

March 11 — March 17

Spring Forward: A Pastoral Letter from our Rector

This past week, we buried a lifelong member of our parish and we baptised a child of more recent members. Simple sacraments made all the more profound because we've been prohibited from performing them for much of the past two years.

Lent means "spring," even if it doesn't always feel like it. This coming Sunday - the Second Sunday of Lent - marks the two year anniversary of the closing of our church building to public worship. Two years since we've worshipped in a way that felt "normal."

As I write to you, the Province of Ontario has announced it will soon be lifting its longstanding mask mandate. The Diocese of Toronto has eliminated capacity limits and contact tracing in our churches. Even through the remnants of ice and snow, I saw some crocuses today - popping up their curious green heads above the soil. Tentative or confident? I'm not sure which. But spring is here, and it almost feels like it.



As a parish, we're popping up our heads too. Testing out what life might look like beyond winter's long hibernation. What it might feel like to spring forward after so much standing still. Some feeling tentative, others confident, many of us a healthy dose of both.

In the two weeks since our vestry meeting, I've spoken with a number of parishioners regarding their hopes for the future. I am hearing the desire to know a more detailed timeline for next steps in reopening; the longing for more face-to-face connection; the opportunity to feel seen and heard; the excitement to volunteer and serve once again.

With an eye to our evolving Diocesan guidelines, this is what I am seeing as I look ahead:

- **Survey and Consultation:** We will survey our entire parish list to gain first-person feedback re: service times, readiness to return in-person, willingness to serve, etc. **The survey will be sent out via email the week of March 28**, with responses due within the week. **On April 6, I will gather Parish Council - plus a select group of key volunteers - to review the survey results and to determine next steps within each of our 5 strategic plan opportunities** (e.g., The Worship Experience, Deepening Relationships, etc.). Sometime after Holy Week, we will communicate the survey results and strategic next steps to the parish. This will include a decision re: dates and details for returning to two in-person Sunday services.
- **In-Person Services:** We will return to 2 in-person Sunday morning services, both accessible remotely via zoom and/or livestream. This will happen after Holy Week and in consultation with the community. We will maintain the unique musical style and tone of each (e.g. 'relaxed' vs. 'classic' vibe). **We will settle upon service times that foster the widest possible participation** of people from across our neighbourhood and city.
- **Children and Youth:** We will develop a transition plan for children's and youth ministry that honours parents' and families' varying comfort levels with in-person gatherings, while targeting where we wish to go as a community.

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- **Hospitality and Safety:** We are in the process of tidying, rearranging, and cleaning our building (inside and out) to be as welcoming as possible to all. Effective immediately, we **no longer require pre-registration** for services; contact tracing will not be taken; screening for covid symptoms is done passively via posted entrance signage; **capacity limits have been lifted** and all may sit where they feel most comfortable; those leading readings, prayers, or preaching are allowed to remove their mask for the purposes of liturgical speaking (when stationary and at a 4m distance from others); **all others must remain masked** for the time being.
- **Coffee Hour:** Once the weather improves and restrictions ease further, we will begin coffee hour fellowship outside on the terrace following each Sunday morning service. We intend to continue this practice as long as possible into the Fall.
- **Holy Week:** Holy Week services will be a combination of in-person and online as follows:

Palm Sunday

9:30am Church at Home

11am In-person & Live-streamed

Wednesday

8:30 am Morning Prayer online

Maundy Thursday & Youth Vigil

7pm In-person & Live-streamed or zoom

(Youth Vigil continues in-person until 12am)

Good Friday

10am In-person & Live-streamed

Service of the Easter Light

7pm In-person & Live-streamed

Easter Day

9:30 Church at Home

11am In-person & Live-streamed



It is Lent. It is Spring. And it's beautiful to catch a glimpse of resurrection on the horizon.

Yours Truly in Christ,

The Rev. Andrew Federle
Rector
St. Clement's Church, Toronto

Wednesday Morning Prayer

Join us over Zoom at 8:30 AM
every Wednesday during Lent.

Visit stclementsto.ca for links.



Spring Forward

Remember to set your clock one
hour forward on Sunday!



Lenten Giving: Week 2—Refugees

Your donations will go directly to refugee support as well as to the agencies which enable resettlement.

We donate to organizations such as AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) which is planning resources needed to support the influx of Afghan refugees.

Click [here](#) for the full blog post! Donate through CanadaHelps by clicking [here](#).

Russian Invasion of Ukraine: What can we do as a parish?

What can I do? How can I respond?

