

THE ANCHOR

*Learning
to follow
Jesus Christ.*

December 10 — December 16

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

No Room at the Inn? How to register for our Christmas Services!

Sunday by Sunday this Fall, we've been able to accommodate walk-ins who were unable to pre-register for a given worship service. With (Christmas) demand almost certain to exceed (seating) supply, we've needed to take a different approach.

The gospels tell us: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered...." And, to make a long story short, Joseph's wi-fi was down and Mary had zoom fatigue, so they were a bit late registering and, well, we all know how that paragraph ends: "...there was no room for them in the inn."

Building on that rich, 2000 year legacy of 'registering for Christmas,' attendance at our in-person Christmas services this season will be *by registration only*. In order to safely seat as many folks as possible, you **must** register ahead of time (and receive confirmation of the same) in order to attend.

Here's how this is going to work: An email will be sent to our Anchor distribution list on **Monday, December 13**, inviting you to sign up for **1 (and only one)** of our 3 **in-person Christmas services**. That is, we invite you/your household to decide ahead of time which one of our 3 in-person services you want to attend (i.e., Christmas Eve 7 pm, Christmas Eve 9 pm, Christmas Day 10 am). Of course, you may wish to tune into our Christmas Eve 4 pm Zoom service, or to watch the live-stream of our Christmas Eve 7 pm service any time you like...registration applies only to our in-person services. Registration will close by midnight on Monday, December 20, or as soon as registration is full, whichever comes sooner.

Once registered, your name will show up on a seating chart and you'll have your very own portion of a pew assigned to you. If, having registered, you find yourself unable to attend for any reason, please be in touch with **Jade** immediately in the office so that we can allow another to fill your reserved spot (jacuna@stclements-church.org).

Should you need to phone-in your service registration, you may leave a message for Jade at **(416) 483-6664 x224**.

Thank you for working with us to ensure we can make room in the inn for as many as possible!

Yours truly in Christ,
Andrew (Rector)



Church in the Car

We're grateful for the return of in-person worship and communion the past few months and have loved celebrating the eucharist together. At the same time we know that for some, gathering in-person continues to be a challenge -- those with underlying health concerns or caring for an immunocompromised family member, unvaccinated (or partially vaccinated) children and their families. Online worship continues to be the main mode of worship in these cases, and we are thrilled that technology has allowed us to remain connected. As an extension of our online worship and in recognition that we are held together in this pandemic through the Holy Spirit, we are inviting people to receive Christmas Communion via Church in the Car.

Drive through **the church parking** lot on **Sunday, December 19th** between **1-2pm**, roll down your windows and receive communion and a blessing from a member of our clergy team. And don't worry. If you don't have a car, we're happy to welcome you on foot as well!

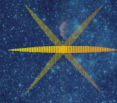
CHURCH IN THE CAR

Sunday Dec 19th
1-2pm
St. Clement's Parking Lot

Drive up to receive
Christmas Communion
and blessing from Clergy

Geared to those not yet able to attend in-person.





— ADVENT — at St. Clement's

SUNDAYS

9:30 AM ZOOM

11AM IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM

WEDNESDAYS

8:30 AM ZOOM

- On **Christmas Eve** at **4pm**, we'll host an online-only zoom service with the season's-best scriptures and wonderful carols. This shorter, kid-friendly service will feature simpler language in an accessible format for everybody. Invite a friend!
- On **Christmas Eve** at both **7** and **9 pm**, we're offering two *identical in-person services*. The 7 pm service will be live-streamed and available shortly after the service for viewing anytime during the season. Both services will feature favourite congregational carols, beautiful choral pieces, and communion.
- On **Christmas Day** at **10 am**, we'll host a combined in-person and live-streamed service, capturing the joy of Christmas morning.
- On **Sunday, Dec 26**, we're offering a single, **10am** in-person service of morning prayer. This service will not be live-streamed. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Christmas at St. Clement's!

"Is the Christmas story just something that happened a long time ago...or is it a story that is still happening today?" That's a quote from the book we're reading together as a parish, [Honest Advent](#).

Advent means "arrival" or "coming." As the author says, "all our sacred liturgies and services...are just the visible mechanics that help us get to the invisible essence of the love of God." We invite you to join us in making visible the love of God this Advent and Christmas.

- **Wednesdays at 8:30am**, join us via Zoom for a weekly image and reflection from our Honest Advent book, led by our Clergy.
- Our **Advent Sundays** (Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12, Dec 19) feature the lighting of our Advent wreath and the evocative music of the season. 9:30 Church at Home & 11 am in-person and live-streamed.
- On **Dec 19 at 11am**, we feature the return of our popular Lessons & Carols service, featuring our phenomenal choir and the newly-announced return of congregational singing! In-person and live-streamed for all to enjoy.



