Christmas Eve Service: Dec 24th at 7:00pm
- Christmas Day Service: Dec 25th at 11:00am

Please note there will be no 8:30am service on Dec 25th



Shared Meal & Christmas Decoration Party

December 9th
5:00PM

Advent Prayer

Each Sunday in Advent we will be posting a pre-recorded Advent Prayer video online. Stay tuned to our Facebook (@DouglasAndNashwaaksis) for these times of prayerful reflection.

Honour a loved one with a beautiful hand-crafted Memory Angel for our Memory Tree.



The Tree will be dedicated at our Blue Christmas Service (November 29th). Cost is \$10.00; you can take your Angel home at any time.