



We are glad you are here! 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.

**WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!**

*Making disciples of Jesus, gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory.*

**Are you new? Get connected!**

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? See the contact info below.

**Nursery & Sunday School**

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. Nursery children meet in the Green Room in the basement (ask a door host). Sunday school kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.



*Today's service:  
[bible.com/  
events/334399](http://bible.com/events/334399)*

Rev Canon George Sinclair - Rector

Twitter: @messiah\_church  
Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa  
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Artwork by  
Amanda Moore Ede

Sunday, December 31, 2017

Reading: Hebrews 4: 1-13

A worthy resolution - entering God's rest  
Jonathan Camiré



**Financial gifts must be post-marked by December 31 in order to be included in 2017 givings.**

*We are looking for co-tenants!*

We are looking for someone to share the upstairs space with us at The Bible House. (315 Lisgar - at Bank)

Want details? Have a suggested tenant? Please contact the office.

The church office is closed until Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Voicemails will be checked daily.

To fear or not to fear.....

Dear Friends,

The Bible has much to say about fear. Over the years, some have associated Christianity solely with fear. The picture of a fire-and-brimstone preacher, warning heathens by name in the sermon and who plays on people's emotions usually comes to mind. Whether it's the fear of being sent to hell, fear of God's wrath to fall, the fear of being rejected by family or the fear of being left behind after the rapture - these fears, among others, have formed the notion that people become Christians to escape a perilous end. But is it wrong for a Christian to fear such things? Is it wrong for Christians to fear, period?

Christians know that fear is part of the Christian life, but not to the same degree as is proposed by our culture. Our culture highly prizes fearlessness. Maybe it's because fear imposes restrictions on our behaviour and experiences - stifling our potential. If a political party proposes restrictions on people as a better way, they are accused of playing politics of fear. So why do Christians accept fear when it comes to the faith?

The fact is, many Christians struggle with how fear works within God's will as for our benefit. As far as I know, there are two ways to perceive fear (one is good and one is bad). Jesus said, "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). He commands us not to fear people, but to fear God. Jesus understands that we are creatures designed to fear. Now, we need to orient our fears rightly.

We fear what we deem has great power over us. When I fear learning something beyond my current capabilities, I give into despair and become mastered by my perception. When I fear God as my Creator and Sustainer who designed me to change and grow, I overcome my previous fear as I find my identity in God. Jesus said, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). It is wise to fear God as it is our freedom. Now, may we know God's grace as the late John Newton; "Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved."

Happy New Year!

Jonathan