



Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

Like me you were probably overwhelmed by multiple appeals on giving Tuesday. Here at the cathedral every day is giving day, not just money – though you will note that Corporation is asking you to make a pledge for next year, and the Music Committee is hoping you'll make a generous donation to the Cathedral's music ministry at the Sing Along Messiah – but also giving of self in prayer, participation and service to the parish and to the greater community. You can read about these opportunities in this newsletter.

Some of us were privileged to attend the beautiful service of readings and carols for Advent last Sunday, Advent Sunday. On the last Sunday in Advent, December 22 at 4:00 pm, you are invited to the equally moving Lessons and Carols of Christmas. Tell all your friends!

Another musical tradition at the cathedral is the Sing Along presentation of the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah. The singing will start at 4:00 pm on Saturday, December 14, but do arrive much earlier in order to find your singing section or your audience pew and to hear Jonathan's introduction at 3:30 pm. There will be some scores available, but bring your own if you can – and bring friends! Have a look at Boran's video of the choir rehearsing <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL/videos/440181070001455/>

To make sure there is beauty in holiness, Edward invites you to join the cathedral polishers this Saturday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and Deborah reminds us that we need people to launder the linens. If you would like to make a donation for Christmas flowers in thanksgiving or remembrance please contact Vera Burt, or leave a message at the office.

A small team of people prepare and serve the refreshments for coffee hour every Sunday. Could you volunteer to help one Sunday a month?

Our regular teams of stewards need some help over Christmas when many of our parishioners are out of town but our services are filled with visitors. It doesn't matter if you've never been a steward. An experienced captain will show you what to do. The main requirement is a friendly smile and a greeting as you hand out the service sheets. Give your name to Bob King or Ann Elbourne.

The cathedral offers opportunities to deepen our spiritual life through prayer and study. For young adult groups please contact Jean-Daniel. For information about the English bible study group talk to Ann or Jane. We will meet on January 22 to talk about parables. Deborah is putting together a new group which will begin meeting in January. Here is her message:

A Deeper Well

This January, [Deborah Meister](#) is launching a covenanted small-group intended to help those who wish to grow in spirit and are willing to commit to an integrative experience of contemplative and intellectual formation. This will be limited to 12 participants; contact Deborah for more information or to enroll. Anglophone, Monday evenings at 6:30, starting January 6th. Preference will be given to those newer to the faith. Other interested persons will be added as space allows, or in a second group to begin in Lent.

You can also participate in the Gospel of John webinar, offered through Dio, January 13th, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Register here: <https://montrealdio.ca/courses/john/>

And then there is the needy and hurting world beyond our walls. For example, the devastation of the Earth's environment has been described as the "greatest human rights challenge of our times.". This Saturday ESJAG invites you to join them for lunch and a discussion of a new and hopeful Finnish plan for "ecological restoration". Noon to 2:30 pm, on December 7th, in the St Anselm chapel. Everyone is welcome. RSVP appreciated but not essential. Link to Finnish material <https://eco.bios.fi/>

This Sunday the Fair Trade Kiosque, supporting justice for farmers and artisans in the third world, will be open during coffee hour.

Also this Sunday, led by Gabrielle Boyd, we will observe Amnesty International's annual "Write for Rights" campaign. Last year, Amnesty sent more than 5.9 million letters, emails, tweets and solidarity messages to help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion, stop the use of torture, commute death sentences and end other human rights abuses. This year, they're throwing their might behind young people who are firefighting some of the world's biggest crises. Many have stepped in where adults have failed, and are facing terrible danger as a result. Gabrielle will supply stationery and profiles of young people and hopes you will write one or more letters of advocacy for your chosen individual. For information on the French campaign ctrl/click [Amnistie](#)

Here in Canada, particularly in the north, there are young people in desperate need of support. Suicide rates have reached epidemic proportions, especially among indigenous youth. As an Advent project the PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) is partnering with the Anglican Church of Canada's Indigenous Ministries Suicide Prevention Programme. Our PWRDF representative, Peggy Simpson, can tell you more about the project. She urges you to read about it here <https://www.anglican.ca/im/spp/>

While you're at the Montreal Anglican website take a look at the diocesan e letter which this week is full of Advent and Christmas events and also contains a description of the assistant verger position open at the cathedral. Ewen has replaced Jen, but head verger John is still looking for a replacement for Eric, 10 or 11 hours, mostly at the weekend.

Let us therefore celebrate Advent with music, prayer, action and hope, remembering the promise in the Gospel of John, *God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:16-17)* These are the words in the motet by Sir John Stainer which will be sung on Sunday.

Ann Elbourne
December 5, 2019