

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 our website at 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 come to the front 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

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Based on updated financial data (Dec 1), we need \$53,000 + \$15,000 (\$68,000) to balance the books by year end. In our 2016 budget we planned to draw down \$15,000 from savings. If we receive \$68,000 there will be no need to do that. Please pray for discernment.

SECULAR CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends,

I was in my morning coffee shop this week when out of the blue my neighbour asked me about Donald Trump. It turns out he was a chatty, semi-retired journalist. He was about to give a presentation on Trump and he wanted to know what I thought about his election. He probably noticed the small Bible on my table but I had never talked to him before and he would not have known I am a pastor. However, I do not want to get drawn into political discussions in my regular Starbucks. More about my reasons for this some other time.

What did I say to my neighbour? I said that since we cannot go back in time and change things, we should do the best we can in the present circumstances. I told him that this is my view with every election, not just Trump's. We should work and pray that he rules well and the country prospers. I asked the rhetorical question, "Why should we hope he does a terrible job and wrecks everything?" He responded that many people are hoping he fails spectacularly. I acknowledged that that was true, but I said the election is over; him (Trump) failing in a big time way will only hurt ordinary people in the US and around the world, so let's work well where we are and hope and pray he rules reasonably well.

How does this have anything to do with secular Christmas? A lot, I think. Orthodox Christians like us can easily fall into the trap of lamenting and "looking down our nose" at secular people and how they understand and celebrate Christmas. We talk as if they do not understand the true meaning of Christmas. We demand they put Christ back at the centre of Christmas. We mock their shallowness and commercialism, often while taking a break from Christmas shopping at Tim Horton's!

But, we cannot go back in time and change things. There is now one Christmas holiday, with (as ideal types) two different understandings of the holiday. That is the way the world is. We should accept this and work within the way Canada is to bring out the best of secular Christmas, all the while becoming clearer ourselves on Christmas as a time to remember the birth of Jesus, God's Son and humanity's Saviour.

Mere scolding only comes across as being grumpy and superior. If we want to let our neighbours know how the biblical story of Christmas both fulfills and subverts secular Christmas, then we need to enjoy the many parts of secular Christmas we can agree with. For secular Christmas is a call to connect with family and friends, to be generous and give gifts, to remember the poor, to "hope for a miracle", to embrace optimism. Seeing secular Christmas in this way, we can see how it is unconsciously and incompletely based on biblical Christmas. So, accept and love Canada (and Ottawa) as it is. Let us seek the good of our nation as we share the biblical Gospel with its message of the birth of the Saviour.

George +

GROWING IN GRACE

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's grace is deep and wide, covering my past, present and future.
- 2) God knows my history of sin - and still Jesus died to save me.
- 3) If God humbled Himself to save me, I can learn to be humble.

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: Heavenly Father, Thank You for keeping Your word to send a Messiah, a Saviour. Thank You for keeping Your word to Israel. Thank You for keeping Your promises made to every people group. Thank You for the birth of Jesus, Your Son, the Messiah, the Saviour. Thank You that He came to die upon the cross; Your provision for salvation for every person who receives Him by faith. Help me to live each day mindful of Your promises and mindful that You keep Your Word in surprising ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

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 each other

Who is your most outrageous relative?

Getting into the Word

Remember to pray before you read! Ask the Lord to have His Word touch your heart.

- 1. Read Matthew 1: 1-17 (I know it's a bit boring!)
- 2. Read Matthew 1:2. Then read Genesis 27.
- 3. Read Matthew 1: 3. Then read Genesis 38.
- 4. Read Matthew 1: 6. Then read 2 Samuel 11

Getting real

How has God spoken to you as you have read His Word?
How has He convicted you?
Can you share this with others so they can pray for you?

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

- 10am: Messiah Sunday School children make a presentation

Tuesday, December 13

- 1:30pm: Bible House Study Group @315 Lisgar (side door)
- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, December 14

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday @uOttawa (churchonwednesday.ca)
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

Thursday, December 15

- 7:15pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

Friday, December 16

- 7pm: Adventure613 (youth group) @ 376 Britannia Rd

Sunday, December 18

- Arise Ballet presents "Heaven Everywhere" during the 10am worship service. Don't miss it!

Learner's Exchange meets Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the side lobby. Join us for a 20 minute talk followed by a Q&A session.

- December 11: One holy, catholic, apostolic church - Gary Graber
- December 18: Beauty, Arts and Liturgy - Jonathan Camiré

St Joe's Christmas Bin: We invite you to bring new or gently used clothing and non-perishable food items to donate to St Joe's Supper Table. A collection bin will be available at the Besserer door entrance from December 11 - January 1.

Christmas Remembrance: If you would like the name of loved ones who have passed away added to our Christmas Remembrance List, please contact the office by December 20.

2017 offering envelopes are available on the Besserer side of the stage. If you'd like a set of envelopes, please contact the office. info@messiahchurch.ca

Are you able to help as a door host or offering collector on January 1? Please contact the office. info@messiahchurch.ca

Christmas Services @ Messiah:

Saturday, December 24: 2pm (Traditional) / 7pm (Family friendly)
Sunday, December 25: 10am
Sunday, January 1: 10am
All services will be held at the OLT.