

What's Happening

St. Mary & St. Martha Anglican Church



Waiting ... Waiting ... Waiting ...

THE REV. MARK REGIS

Waiting can be one of the difficult things we have to do as human beings. We simply don't like to wait for what we want or need (or think we need). Waiting can preoccupy our thoughts and imagination, distracting us from life around us and the blessings that are there for us. Waiting can dominate our emotions, with feelings of frustration and resentment stirring within us. Waiting can be difficult, especially when we believe that what we long for will bring satisfaction to our lives in the here and now.

Now, if we say waiting in anticipation, then a different reality sets in. When we anticipate, we may not know the exact details of what future fulfillment will look like, but we are given a refreshing confidence that is based in one of God's greatest gifts: hope.

Writing in the midst of suffering, to a community that was suffering, the Apostle Paul wrote these words in a towering letter of love to God and God's people:

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@stmaryandstmartha



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St. Mary & St. Martha
Anglican Church



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Worship

Sunday's @ 10:30 am
Wednesday's @
12:00pm

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. - **Romans 5:1-5***

The season of Advent is about waiting in anticipation, waiting in hope. God promised through Jesus Christ that the glory of everlasting, abundant life would one day come when he returns in glory. Jesus's resurrection from the dead was the first shining sign of this future reality, the great event upon which we can base our hope.

No longer do we need to simply wait in unsettled desire for the things of this life. No longer do our sorrows and sufferings need to consume our thoughts, imaginations, and emotions. As Paul said, our sorrows in fact produce the conditions for true hope in God to spring to life. Hope in the Advent of God, hope in the coming of Jesus to restore all things.

As we prepare for the season of Christmas, where we recall and celebrate the first Advent of Jesus when he was born into human flesh, we also, with hope, joyfully anticipate his second Advent.

Join us this Advent & Christmas season as we wait in anticipation as a community. Our Lessons & Carols service (Dec. 18th at 10:30am) and Christmas Eve service (Dec. 24th at 7pm) are great opportunities to invite a friend or family member to experience the transformative hope and joy of Jesus Christ.

Julian of Norwich, a mystic who lived in the 14th century, enjoyed a distinctly vivid and close relationship with God. We can echo her words:

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well."

Happy Advent,



Lord Jesus, Light
of light,
you have come
among us.
Help us who live
by your light
to shine as lights
in your world.
Glory to God in
the highest.
Amen.



Our new song for Advent 2022, *Humble King* by Brenton Brown, features an elegant simplicity of both musical structure and lyrical meaning. The song is comprised of a single verse and chorus, to be repeated as many times as desired. This simple structure renders the song quite accessible and easy to learn for congregations, which is ideal for a relatively short liturgical period such as Advent.

The lyrics of the verse presents a request: a desire to be shown how much God loves humility. Seemingly as a response to this, the chorus explains how our God takes care of the broken, the weak, the weary, and all those in need. We then sing the most important line of the song: "I want to be like You, Jesus, to have this heart in me.". We are called to emulate Jesus's love and compassion for everyone, especially those who are suffering in any way. This is the core message of *Humble King*.

The song ends very calmly and quietly, inviting you to reflect on the words that you have sung, and how they may apply to your life.

Humble King:

Our New Song for the Advent Season

Waiting For the King:

The Meaning is in the Waiting

Waiting can be a lot of work, especially when we are changing the focus of our lives from ourselves to God, from the future to the present. Such a transformation takes time, and for most of us, this will be our life's work, borne out of years of companionship with the God who waits with us.

One of the reasons we wait in Advent is so that we can learn to be joyfully present now. After a month of waiting, Christmas Day gains a meaning that would otherwise be lost in a whirl of presents and mince pies. The loss of the ability to wait often brings with it the inability to be fully present. Instead, we are constantly looking back on better times we used to know, as well as forward to better times that may come. The more we do this, the more we miss out on the both the present and the future.

This Advent, we will spend time with those who have waited for God's plan to be revealed. We will study why they waited and what we can learn from their wait. We will look at Abraham and Sarah as examples of fathers and mothers of the faith whose calling drew them into a lifetime of waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise. We will explore the prophets and their expectation of God's intervention in the world, sometimes longed for and other times feared. We will look at John the Baptist, whose ministry pointed to things beyond himself. We will look at Mary, whose life was shaped by waiting for events beyond her control.

We live in an impatient world, but in this season, as we prepare for Christmas Day, we encourage you to live in God's time, following the example of those who waited before us. Ponder what happens when you wait, while accompanying the saints of the past as we wait with them. Let us fully embrace this holy season in God's time.





