

## CHRISTMAS EVE

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FOR:  
PROPHECY LOVERS

First Reading : Hebrews 1:1-12  
The Gospel : Matthew 1: 18-25

## CHRISTMAS DAY

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FOR:  
SCANDAL LOVERS

First Reading : Isaiah 9: 1-7  
The Gospel : John 1: 1-14

*\*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Family friendly service on Friday, December 25 at 10am at the OLT.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

Join us for a New Year's Day Service on January 1 at 10am at 315 Lisgar Street.

### ST. JOE'S CHRISTMAS BIN

We invite you to bring warm clothing and non-perishable food to donate to St. Joe's Supper Table. The bin is located by the Besserer door entrance until Dec. 27.

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed from December 21 to January 1, reopening on Monday, January 4. Voicemail will be checked daily.

## THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

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Vera & Gerald Allen	Leslie Barnes	Patti McHugh
Margery & Robert Dean	Teresa Bourque	Lawrence McPhail
Marcello, Agatha & Laura Egidio	Joy Brisley	Ned Meredith
The Very Rev & Mrs. W.E. Harrison	Alice Hall	Bess Reid
Ken, Betty & Keith Jakeman	Johnny Giard	Walter Ruban
Margaret & Ronald McCook	Esther Landry	Marion Smiley
Dorothy & Ray Skrypnyk	Bruce Lang	Kalysta Storie-Grezaud
	Eileen Lemon	Anne Elizabeth Hibbert

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

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!**

Are you interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Email [info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca) or call **613.235.0596**. Also check out our website at [messiahchurch.ca](http://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 lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to "follow the cross" during the third worship song.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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<b>Rev. Canon George Sinclair</b> Rector	<b>Daniel Gilman</b> Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship	<b>Wardens</b> Dick Butler Gary Graber John Rayson Shannon Ripley
<b>Shirley Allan</b> Administrator		Karl Ruban Dana Scherf
<b>Joey McNitt</b> Worship Leader	<b>Jonathan Camiré</b> Ministry Intern	

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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### **GIVING**

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

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering plate on Sunday, or mail to the church office.
- 2) Email your contribution to [givings@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:givings@messiahchurch.ca) Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[messiahchurch.ca](http://messiahchurch.ca) / 613.235.0596 / [info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)  
office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

Dear friends,

Some Christians say that Christmas is pagan. It was originally a pagan celebration and it has never shaken its pagan roots. It is fundamentally a pagan, consumerist celebration today. As we look into the future, we see Christmas only becoming more pagan.

I believe that the majority of Christians are right to want to celebrate Christmas. I am glad you are with us to celebrate Christmas. (those who are reading this in the bulletin; to you reading online, I'm glad I have a reader!)

Firstly, it is very natural for us to celebrate many things on a yearly basis. We celebrate / remember births and marriages. We remember deaths. As a nation we officially remember key events on a yearly basis (Labour Day, Remembrance Day, Victoria Day). As a people we unofficially remember major events on a yearly basis; 9/11 and the terrorist attack on Parliament Hill come to mind. So, given our very human tendency to mark events on a yearly basis, why wouldn't we want to remember key "moments" in our Lord and Saviour's life on a yearly basis? Isn't His birth an obvious event to mark?

Secondly, many cultures mark the yearly switch of sunlight. It is common to mark the solstice, when the days begin to either get longer (the Winter Solstice / December 20/2) or shorter (the Summer Solstice / June 20/21). It is not pagan for Christians to be mindful of this, although we should not accept pagan and/or secular understanding of this event. For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, what better time to celebrate the birth of Jesus than a day or two after the solstice, when the light begins to increase? Isn't Jesus the Light of the world?

Didn't He come to a dark world, the True Light born in a dark world? Should we avoid certain times because pagans claim it? Why should a follower of Jesus let secular or pagan authorities set our agendas?

Finally, isn't our Saviour also the Lord? Is He not Lord of all things, including time? Don't we need some way, as His disciples, to show that He is Lord of time? Why should we let natural rhythms and secular demands shape time for us? Isn't it good to have yearly, weekly or daily habits which are shaped by the Gospel? Christmas and Easter. Weekly gatherings of public worship. Daily devotionals.

Friends, let us remember with joy the birth of the Messiah, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Merry Christmas!

George +