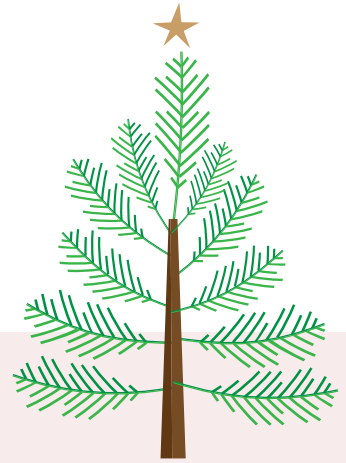


November 30, 2021



Message from the Moderator of General Assembly

When our children were little, we had an Advent routine. In the evening, we would light the appropriate candles on our Advent wreath. We would read from a children's book that featured a different scripture reading for each day, and then we would sing a song together. We also created a manger scene. In the beginning, we used pieces of Duplo (a toddler version of LEGO) to create our crèche. We put the pieces together to form a manger and had animals around it. We had a figurine for Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus.

Our children would play with the Duplo manger scene and retell the story in their own way. Then, at one point, the baby Jesus was lost. We looked everywhere but couldn't find him.

Months later, well past Christmas, we heard our eldest calling loudly, with his toddler accent, "I found Jesus! I found Jesus!" (It sounded more like, "I found Jeju! I found Jeju!") When he presented the long-lost Duplo figure, we realized what he was so excited about. Indeed, he had found Jesus.

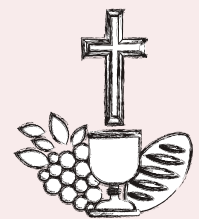
Thinking about the Christmas story, I realize there were others who needed help to find the baby. The angels announced to the shepherds "abiding in their fields keeping watch over their flocks by night" that they would, "find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Evidently, the angels were quite convincing. We read, "they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger."...

Finding a leader in a manger or finding a grown man risen from the dead, for some, seems nonsensical. Maybe we need the sense of a toddler. Maybe we will find Jesus during this Advent and Christmas season in ways we don't expect.

[Read the whole reflection here](#)

This Sunday, we will celebrate Holy Communion.
All believers are welcome at the table at St. Andrew's.



Did you know that today is St. Andrew's Day? Learn more about celebrations in Scotland and abroad by [clicking here](#).

An Invitation from our Jewish Neighbours

Join Congregation Emanu-El on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at 5 pm in Centennial Square for an evening of joy, music, and light, as we honour the tremendous work of Rev Al. Together, we will light one of British Columbia's largest Hanukkah menorahs. We'll dance to the music of the phenomenal Yiddish Columbia State Orchestra, amazing Klezmerim! Munch a sufganiyah (traditional Hanukkah donut) and experience light, joy, and the holiday spirit!

Financial donations or the donation of non-perishable foods for the Food Bank at St. John the Divine would be most welcome at the event. Do not attend if you are unwell, wear a mask, be aware of physical distance guidelines and we would appreciate if those age 12+ were vaccinated.



Share the Joy

St. Andrew's congregation and adherents contribute to our Share the Joy of Christmas program each year to provide a brighter Christmas to those who are struggling financially in Greater Victoria. Our goal in 2021 is to give hampers to fifteen needy families (approximately 60 persons). It costs \$147 to fill a hamper, \$5 more than last year. Remember, you can donate through your envelopes, on the church website or by mailing a cheque.



We Need You!

Are you willing and able to assist us in welcoming people as an usher at our Sunday services or for special services like Christmas Eve? If so, please contact Bruce Wasylick (bwasylik@shaw.ca) or speak to Sheelagh or Roger on Sunday.

Those who welcome us each Sunday and help to keep our services as safe as possible by following Covid protocols are an important and appreciated part of our team. Please consider joining this important ministry!

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday. Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.

2022 Offering Envelopes



Leona will be handing out offering envelopes by the Douglas street door on Sunday, December 5th.



Read From Your Bible This Week

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

