

December 17 — December 24

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.

We invite 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:

- [Christmas Eve 7 pm \(7 spots left\)](#)
- [Christmas Eve 9 pm \(17 spots left\)](#)
- [Christmas Day 10 am \(39 spots left\)](#)

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.

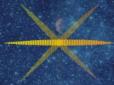
Once registered, your name will show up on a seating chart and you'll have your very own portion of a pew assigned to you. If, having registered, you find yourself unable to attend for any reason, please be in touch with **Jade** immediately in the office so that we can allow another to fill your reserved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





—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.
- **Please note** that we've updated the format of our Sunday service on **December 26**: We will still be offering a single service at **10 am**. However, we will be gathering **online only** (via zoom) and **not** in-person. There will be no in-person services that day. We believe this virtual format will offer greater impact and reach this year and 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

4PM
OVER ZOOM & KID FRIENDLY

FRIDAY
24 DECEMBER

7PM
IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED

9PM
IN-PERSON

SATURDAY
25 DECEMBER

10AM
IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED

STCLEMENTS-CHURCH.ORG

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

\$150,000 to go! Help us 'mind the gap'

Thank you for your generous 2021 donations. To ensure any 2021 cheque and cash donations are credited to your 2021 tax receipt, please submit them preferably by **December 30th, 2021, but no later than January 7, 2022**, ensuring they are dated December 31, 2021. Please feel free to drop any donations off to our mailbox, located at the St. Clement's entrance. A bank deposit will be made on December 30th.

Any other types of donation (eg. e-transfers) must be received by December 31, 2021 in order to receive credit on your 2021 tax receipt. Many thanks for your support!

As at the end of November, we were reporting a budget shortfall of \$62,000. Our December budget calls for contributions of \$214,000, of which we have received \$64,000 (as at December 17). **We've got another \$150,000 to go to meet our budget for year-end.** We look forward to and appreciate your Christmas donations and thank you so much for partnering with us to transform lives!



CHRISTMAS GIVING

Donate now- it's easy!

- Go to **stclements-church.org/give/**
- E-Transfer to **finance@stclements-church.org**
- Text GIVE to **(647) 498-7997**
- Mail/drop off your **cheque** to our secure mailbox outside the 70 St. Clement's entrance



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS REMINDERS:

We will not have Youth Ministry on December 26 2021 and January 2 2022

Please join the full services in the sanctuary on those Sundays!

We are so grateful for how we saw God's faithfulness in our Youth Ministry in 2021. Thank you for joining us both online and in person this past year.

We hope that you have a wonderful and joyful Christmas, and we look forward to learning to follow Jesus together in 2022!



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.



REACHING OUT

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.