



And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my saviour...”
Luke 1:46-47, NRSV

October 3, 2025

Dear Friends,

How do you feel when someone tells you their story? In my experience, time seems to stop. It happens when there is a newcomer in our church. I experience a blessing when someone I have known for a while lets down the walls of privacy to say, “Here is what I have been through.” I hear stories of making it through great challenges to be in a better place. There are times when I see someone sleeping on a street corner and I wonder what happened along the way that it came to this. When we have church events – you may have noticed we have many church events – I hope we are creating memories that become stories of blessing. At St John’s we are creating stories with children, young adults, newcomers to Canada – with people at every age and stage of life. We are all storytellers.

Week by week, our church tells the stories of a loving God. God began by creating and invites us to join in the ongoing creation of beauty, loving relationships, and a world that is more compassionate and just. We are invited and involved as we retell stories of Jesus as Son of God, beginning from his birth as told in the scriptures.

Luke’s Gospel with our Christmas stories of angels, shepherds, and the manger, is bookended by the storytelling of two women named Mary. Early in the Gospel, Mary the mother of Jesus, tells us of her encounter with the Divine who informs her that she will bear a child who will change the world. She proclaims her joy: “Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!” At the end of the Gospel, Mary Magdalene, visits the tomb to discover it empty and receives instructions from the Risen Christ to go tell the others. She is the first storyteller of the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus.

What is your Good News - the idea, dream, challenge placed in your heart by God, that needs to be shared? What is the ministry to which you are called that will share your talents, gifts, and love with your neighbors?

Our Stewardship Campaign this year focuses on these stories – the ones inside us, the ones we are still writing, the ones we tell about those who have gone before us. We are all a part of this continuous story. Throughout the campaign, hear the stories that relate the creative sparks within us to the ways we are called to serve God and love our neighbour. As you pray about how you will share your gifts with us this year, think about how God is calling you to tell out your soul.

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Gary' followed by a plus sign.