Ripeness

I suspect that among the reasons Advent is so beloved is that it gives us permission to suspend our toxic religious positivity and speak with truth and clarity about the darkness around us. There is something bracing about Advent. Here we name the darkness for what it is, and confess our confidence that, despite the world's evils, a Judge is coming who will set things right: "Lo, he comes, with clouds descending."

Advent is an eschatological season, and just for that reason a time when there is much talk about fruit. "Bear fruit worthy of repentance," John the Baptist warns his hearers, in a passage that appears as this year's Gospel reading for Advent 1 (Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary). Fruit and harvest metaphors are so common in Scripture that we are liable to ignore them as so much rhetorical decoration. In an urban society like our own, fruit is something you pick up in the grocery store: shall we have oranges this week, or kiwis? But in an ancient agricultural society – and even today in rural communities throughout the world – the fate of the harvest was a matter of life and death. Every harvest is in a sense a judgment. Which is why the figures of fruit and harvest lend themselves so well to the display of divine judgment. Hence John's dire warning: "Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Matt. 3:8-10).

Other passages from across Scripture play variations on the same theme. One thinks of Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard, where the LORD excoriates his vineyard (Israel) for producing only wild grapes; of the barren fig tree, which Jesus strangely curses for failing to yield fruit out of season; of the harvest in the Apocalypse, where an angel casts the vines of the earth into "the great winepress of the wrath of God" (Isa. 5:1-7; Mark 11:12-14; Rev. 14:19-20). Even the seemingly benign metaphor of the vine and the branches in John's gospel comes with a warning label attached: "If anyone does not abide in me [i.e., so as to bear fruit] he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned" (John 15:6).

Harvest is an apt figure for human life, not least because – like life itself – it combines goodness with finitude. The fruit of creation is good, being blessed by God. But it is also finite. Both fruit and our lives have only so much time in which to be good. The clock ticks, the calendar days are marked off, and so the time given to us gradually erodes. According to Paul Griffiths, in *Decreation*, a remarkable meditation on the last things, what he calls "metronomic time" or the time of the clock is killing us. This is a chief mark of "the devastation," a term Griffiths uses to describe the world in its present state of disorder and decay under the not-so-tender ministrations of time. The axe is laid at the root of the trees. After that, there will be no more time for harvests, or indeed for anything else. Time given will be time past. According to Revelation, "there [shall] be time no longer" (Rev. 10:6, KJV. Modern translations often render this as "there shall be no more delay," but the King James is closer to the Greek.)



But that is only half the story, because — as Griffiths, thankfully, also makes clear — the world of fallen time is preceded, sustained, and interpenetrated by God’s grace. True, there is only so much time. But in a world where the Word has become flesh and dwelt/dwells among us, we are able to inhabit time hopefully. Thus vines, vineyards, and wine in Scripture are also figures for joy. This is why we must not allow the bracing sobriety of Advent to tilt over into mere pessimism. The pessimist thinks she knows what time it is — it is always the time for thinking badly of the world and of one’s own life. But that is not to take into account the character of God, who is not miserly with his blessings. The Judge of the earth and Lord of the harvest is also the Father in heaven, who fills even our fallen time with grace, hope, and possibility.

No one knew this better than John Donne. The Dean of St. Paul’s was a master of the quotable aphorism, and one of his most quoted is this: “In heaven it is alwaies Autumne.” Taken out of context, this could be read as either a compliment to the fall season or a metaphysical remark about the nature of heaven. But it is neither of these. Rather, it forms part of an extraordinary skein of reflections Donne weaves on God’s never-ending readiness for mercy. Prior to our bearing of fruit for God is God’s bearing fruit for us:

God made Sun and Moon to distinguish seasons, and day, and night, and we cannot have the fruits of the earth but in their seasons: But God hath made no decree to distinguish the seasons of his mercies; In paradise, the fruits were ripe, the first minute, and in heaven it is alwaies Autumne, his mercies are ever in their maturity. We ask panem quetidianum, our daily bread, and God never sayes you should have come yesterday, he never sayes you must againe to morrow, but to day if you will heare his voice, to day he will heare you. If some King of the earth have so large an extent of Dominion, in North, and South, as that he hath Winter and Summer together in his Dominions, so large an extent East and West, as that he hath day and night together in his Dominions, much more hath God mercy and judgement together: He brought light out of darknesse, not out of a lesser light; he can bring thy Summer out of Winter, though thou have no Spring; though in the wayes of fortune, or understanding, or conscience, thou have been benighted till now, wintred and frozen, clouded and eclyped, damped and benumbed, smothered and stupified till now, now God comes to thee, not as in the dawning of the day, not as in the bud of the spring, but as the Sun at noon to illustrate all shadowes, as the sheaves in harvest, to fill all penuries, all occasions invite his mercies, and all times are his seasons.

