



FIRST READING
Genesis 4:1-16

GOSPEL
John 1:19-28

*Free Bibles available
at the Besserer door.

Unusual Introductions
CAIN & ABEL & BABY JESUS

A series of horizontal lines for writing notes.

Questions/ comments about the sermon or scripture text?
Email George at questionpastor@gmail.com.



Welcome!

Helping ordinary people
be confident, joyful disciples
of Jesus Christ.

December 22, 2013

we are a member of:



Please ask a greeter
for assistance.

messiahchurch.ca

Phone
613.235.0596

Email
messiahchurch.office@gmail.com

Mailing Address
PO Box 70096, Place Bell RPO
Ottawa, ON K2P 2M3

The Book of Genesis & Baby Jesus

Dear Friends,

Why on earth is the Pastor preaching about Cain & Abel at a Christmas Service? The answer is - it is partly because of what Jesus says, partly because I am Canadian, and partly (I pray) because of the Holy Spirit.

Luke records how after Jesus died, He truly, physically, rose from the dead. During a forty day period, Jesus appeared to a large number of different people in different places. The grave was empty and Jesus spoke and ate and could be touched. He proved that He had risen from the dead. On one of the times when He appeared to people after His resurrection, He said this; "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Later on, in another place, Jesus said, "Then He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." (Luke 24:25-26, 44 ESV).

Throughout His teaching ministry, Jesus always had a "high" view of the truthfulness and authority of the Bible. We can see in the above quotes that He believed that all of the Old Testament spoke of Him. At Church of the Messiah, we want to help ordinary people be confident, joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. We want to be disciples of Jesus who made disciples of Jesus. So we believe what He taught.

In Canada, many people know the Christmas story. But while we are familiar with the story, we "hear" and remember the story through the filter of "Jingle Bells" and "White Christmas" and other secular songs. We have become deaf. I always pray for new ways to tell the old story. I pray for a way to help us actually listen to the story on the Bible's terms, not our Canadian terms. So this year I thought I would do a series of four sermons called, "Unusual Introductions." Last week we looked at the story of Adam and Eve and the fall of the human race (Gen. 3) to introduce the birth of Jesus. On Christmas Eve we will look at Noah and the flood (Gen. 6-9) to introduce Baby Jesus. On Christmas morning, we will look at the story of the Tower of Babel (Gen 11) to introduce Baby Jesus. Check out the sermons you missed at messiahchurch.ca.

George +

Church Office Closed

The Messiah Office will be closed from Dec. 23 to Jan 1.

2014 Prayerbook Calendars

2014 Calendars are available in the lobby for only \$6.00 each.

St. Joe's Food & Clothing Bank Donations

During the Christmas Season, we are collecting donations of food, clothing and money for St. Joe's. Drop off your food and clothing donations in the blue bin by the Besserer door on Dec. 24 & 25.

Men's & Women's Ministries

Stay tuned for upcoming Men's & Women's Ministry events in the new year!

For more info, visit messiahchurch.ca or call **613-235-0596**.



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rector

Rev. Canon George Sinclair

Worship Leader & Young Adults Leader

Jeremiah Smith

Administrative & Communications Manager

Amy van Hemmen

Ministry Interns

Jeremy Giles & Daniel Gilman

Wardens

Dick Butler
Gary Graber
John Rayson
Shannon Ripley
Karl Ruban
Natasha Wallace