

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

On Baptism: Part 4

Dear Friends,

How is it that some "Bible-believing" Christians believe that the Bible allows the baptism of infants? This is my fourth blog on this question. Today I will focus on the different claims made by Anglicans/Presbyterians and Baptists.

The Baptist position on baptism is this. First we come to saving faith in Jesus and then we are baptized. This is the only valid Biblical pattern. If we are baptized before coming to saving faith then a mistake has been made. To correct this mistake we must be baptized "again". We are not really being re-baptized because the first baptism was invalid. Because the only Biblical pattern is that first you come to real saving faith and then you are baptized, baptism of children is not wise. The child must be old enough to have made a clear commitment to Jesus. Different "baptistic" churches have different rules about what is the youngest age they will accept someone who asks to be baptized. My unscientific understanding is that 12 is a common age limit. In other words, if you claim to have a saving faith in Jesus and are under the age of 12, you will be asked to wait and come back when you are 12.

In other weeks I will write about how Baptists and Anglicans describe what baptism signifies and problems/advantages with their different practices. But for now I want you to notice the central Baptist claim when it comes to what the Bible teaches about baptism. There is only one Biblical pattern. First you come to saving faith as an "adult" and then you are baptized.

Anglicans and Presbyterians agree that one biblical pattern is that you come to saving faith as an adult and then you are baptized. They deny that this is the only Biblical pattern. There is another Biblical pattern for the children of Christian believers. In the case of the children of baptized Christian believers, their children can be baptized even if that means that the child will come to saving faith after their baptism. As you can imagine, this will mean that Anglicans will describe what baptism signifies in a different way from what Baptists do. I should mention that "what baptism signifies" is not just a matter of opinion. "What baptism signifies" has to connect to other Biblical doctrines. More about this later.

To be clear, an Anglican and a Baptist will handle the following situation in the same way. A lifelong Muslim or a Pagan hears the Gospel and comes to a saving faith in Jesus. After their conversion, they are baptized and only after their conversion should they be baptized. The illustration helps us understand the New Testament better. Almost everyone is a "first-generation" Christian. They have all been Jewish or a Pagan their entire lives. They are all hearing the Gospel for the first time. Virtually none have Christian parents.

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) God uses an infallible Bible to create humble interpreters, not infallible interpreters.
- 2) Only my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, has dealt with sin and defeated death.
- 3) Lord, please grip me with the Gospel and grow in me a life of humble hope that every day, You are sovereign.

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:

Father in heaven, thank You for the real hope available in Jesus. Thank You that He did not merely stymie death like Enoch, but defeated death by paying the price of sin and then being resurrected. Thank You that He is greater than Enoch, who had a solitary deliverance, but that Jesus' victory is shareable with any who humbly trust in Him as Saviour and Lord. Dear Father, please pour out Your Holy Spirit upon me as a disciple of Jesus gripped by the Gospel, living with hope as I live for Your glory. In Jesus' name. Amen!!

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

By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11: 5-6

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 know the names of your great-grandparents?

Getting into the Bible

I encourage you to pray that God's word will come to you in a deep way as you read it and think upon it.

- Read Genesis 5: 1-32
- Read Genesis 5: 1-2. Then read Genesis 1: 26-27.
- Read Genesis 5: 21-24. Then read 2 Kings 2: 1-15 and Hebrews 11: 5-6
- Read Genesis 5: 21-24. Then read Romans 6: 8-11; 1 Corinthians 15: 21-26, 50-56; 2 Timothy 1: 10; Hebrews 2: 14-15.

Getting real

- Has the Lord convicted you of something as you read? Consider sharing this with another Christian so you can both pray about it.

Tuesday, May 16

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, May 17

- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont
- 6:30pm: Church in the Park @ Strathcona Park

Thursday, May 18

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

Friday, May 19

- 7pm: Adventure613 Youth meets @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

Messiah's Electoral Vestry will be held on Monday, June 19 at 7pm at the Bible House (315 Lisgar St). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Once again Messiah will participate in **The Big Give**. This year's event takes place on Saturday, June 3. Over 60 Ottawa-area churches will be participating in this event where people of faith bless those in the community by giving things for free.

Here's what you need to know:

- We will be distributing packed lunches and women's personal hygiene kits to our Lowertown / Byward Market neighbours.
- Volunteers will go out in groups of two or more. They will be provided with cards identifying them as Big Give volunteers. They will have Bibles to give out, too, if appropriate.

We will need your help!

- before Saturday, June 3 for shopping
- Friday, June 2 (at The Bible House) to pack lunches and kits
- Saturday, June 3 between 10am-2pm for distribution
- Look for the sign-up sheet next week!

Can't help in person? We would welcome your financial support. You can give via the offering plate. Please clearly indicate that your donation is to support The Big Give. You can send a donation directly to the office via PayPal or e-transfer (Email your contribution to givings@messiahchurch.ca Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George") Contact the church office for help. info@messiahchurch.ca

Most importantly, we would welcome your prayer support!

At the invitation of Norm and Audrey Henderson, missionaries Messiah supports, George will teach and minister at the SIM Spiritual Life Conference near Lubango, Angola from July 6-12. Messiah's Council has established the Mission Angola Fund to help George raise the \$5,000+ needed for his trip. Details to follow!

There is no coffee fellowship after today's service. Why don't you get together with some friends in a coffeeshop after the service? We need to be out of the theatre and lobby by 10:30am sharp.