Donne preached this sermon on the evening of Christmas Day, 1624. We are often told not to ignore Advent in our mad rush to get to Christmas. This is good advice, though the converse is also true. We should not let Christ’s future coming as the Judge overshadow God’s present-day will for mercy. “In heaven it is alwaies Autumne,” because Mercy is Who God is, also in his exercise of judgment. Let us “heare his voice” in this season as in all seasons.

*Dr. Joseph Mangina,
Professor of Systematic Theology at Wycliffe College
Article originally published on Living Church - Covenant Blog*

Advent Asks

2022 Mitten Tree Campaign

Our 2022 Mitten Tree Campaign will collect donations in support of SWFNC, WAES, YSM, and our Deacon's Cupboard. After reaching out to our ministry partners, we have received very practical requests based on the needs of our community. In addition to mittens, they have requested the following items: new underwear, thermal underwear, socks, diapers, formula, baby food, grocery/pharmacy gift cards, toothbrushes and toothpaste, full size bottles of shampoo and conditioner, soap, feminine hygiene products.

Please place the items under the tree, outside the parish hall, in the designated bins. Thank you for your partnership with us as we seek to bless and serve our community this holiday season.

Our Mission Partners

Syme Woolner Neighbourhood & Family Centre works with diverse communities in our neighbourhood to build self-sufficiency and enhance quality of life. They do this in collaboration with partners by providing a range of programs and services that foster social inclusion, facilitate growth and development, and offer real solutions. Community residents are actively involved in defining and developing services that address the issues important to the community.

WAES Food Bank helps people that live in the area bounded by Wilson Ave., Royal York, Black Creek and Eglinton Ave. WAES provides food support and security to the most vulnerable in the Weston Community and will offer support without judgment. Volunteers welcome clients from all backgrounds and walks of life. Respect is given to all who come through their doors, both clients and volunteers.

Yonge Street Mission strives to imagine a city where every person feels they belong and where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive and accomplish their goals. As a local Christian development agency, they believe that each and every one of the 500,000 people experiencing poverty in Toronto has immense value. All resources and energy at Yonge Street Mission (YSM) are focused on working to respond to immediate needs and help people move from surviving to thriving. They believe if we combine our collective resources and wisdom, together we can reach the goal of ending chronic poverty in a generation.

The Deacon's Cupboard is a way for SM&SM to meet the needs of individuals in our community directly. Donations of non-perishable goods, personal care items, and supplies for babies are gratefully received in order to help people who might come to the church building for support.

Christmas



at St. Mary & St. Martha

You are Invited

Lessons & Carols

December 18th at 10:30am

The testimony about Jesus through Scripture and song

Service of Light

December 21st at 7:00pm

A gentle, reflective time of Christmas Hope

Classic Christmas Eve

December 24th at 7:00pm

Celebrating Christmas through traditional carols, sacrament, and a message of hope

Christmas Day

December 25th at 10:30am

A traditional service of Christmas joy



**St. Mary
& St. Martha**
ANGLICAN CHURCH

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 St. Mary & St. Martha Anglican Church

What Is Advent and How Is It Celebrated?

What is Advent? Advent is a season in the Church calendar dedicated to the hopeful anticipation and preparation for the arrival or "advent" of Jesus of Nazareth. The four-week period leading up to Christmas is a time to engage in prayer, meditation, and Scripture study. Christians celebrate this time and focus on the hope-filled arrival of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah and King.

The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day. In 2022, Advent is observed from November 27th to December 24th. It begins four Sundays before Christmas and always ends on Christmas Day.

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. Church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple (sometimes blue) is the traditional colour used. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The Advent Wreath The Advent wreath is usually a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside that are purple (sometimes they are blue and one is pink) and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts. (The pink candle can be lit on the third Sunday)

How do we Observe Advent? Advent and Christmas are often confused. The confusion arises because most North Americans begin celebrating Christmas before it arrives. Waking up the day after the American Thanksgiving Day, folks start singing Christmas carols, and putting up Christmas trees. It's called "the most wonderful time of the year," and a jolly old time it is with its lights, family times, and cheer.

