

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,

I hope you are all enjoying the dog days of summer and keeping safe. When the pandemic began the clergy at the cathedral swung immediately into action to support and connect members of the community. We are immensely grateful for their caring leadership. With fall and winter getting closer there will be some changes. Here's an important message from Deborah,

When Montreal first went into Covid lockdown, way back in March (has it really been only eight months?), the Cathedral formed a number of online small groups to ensure that our members would have ways to support one another during this difficult time. These small groups have been life-giving spaces of conversation, learning, sharing, joy, and mutual care, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has hosted or participated in one of them. At this point, however, they have been running for a long time, and our wonderful hosts and facilitators need a break. In order to support our volunteers, we are going to suspend our small groups from September 18th until Harvest Thanksgiving. During that time, we will assess our groups and plan to launch a new set of groups which can nurture our members through what is likely to be a challenging winter. I know this "break" may feel a bit disorienting to some of you who have participated regularly, and I encourage you to phone one another, meet for physically-distanced tea in parks (if that is prudent for you), and keep in touch by other means. Our midweek services of Morning and Evening Prayer will continue to meet each week; we hope you will join us there.

We have been grateful to our music team for continuing to produce beautiful music. You can sample the offerings here <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/music/covid/#>

Jonathan and Nick have gradually put together a fascinating series about the psalms and hymns we sing in church.

Jonathan posts a copy of the words and music of each psalm he is singing. You can just listen or try to sing along – a really good workout for the brain!



Nick has just posted the last of his series on the composers and librettists of some well known and more obscure hymns. The images and historical surveys are intriguing. You can find the complete series by clicking this link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6l\\_c7GtcFuVJO7fOXtvBCCRcK0lFgNKh&fbclid=IwARlgcNjcldBXDhfnqogMzBsXOdIAOsnejoizeldQKdUttj2qcyLeLNpdU-0](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6l_c7GtcFuVJO7fOXtvBCCRcK0lFgNKh&fbclid=IwARlgcNjcldBXDhfnqogMzBsXOdIAOsnejoizeldQKdUttj2qcyLeLNpdU-0)

This weekend **Le conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec** is holding tours and open houses at various religious sites. Jane, Ann and Bertrand have put together an audio-tour taking people round the outside of the cathedral which can be downloaded onto a phone in English or in French. This is hosted on the Izi-Travel app, and will go live on Friday. Starting very soon, you will be able to see the tour on the cathedral website. We don't often look closely at the exterior of the church, so perhaps you'd like to take the tour yourself or pass it on to a friend.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MONTREAL, CANADA EAST.



This Sunday, September 13th, we will be observing the **Feast of the Holy Cross**. Thank you Deborah for the following description. The Emperor Constantine, who first made it legal to be a Christian, erected an enormous church at the site of the Holy Sepulchre, work which was conducted under the direction of his mother, the Empress Helena. Helena had a keen interest in sacred archaeology, and an impressive track record of finding exactly what she set out to discover. Among those items was a relic believed by the church to be that of the True Cross.

Constantine & Helena: Picture courtesy of Orthodox Church of America

Holy Cross Day, September 14th, is the date of consecration of Constantine's church. The feast itself commemorates the Cross as an instrument of saving grace and reminds us of the depth of God's love for us, that he was willing to pay such a price for our redemption. The fact that the Cross of our salvation was an instrument of torture also reveals God's power to work good even through our most grievous failures. The 6th-century poet Fortunatus captures these paradoxes in his famous poem on the Cross, which includes these words:

Faithful cross! above all other,  
one and only noble tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
none in fruit thy peer may be:  
sweetest wood and sweetest iron!  
sweetest weight is hung on thee.

Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory!  
Thy relaxing sinews bend;  
for awhile the ancient rigor  
that thy birth bestowed, suspend;  
and the King of heavenly beauty  
gently on thine arms extend.

