



St. George's Anglican Church

News from the Pews

Holy Week and Easter 2024

From the Rector

Easter 2024: Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!

This past week I have been trying to decide whether it's safe to switch my winter tires to all-season ones because I'm half expecting some terrible storm to head our way after such an incredibly gentle winter, and, as usual, I can't quite remember whether March came in like a lamb or like a lion.

But there's no denying the signs of spring and new life that are emerging all around us: the snows have melted, shoots are appearing in our flowerbeds, Canada geese are patrolling around the church, and yesterday I saw a guy dragging his lawnmower out of the garage. And while these signs of new life are emerging, we as the church are preparing to transition out of Lent to celebrate the new life and new hope that the Risen Christ brings.

You see, sometimes we as the church, particularly the North American church, think of the resurrection as an event that occurred in the past and is limited to the past. Now true enough, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead occurred in the past and is God's own testimony against death. But the resurrection of Jesus is also what empowers us for living. Because if we want to truly live, then we need to embrace what it means to live the resurrected life, a life full of love, meaning, and purpose. For the good news of Easter is not only that Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and is alive, but also that the power of the resurrection can transform our lives as well.

Our Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday, March 24th when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm branches with services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Then on Maundy Thursday, March 28th, we'll gather at 7:00 pm to remember the Last Supper and Jesus' mandate (*mandatum* became *maundy*) to "love one another as I have loved you." After celebrating the Eucharist, our liturgy will include stripping the altar of all furnishings to remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.

We then gather on Good Friday, March 29th, at 10:30 am to hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross. We will then mark the beginning of the fifty days of Easter on Sunday, March 31st at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Continued...

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. They are central to our faith and our walk with Christ, and I strongly encourage you to plan on attending as many of these services as you are able.

So as we experience new birth and new life around us, it is my hope and prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, your hope renewed, and that you will be blessed with His peace and joy throughout the Easter season!

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Victor Kischak
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

From the Wardens

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Day, we are reminded of the profound joy that fills our hearts at the culmination of the Lenten season. Just as we reflected on the theme of "Joy" during the lighting of the 3rd Advent candle, we now experience a different kind of joy—one that is born out of the hope and promise of new life following the darkness of Holy Week.

At St. George's, joy permeates our community in countless ways. Yet, amidst the various sources of joy, there is one common thread that binds us together—the sense of fellowship we find within our community.

As Wardens, we each express our own unique experiences of joy at St. George's:

Rani shares, "I get joy in many aspects of St. George's but most especially with the people and the sense of community we have with one another celebrating our faith in Christ."

Giesela reflects, "I get joy from being part of a community."

Paul expresses, "I get joy from worshipping our loving God with like-minded people in the inspiring ambiance of St. George's."

Laura affirms, "I get joy from the wonderful community of people who come together to support one another and

our ministries. The building is lovely, but it would be nothing without the people who bring it to life."

Bruce concludes, "I get joy from seeing this community of people who are learning about God—be it kids during the Children's Focus or seeing attentive minds during the sermon."

Indeed, it is through our shared journey of faith and our commitment to supporting one another that we find true joy. As we celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us remember the profound impact our community has on our spiritual growth and well-being. Let us cherish the relationships we have forged and the love we have shared, knowing that together, we are stronger and more resilient in our faith.

As we continue on our spiritual journeys, may the joy of Easter fill our hearts and souls, illuminating our path with hope, love, and divine grace. May we always find joy in the presence of one another, united in our shared devotion to Christ and His teachings.

This Easter, may the joy of our community at St. George's inspire and uplift you, filling your life with blessings beyond measure.

Giesela Goetz, Bruce Carrick, Laura Keller,
Paul Deacon, Rani Varkey

Saturday Night Suppers
at the Royal City Mission
November 11, 2023



Coldest Night of the Year
Fundraising Walk,
February 24, 2024.
St. George's Team
helped to raise over \$7,500
for Hope House.

On March 11, 2024,
14 students from the
University of Chicago Carillon
Society visited St. George's
as part of a tour of
Ontario carillons



Children & Youth Committee Update

By Debbie Marchment

Thanks to Hannah Keller and her volunteers, our Church School has been established and has a solid foundation.

We are focusing on developing programmes for our youth and young adults.

First Communion classes (church school age) will take place on **April 13 and April 20**, from 10:00 to 11:30 am with First Communion on **April 21**.

A Mario Kart Tournament for youth (11-17 years) is scheduled for Friday, **April 19** at the church from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Youth are encouraged to bring a friend.

Confirmation classes are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, **March 20 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. Confirmation will take place in on **Sunday, April 14** at the Cathedral in Hamilton.

A small group of young adults (18+) will be meeting to discuss their vision for a young adults' group. This will be a group for young adults run by young adults.

We will continue to support our university and college students with a spring mailing.