But meanwhile, at the local Anglican church, you find a different atmosphere. Suddenly, you have left behind the smell of pine and the celebration of Christmas and entered into a world of Old Testament Prophets, John the Baptist, and powerful angels announcing future events. A subdued tone fills the music, minor keys abound, and a Christmas tree is (often) nowhere to be seen.

Advent's tone and focus, however, is subdued for an important reason. Each major festal celebration (Christmas and Easter) is prefixed with a season of preparation. The movement of the Church Year assumes that we will better understand and experience these feasts if we spend time in reflection and meditation upon why we need them in the first place.

In Advent, we delve into the prophets and John the Baptist because they tell us of a time when the Messiah had not yet come. They take us back to the times of anticipation and longing. They remind us of how dramatic and powerful the Gospel story of God becoming a man really is. They prepare our minds and hearts for the joy of the Incarnation. And so Advent is necessarily a reflective, anticipatory season.

Family Ministries at SM&SM!

Our focus this fall has been on building community. Kids and youth at SM&SM have had plenty of great opportunities this fall for fellowship: apple-picking at Pine Orchards Farm, a Halloween party at the church, and an eventful night at the movies! We made new memories with one another and bonded with old and new friends. Gathering together has helped us to grow together as a family in Christ and to reconnect with one another.

We have also had some great opportunities to serve our community. Kids and youth joined the service on October 30th for our Parish Family Service, volunteering alongside adults in ministries like welcome, music, and hospitality. We also joined the Remembrance Sunday service on November 13th. The youth participated in reading the poem, 'In Flanders Fields', and they read the roll as we remembered those from our parish who served in the war. Serving together helped us to grow as a church family and to show the love of Christ to our community.

The kids and youth will be active throughout the Advent season! Families will be participating in lighting the Advent wreath during the Sunday morning services throughout Advent. We will also be presenting our annual Christmas pageant at our Lessons & Carols service on December 18th. All kids and youth are welcome to be part of the performance! We will be rehearsing for the pageant during the Sunday services on December 4th and 11th, along with a final rehearsal on December 17th. Also join us at the church on December 17th to help decorate our church for Christmas.

There are more fun and exciting events coming up in the new year! Contact Avery to learn about all the latest events and updates.

Things to look out for:

Advent Wreath Lighting

Nov. 27th-Dec. 25th, 10:30am

Pageant Rehearsal, Parish Decorating

Dec. 17th, 10:30am

Lessons & Carols, Christmas Pageant

Dec. 18th, 10:30am

Sunday School Restarts

Jan. 15th, 2023, 10:30am





Welcome to our Music Ministry Director: **Nicholas Wanstall**

Nicholas Wanstall is an award winning pianist, organist, composer, and vocalist based in Toronto, Canada. He holds a Bachelor's of Music in Organ Performance from the University of Toronto, received under the guidance of beloved organist and conductor, John Tuttle. Nicholas is heavily involved with the Toronto Children's Chorus, serving as accompanist for three of the choirs within their organization.

Nicholas has worked as organist and choir director at several parishes in Toronto before starting as Director of Music at SM&SM. He also works with Young Voices Toronto, the Toronto Festival Singers, and with several other groups on an occasional basis.

As a composer/arranger, Nicholas specializes in works for the human voice. His choral music has been performed by numerous Canadian ensembles, and he has been commissioned by groups such as the Orpheus Choir of Toronto, the Exultate Chamber Singers, the Resonance Youth Choir, the Concreamus Chamber Choir, and more. His art songs have also received much acclaim, most notable of which being his receipt of the CFMTA Helen Dahlstrom Award for best national composition, given to his piece 'A Lullaby' in 2019.

To find out more about Nicholas and his work, please visit: nicholaswanstall.com

Celebrating Former SM&SM Students: **The Rev. Michael Lyons**

Where are you serving in ministry today?

I am now serving as the Rector of St. John's Anglican Church in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, east of Prince Albert.

What did you appreciate most about your time at St. Mary & St. Martha?

In my time at St. Mary & St. Martha, the thing I most appreciated was the warmth and commitment to Christian hospitality in the sharing of a meal following each Sunday service.

What is one thing you learned at St. Mary & St. Martha that has helped you where you are today?

During my time at St. Mary & St. Martha, I gained a deeper appreciation of both the challenges and richness of Christian community and ministry in the amalgamation of multiple parishes.

Please join us in congratulating Michael on the occasion of his ordination to the priesthood on Tuesday, November 30th! We pray for God's blessing on him and his ministry as he serves in the Anglican diocese of Saskatchewan.



Volunteer Spotlight: Outreach

Shirley Radley

How long have you served in this ministry?