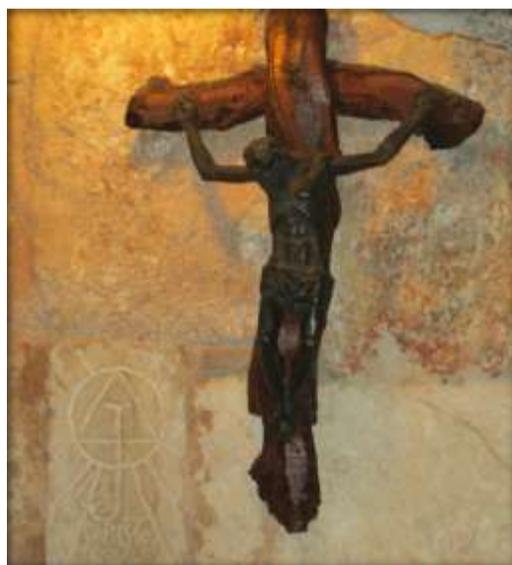


Photo by Ann in Church of the Holy Sepulchre Jerusalem

### **News about People**

First, a warm welcome to, **Tevfik Karatop**, a seminarian currently studying at Dio who will be serving his In Ministry Year with us. The In Ministry Year allows a seminarian to enter into the life of a parish, to practice leading and participating in a number of ministries (chosen on the basis of what each seminarian wishes to learn and the needs of the host site) with structures in place to foster action/reflection learning. Tevfik will also be completing additional coursework at Dio. He will be working under the direction of Deborah Meister and with the support of a lay committee chaired by Meg Graham. We will welcome him into our life on September 20th. You can read about him below:



*I'm Tevfik Karatop, a third-year Master of Divinity student at Montreal Diocesan Theological College (Dio) I'm a candidate for the ordained ministry at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). I had the privilege of studying at the Diocesan College as a concrete sign of the full communion between the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada. At this stage of my discernment and formation, I'm hoping to continue to discern, pray, and worship with the congregation of the Christ Church Cathedral. In prayer and excitement, I'm looking forward to becoming part of the vibrant community life at the Cathedral.*

*As a native of Turkey, I grew up in a Muslim family in Istanbul. My road to the good news of Jesus Christ was prefaced by different experiences in cultural studies, anthropology and marketing in the U.K., Turkey, Dubai and Qatar. Four years ago, Montreal became my home as many Lutherans and Anglicans opened their hearts and lives while I was settling in a new country. I humbly ask your prayers as I embark on a new journey in my discernment and formation.*

Welcome to another **Cathedral baby**: Last week, parents Sarah and Nathan, and big brother Olivier, who primarily attend the Cathedral@6 service and at children's church, welcomed a healthy son and little brother, **Marcel**.

Ben and Erica Stutchbery are looking forward to the baptism of their son Charles, September 21 at 4 pm

Sad news: Diana Cobb, for a time the Secretary of Christ Church Cathedral, died this week at the Lakeshore Hospital after a longish illness. She was the beloved wife of 51 years of the Rev. Cedric Cobb and mother of Camerin. A private interment will be held and a public celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Those of us who are old-timers will remember Diana's lovely smile and friendly welcome in her office which was at the foot of the stairs leading to the chapter house. Cedric was part of the Cathedral's ministry team. I remember an evening in Lent when he read the whole of St John's Gospel to an audience, passionately and beautifully.

There is an opening for an Assistant verger at CCC. See the job posting on the web <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/2020/09/job-posting-assistant-verger/>

Members of the English book group reading *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo have been so busy that nobody has finished the book, so our meeting has been postponed to September 27.

Reminder: there is a Bible study featuring Food led by Gabrielle on Thursday evenings in September and October 1. The first meeting was on September 10, but it's not too late to join future studies.

Forum will be held this coming Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The next newsletter will describe plans for the service in church on September 20. Currently the plan is being assessed by the Diocese.

Ann Elbourne  
September 11, 2020