YOU ARE INVITED TO



Christmas at St. Clement's

FRIDAY
24 DECEMBER

4PM

OVER ZOOM & KID FRIENDLY

7PM

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED

9PM

IN-PERSON

SATURDAY
25 DECEMBER

10AM

IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED

STCLEMENTS-CHURCH.ORG

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Message from the Wardens

We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing generosity of our St. Clement's community which enables us to continue the good work in our mission to learn to follow Jesus Christ. As we look towards 2022, we are asking you to consider [increasing your annual pledge by 3%](#), and contributing monthly by Pre-Authorized Giving or Credit Card. Monthly contributions really help our budgeting process in terms of planning out our commitments both at St. Clements and in the community. We are grateful to partner with you in our shared mission of learning to follow Jesus Christ.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Ministry update

Earlier this fall we asked for parent feedback around the shape of Children's Ministry in our current climate. We followed up with a parent zoom night to talk out what was shared. Here is a snapshot of what we learned:

- The transition back to in-person school has been tough
- While there is an appreciation that online Children's ministry is offered, for the vast majority of kids, online isn't doable anymore. The kids are zoomed out.
- The vast majority of parents are not ready to come back to in-person, indoor worship at this time. This will change as vaccinations for kids roll out.
- Kids are missing connection with other kids from church.
- More than half of families would connect in-person as families if we offered a way to connect outside.



Given all of this, as of December:

- We will begin to offer outside Children's Ministry opportunities for families (parents/grandparents & kids) that align with current COVID guidelines.
- We hope to add more opportunities for outside connection throughout the winter months!
- We will be pressing pause on weekly Sunday online Children's Ministry. We offer our sincere thanks to our incredible volunteers who have kept this ministry going the past four months

With vaccination of children under 12 beginning, we are hopeful that parents will be ready to head back to in-person as more families are fully vaccinated. We are looking forward to a renewed time for Children's Ministry in the months to come and remain committed to engaging our youngest members of St. Clement's in learning to follow Jesus.

Children's Ministry: Outside Family Edition

Thanks to everyone who came out Sunday afternoon! It was a beautiful time of play and prayer for our children who have not had any in-person experiences together since pre-pandemic. As we said our final prayer and listened to Mary's Boy Child/O My Lord by Boney M, the flurries began to fall from the sky!

Watch your in-box and The Anchor for our next outside Children's Ministry experience in the new year.



Youth Ministry updates

We will be pausing Online Tuesday Youth Group for December. We will provide an updated Tuesday Youth Group plan in the New Year!

Our Youth Minister Mackenzie will be preaching at both services on December 12th, and we will have Youth participating in the 11am service as readers and intercessors! We will not be going up to the Youth Room on this day but we invite all of our youth to engage with the entire main service, and to take some notes about the main focus of the sermon!

There will be **no Youth Ministry** on **Boxing Day (Sunday December 26th)** or **Sunday January 2nd**. We hope you enjoy your Christmas holidays and find some time to relax!

Through December, Youth Ministry will be working through an Advent Workbook that the youth can take home.

Please contact our Youth Minister Mackenzie if you would like to bring home a copy to a young person who doesn't normally attend Youth Ministry!



REACHING OUT

Newcomers (Refugees): Calling for Donations

Our current situation: St. Clement's parish has a long and very generous history of supporting refugees from other countries in turmoil including displaced persons from Vietnam, Somalia, Syria and Eritrea, just to name a few. ***We are writing now to ask you to support this work again.***

Our most recent history: Our Refugee Committee made an appeal to the parish in 2015 to raise funds to sponsor Syrian refugees, a country in great devastating upheaval at the time. We received a tremendous response from our parishioners -- **\$125,000**. With these donations, our Church was able to support directly and indirectly a dozen newcomers to Canada.

What about the people in Afghanistan? A number of St. Clement's congregants have stated that they want to support Afghan people who are now in danger as a result of the withdrawal of US and Canadian troops and the resurgence of the Taliban. We have been monitoring this situation and would like to be in a position to support one or more Afghans in the new year to resettle in Canada.

Why donate? Your Newcomers (Refugee), Outreach Committees and a number of individuals want to step up and continue to play an active role in refugee resettlement. **To what level will depend on YOU.** We are still committed to supporting Maharatab, from Eritrea. However, with enough donations, we would be able also to support an Afghan refugee or even a family.

So please prayerfully consider this need. **Please donate.** Send your financial donations to the church, clearly marked "**For Refugees**". For more information, please contact either Linda Kurdydyk at lkurdydyk@rogers.com or Nancyhoodj@gmail.com. *Your level of generosity will determine our plans going forward. Thank you all for reaching out to love our neighbours.*



Angel Tree Christmas

We are pleased to let you know that our parishioners have signed up for all of the 120 children of Angel Tree Christmas. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Please be sure to bring your gifts to the church no later than Sunday the 12th or directly to Heather Goodall (416-486-1292), so we can mail and personally deliver them in time for Christmas!