I have served with the SM&SM outreach ever since amalgamation in 2015.

What do you like most about this ministry?

Outreach often goes far past the dictionary description - "extending services beyond usual limits." Meeting people's needs means a lot to me because it is an extension of the love of Christ in me. The smile we see when we deliver for people truly is God's light for us.

How do you see God at work in this ministry?

God often taps me on the shoulder to stop and listen when serving others. I may not have an answer right away when it comes to meeting other people's needs, but God often leads me to people who have the right answers. When we act on what we have learned, we have been blessed to have listened.

To learn more and to get involved in outreach, reach out to Shirley or contact the office for more details.



Financial Update: July - October 2022

ST. MARY & ST. MARTHA
2022 YEAR-TO-DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2022

INCOME	Year-To-Date Actual (January to October)	Year-To-Date Budget(January to October)	Difference in \$	Difference in %
Offering - Envelopes and PAG	108,331	109,649	(3,318)	-3%
Special Services-(Easter/Thanksgivings/Open)	8,328	7,106	1,222	
Restricted - Temporary (Faithworks, flowers, memorial givings)	8,743	8,633	110	1%
Property Rental Income & Other	77,294	85,690	(8,396)	-10%
Investment Income	72,854	70,889	1,965	3%
Income from Deferred Rent - (relates to 12 Blackstone Property)	6,507	-	6,507	
Other Income -(York Rectory Grant, Music Exp Donation)	33,422	35,833	(2,411)	-7%
TOTAL INCOME	313,480	317,801	(4,322)	-1%
EXPENDITURE				
Clergy, Staff Salary and Benefits	178,081	194,326	16,245	8%
Administrative Expenses (office & cleaning supplies, bank charges, telephone etc.)	18,660	19,167	508	3%
Property Repairs & Maintenance(hydro, heating, property tax insurance etc.)	76,121	75,181	(940)	-1%
Ministry Expenses(music, worship, communication, faithworks, children & youth etc.)	49,975	51,883	1,908	4%
Diocese Allotment (consultative & administrative support)	41,337	41,337	(0)	0%
Miscellaneous Expense	3,207	2,500	(707)	-28%
TOTAL EXPENSES	367,382	384,395	17,013	4%
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(53,902)	(66,594)	12,692	-19%

Notes:

The 2022 Vestry Approved Budgeted Deficit was (\$35,729.00)

The reason for the increase year-to-date deficit of (\$53,902.00) compared to the budget is due to the following:

- \$20,000.00 grant/income from the The Diocese -Ministry Allocation Fund will not be realised.
- \$25,000.00 interest income on investment from the sale of 81 Delemere Ave, only a quarter of this amount will be realised.
- Giving's from the congregation is below budget by (\$3,318.00) or 3 % and this shortfall is project to be closer to (\$10,000.00) by December 31st. (we are Appealing to you for incre.
- As at July 31st, the tenant at 12 Blackstone Street, were given notice to vacate the property, this has contributed to rental income shortfall of \$8,396.00 noted above.

**Thank you for your ongoing partnership in the ministry at
St. Mary & St. Martha!**

Advent Reflections



BibleProject | Advent Reflections

28 Days

BibleProject designed Advent Reflections to inspire individuals, small groups, and families to celebrate the advent, or arrival, of Jesus. This four week plan incorporates animated videos, short summaries, and reflective questions to help participants explore the biblical meaning of hope, peace, joy, and love. Choose this plan to discover how these four virtues have arrived to the world through Jesus.

<https://www.bible.com/en-GB/reading-plans/22462>

Worship Online

Live-stream worship from our [YouTube channel](#) each Sunday! This immersive experience improves the quality of our streaming and enables you to watch services at a later time.

For more information please please **call or email the church office.**

Upcoming Events

December 18: Lessons & Carols 10:30 am

December 21: Service of Light 7pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Service 7pm

December 25: Christmas Day Service 10:30 am

January 8: Baptism Sunday

January 15: Small Groups Resume this Week

February 20: Family Day

February 21: Pancake Supper

February 22: Ash Wednesday

February 26: Annual Vestry Meeting (AGM)



Ministry Team

The Rev. Mark Regis | Priest-in-Charge
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Sonya Lawley | Lay Pastoral Associate
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Michael Brain |
Parish Ministry Coordinator
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Avery-Quinn MacGregor |
Family Ministries Pastor
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Nicholas Wanstall |
Music Ministry Director
nick@stmaryandstmartha.org

*Next What's Happening
Winter 2023*