

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. Check out the Welcome Centre in the lobby or messiahchurch.ca

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. For Nursery, please bring children to the Green Room (basement) before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Canon George Sinclair
Rector

Jonathan Camiré
Ministry Intern - Evangelism and
Discipleship

Yasmine Alli-Smith
Ministry Intern

Deborah Reid **Shirley Allan**
Worship Leader Administrator

Daniel Gilman
Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship
(Children, Youth and Young Adults)

Rev. Neil Stephens
Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Wardens:
Dick Butler Jeremiah Hadwen
Earl Maynard Shannon Ripley
Karl Ruban Dana Scherf

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
- 2) Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)
- 4) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Some Resources on the Bible and Same-Sex Sexual Knowing

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you some resources to help you understand what the Bible does and does not teach on same-sex sexual knowing, being gay and same-sex marriage. These are all resources on knowing the Bible, not on the many pastoral issues connected with living with same-sex sexual desires. However, for Christians, knowing what the Bible teaches is the first, the final and the continuing touchstone for discipleship, healing and wholeness. I know that for some of us, these are deeply personal matters - all the more reason to be able to hear what the Bible teaches with clarity.

There are two great, short books on this subject. I highly recommend both of them. The first is written by a same-sex attracted man. Sam Allberry has written, *Is God Anti-Gay?* The book not only handles the Bible well, but gives wise advice on many practical matters with following the Bible's teaching.

The second great short book is by Kevin de Young, *What Does the Bible Really Teach about Homosexuality?* This book lives up to its title. It is simple but not simplistic. It is clear and he has mastered a lot of scholarship. His book also has a great short bibliography for further reading.

I highly recommend people buy and read these two books. In fact, buy an extra copy of each to lend or give to your inquiring friends. There's a copy of deYoung's book in the Messiah library. Contact the office if you'd like to borrow it.

The best academic/scholarly treatment on this subject is still Robert Gagnon's, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics*.

I should mention two websites. The first is: robgagnon.net This is the website of Robert Gagnon. This website has many free resources. On it he also reviews books and speaks about more recent controversies. Very insightful and scholarly. On a more personal level I recommend: livingout.org This site has help for those struggling with same-sex attraction. It also has great insight for church leaders and/or members to understand and equip you to care for and walk with those in the church family who experience same-sex attraction.

Finally, on the topic of marriage in general, I recommend Tim Keller's, *The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God*.

Friends, please pray that we will be a church which knows and loves God, knows and loves the Bible and knows and loves people. Pray that we will be disciples of Jesus gripped by the Gospel living for God's glory.

George+

I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

Attitudes.

- 1) Your word is a lamp for my walking and a light for my path.
- 2) I will trust that the teaching of Your word is good for me.
- 3) I will not listen to the lies which cause me to fear that keeping Your word will hurt and diminish me.

I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all things. I know that Your word written is at odds with what my culture believes in regard to marriage, sex and gender. Please help me to know Your word and trust that it is good and wise - truer, wiser and more loving than what my culture teaches. Father, I need Your help! Please help me to come to Jesus and keep in step with the Holy Spirit so that I will grow in wholeness and freedom as I live for Your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen!!

I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Genesis 2: 23-24

I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

GOING DEEPER

Getting to know me

Do you have any family members who are divorced?

Getting into the Bible

Remember how important prayer is! Remember to pray before, during and after reading God's word.

- Read Genesis 2: 4-25.
- Read Genesis 2: 23-24. Then read Matthew 19: 4-6; Mark 10: 5-9; 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 and Ephesians 5: 22-33.

Getting real

- Has the Bible raised questions you need to pursue? Has it convicted you in some way? Can you share something of this with others for prayer?

Tuesday, March 28

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, March 29

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday @ UCU uOttawa
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, March 30

- 7pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

We invite you to bring non-perishable food and gently used clothing to donate to **St Joe's Supper Table**. A collection bin will be at the Besserer St door next week until Easter.

On **Easter Sunday flowers** are placed at the front of the theatre in memory of loved ones. If you would like the name of your loved ones on the list, which will be printed in the bulletin, please provide it to the office by Wednesday, April 13 (613 235 0596 or info@messiahchurch.ca).

It's time for another **Potluck Lunch!** Join us on Sunday, April 9 after the 10am service for a light lunch and fellowship. Please bring sandwiches, finger food or dessert to share.

Arise School of Dance presents *Stories and Songs* on Sunday, April 9 at the 10am service. Don't miss it!

Messiah's Seder Celebration: Please join us on Thursday, April 13 for a Seder Celebration. We will meet at 6:30pm at Immaculata High School (140 Main St). Please register by contacting the church office: info@messiahchurch.ca

Friends for Dinner: Why not invite an international student to your home to share an Easter meal? Sign up at friendsfordinner.ca (be sure to select Ottawa)