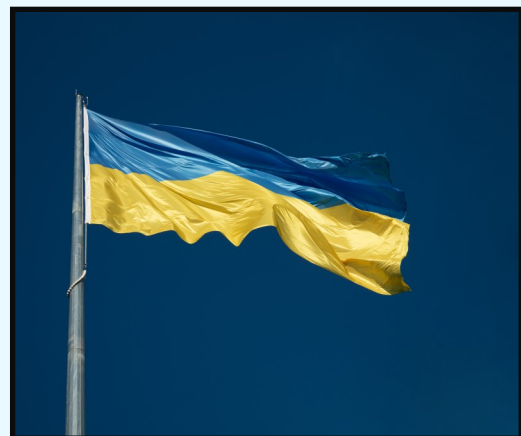
Sometimes as an individual, it is difficult to know how to respond to overwhelming global situations. Over the past few weeks, people have been shocked and horrified by the events taking place in Ukraine. The estimates are that over 2M Ukrainians have already fled their country for safety to nearby countries. As Andrew mentioned in last Sunday's services, we are all invited to contribute to meet the challenge of raising \$100,000 to provide support for these refugees. Making a donation is very easy as you can choose one of the following methods that works best for you, just please be sure to note "Ukraine Refugee crisis" on your donation regardless of the method you use:

- Visit stclementsto.ca/donate. There are several options; on-line, by text, e-transfer or through pre-authorized credit card giving.
- Place a cheque or cash in an envelope and add it to Sunday's collection plate or mail or drop it in the secured mailbox at the 70 St. Clements Avenue entrance. The cheque should be made payable to "St. Clement's Church"

We continue to pray for a quick path to peace for both Ukrainians and Russians. We share the following prayer written by Archbishop Justin Welby.

*God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them,
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.*

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Charge to Vestry

"Now more than ever, we need to be able to say clearly and succinctly why we exist as the church of God. - Andrew Federle

Click [here](#) to watch the full charge to vestry and [here](#) to listen on SoundCloud.

Meet our new lay leaders for 2022 by clicking [here](#).



Children's Ministry



Parents! Grandparents!

Download our weekly colouring sheets with family activity & prayer!

In our Friday Anchor email & Sunday reminder email.

Not getting emails?
We can sign you up! Please connect with Mackenzie:
mbassimpson@stclementsto.ca



Passages

What a joy it was to celebrate the baptism of James Lennon Kuriyan on March 6th during the 11am service!

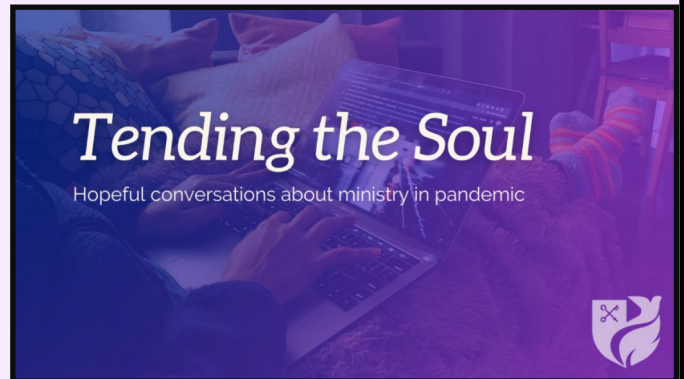
Pictured here, big sister Lilah helps Rev. Pam pour the water into the baptismal font.



Tending the Soul

Bishop Andrew is inviting the Diocese to dream together about where God is leading us through this pandemic and beyond. "Tending the Soul" is a series of honest and hopeful conversations for the Church and its leaders about ministry in this time. What's changed and what are we learning? Where are we finding abundance in the face of disruption? What do we imagine for the future?

Each hour-long session will include a conversation between church leaders, both lay and ordained, on a particular topic, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Together we'll share what's tough in ministry these days, what we've discovered about best practices, and how we see the future unfolding.

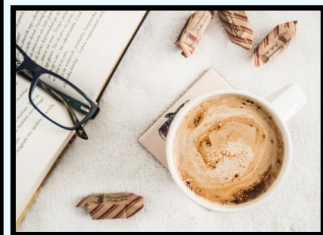


There will be nine conversations on Thursdays at noon, with a break around Easter:

- March 10: Where are we now? Highlights of what we've learned, two years later
- March 17: Visioning and planning in transition
- March 24: Talking about money
- March 31: Reconnecting with our congregations: the art of pastoral visiting & dealing with pandemic grief
- April 28: Speaking to the spirit: the church as a safe place for questions about meaning & purpose
- May 5: Ministry with children, youth & families
- May 12: Digital communications, websites & social media
- May 19: Stories of Generosity: the transformative impact of giving
- May 26: Adult education in an age of Zoom burn-out

You can choose to attend any or all of the sessions.

They will be live streamed to the diocesan [Facebook page](#).
Bishop Andrew, Bishop Riscylla and Bishop Kevin



Andrew Federle will be away on holiday through March 17.