Church School students kneading pretzel dough.
(February 18, 2024) Photo: Contributed by Laura Keller

Focusing on Liturgy with Children's Faith Formation

By Hannah Keller

In the year and a half since the St. George's Church School reopened, we've seen a steady stream of new and returning children into our classroom. It's been a time of relearning how to "do Sunday School," but also a time of reflection on what we want children's faith formation in our parish to look like. In our first few months back, much of the focus of lessons was getting the children comfortable in the new space and routine. The various lockdowns, quarantines, and stay-at-home orders of the pandemic had meant that most of the children present had no personal understanding of what Church School was. After students felt more comfortable in the church, it was very quickly made apparent that lesson focus would need to be on teaching core biblical stories. Weekly lessons worked through the birth of Christ, his most prominent works, and the miracle of Easter.

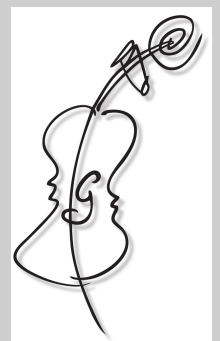
As we entered our second year, lessons from the bible are still prominent in our curriculum, but we've had the chance to branch out more, and explore Christian faith in new ways through some lessons on liturgy. So far this school year, we've had two opportunities to do so. On the First Sunday of Advent, we had the exciting chance to make advent wreaths, with wooden frames and greenery provided by George Adams. Then, in mid-February, we traveled down to the Mitchell Hall kitchen to bake a batch of soft pretzels, a traditional Lenten treat. Both lessons were huge successes, with requests from children and parents to run the activities again next year.

While some may chalk up the buzz around these lessons to novelty of format or space, there is a certain wonder at being included in traditions and practices that date back generations. We, as Anglicans, mark our journey through the year with many feasts and seasons to help us celebrate and understand more fully the entire mystery of Jesus Christ. We also use it to share in our Christian identity together. While making the Advent wreaths, parents who were helping spoke candidly with the children about their memories of wreaths when they were growing up. Children then shared their excitement about being able to lead their family's new tradition. While making Lenten pretzels, the children asked questions about fasting, and why Christians do it. One child mentioned how her Muslim friend from school would fast for Ramadan, and how she thought it was nice to be able to do something she felt was just as meaningful.

Children want to be a part of our faith; not just in Church School, but in all aspects of their spiritual life. By sharing the joy of liturgical practices with them as a part of their faith formation, we help them grow not just in mind and spirit, but in community with their church as well.

**THE
GUELPH
CONNECTIONS
CONCERTS**

Spring Cycle Begins May 7
Concerts take place Tuesdays
at 4:30 pm
at St. George's
Free admission



Holy Week Service Schedule

March 24 Palm Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)

March 27 Mid-Week Service: 10:00 am (BAS)

March 28 Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm (BAS)

March 29 Good Friday: 10:30 am (BAS)

March 31 Easter Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)



Soup & Buns LUNCH

Sign up to bring a crockpot of soup to share! (sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the cloister) **AND/OR** come and enjoy lunch in Mitchell Hall for a freewill offering!

APRIL 7
after
church



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

RUMMAGE SALE

Donation Drop Off April 18 & 19 1:00pm-8:00pm

April 20, 2024 | 8:00am - 1:00pm | 99 Woolwich St.

Upcoming Events

Ecumenical Campus Ministry Community Supper - April 3 at 5:00 pm

Soup and Buns Lunch - April 7 - after the 10:30 am service

Historical Society Meeting - April 10 at 7:00 pm

Rummage Sale - April 20 - 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Saturday Night Suppers - April 27

Guelph Connections Concerts - Tuesdays at 4:30 pm, starting May 7

Church School Easter Plans

St. George's Church School is planning to run a full program for children's ministry this Holy Week. The following programming includes:

March 24 - Palm Sunday (10:30 am)

Palm Sunday will include a full lesson with our children. As is our routine, children will gather in our classroom and begin their lesson with a Children's Focus at the front of our church. They will spend the rest of the lesson learning about the importance of Holy Week and the sacrifice that Jesus made.

March 28 - Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)

While there will be no formal Church School lesson on Maundy Thursday, we still wish to invite all our parishioners to attend. Maundy Thursday commemorates the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death, and it's an important observance that reaffirms the importance of our Eucharist. Children are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

March 29 - Good Friday (10:30 am)


Good Friday will see a special lesson for children take place in our classroom for the duration of the service. Children will learn about the death of Jesus in a format that is both engaging and suitable for children.

Also, please send your child with a favourite toy (not a security toy or sleep aid, please!) since we will be leaving them in the church until Sunday.

March 31 - Easter Sunday (10:30 am)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! For the celebration of our most important festival, we will have children sit with their families for our service. We will have small activity kits, as well as the family space, available for our youngest parishioners to stay busy. There will also be an extra special Children's Focus at the beginning of the sermon for all children in attendance.





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