

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

The Origin of Sin and the Problem of Evil: Resources

Dear Friends,

Below are some resources that I have found helpful in thinking about the beginning of sin and evil in our world and the problem of evil.

I know that lots of people do not like reading fiction but, if you like to read novels, you should read C.S. Lewis' brilliant retelling of Genesis 3 in *Voyage to Venus*. This novel is the second book in a trilogy, but I think you can read it without reading the first book. By the way, all three novels in the trilogy are really worth reading. In *Voyage to Venus* Lewis imagines a new Garden of Eden with a new Eve. This time the role of the serpent is taken by Weston, a scientist from earth. Lewis also adds a good man, Ransom, who knows of the disaster in Genesis 3, and who tries to urge the new Eve to not fall for the message of the new serpent. Profound and moving novel!

If you are bothered by the presence of the serpent in Genesis 3, a really excellent short essay to read is *Horrid Red Things* by C.S. Lewis. It was originally a chapter in his book, *Miracles*, but it can be found on the web quite easily. This essay is very helpful in understanding the role of symbolism and metaphor in the Bible and Christian thought.

One more Lewis recommendation. His book, *The Problem of Pain*, is a modern classic on the Christian understanding of the problem of evil. If you do not already know, C.S. Lewis has been, and continues to be, a huge influence in my life. I have probably read all of his works, many of them more than once. If you have not read him yet, I encourage you to begin.

A simple but helpful discussion of the problem of evil is Peter Kreeft's *Making Sense out of Suffering*.

Finally, Tim Keller has written a superb book on the problem of evil. It is called, *Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering*. In his book, Keller deals with both the intellectual issues around suffering and God. He also deals with the personal issues in helpful ways.

In closing, remember to pray for people who are suffering. As well, remember to invite them to invite Jesus into their life to be their Saviour and Lord. I must confess that it is easy to give "practical" advice and "practical" help. It is easy to pray for healing. It is easy to think that a person needs to be "well" to receive Jesus. It is easy to believe that someone's pain will mean they will not consider Jesus. This thinking is easy because the world, the flesh and the devil want us to be silent about the Saviour! So, I encourage you to be compassionate and practical and prayerful and most of all, to tell people about Jesus, the "man of sorrows" whose "yoke is easy" and who "gives rest". Prayerfully share the Gospel with those who suffer.

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) I will reject all spiritual practices that do not exalt Jesus as the Saviour and the Lord.
- 2) I desire to know the Bible from cover-to-cover and to listen to it clearly.
- 3) Only the person and work of Jesus Christ will fit me to someday walk with God in the Garden.

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:

Loving God, I confess to You that I flatter myself too much to detect or hate my own sin. I confess to You that I am good at finding specks in other people's eyes and bad at seeing the log in my own eye. I confess that I readily listen to the accusations, slander and blasphemy of demons. Thank You for Jesus Christ and His death for me on the cross. Thank You that, in Him, my sins are forgiven; I am clothed with His perfect life; I am born again to new life. Please make me a disciple of Jesus gripped by the Gospel guided by Your word and living for Your glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen!!

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

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned..... Romans 5:12

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 a friend involved in witchcraft or séances?

Getting into the Bible

Please pray that the Lord will help you to listen to His word simply and deeply and clearly.

- Read Genesis 2: 15-17 and 3: 1-13
- Read Romans 5: 12-21 and 1 Corinthians 15: 19-25.
- Read Romans 16:20; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5: 1-11.

Getting real

- Has the Lord convicted you in some way as you have read and thought about His word? Can you share something of this with others so they can pray with you?

Tuesday, April 4

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, April 5

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

Thursday, April 6

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

Sunday, April 9

- during 10am worship: Arise School of Dance presents *Stories and Songs*. Don't miss it!
- following 10am worship: Potluck Lunch Please bring sandwiches, finger food or dessert to share.

Thursday, April 13

- 6:30pm: Seder Celebration @ Immaculata High School (140 Main St). Please register by contacting the church office: info@messiahchurch.ca

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 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).

There is a matinee at the theatre today. We need to be out of the theatre and lobby by 12:30pm.