

Christ Church Cathedral past and present

1900



2020



Christ Church Cathedral has had two spires over the course of its history. The first, seen in the older photo was unstable and taken down in 1920. The new spire, constructed in 1940, is now undergoing extensive renovation to remove the rotting infrastructure.

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Sometimes we might feel a little like that picture of our spire braced and taken apart, but anticipating a glorious reconstruction. Last Sunday we took a step forward towards our reconstruction as a community by holding the first Eucharist in the church since March with an in-person congregation receiving communion. The service was shared on zoom. There were glitches and trouble with the audio, but such joy among people in the church. The Dean has sent a letter to the parish explaining that we are waiting for some professional grade audio equipment which should cure the audio problems. Meanwhile, anyone with technical expertise is invited to help. As Bertrand noted, it will take time and patience to adapt to a new way of attending service, combining in person and zoom congregations without either feeling left out. There will be an opportunity to discuss our reactions at Forum on November 17, by which time we will have experienced three Sunday morning services. Bertrand reminded us that “It is this common prayer of the gathered people of God – albeit sometimes imperfect - that builds us into the community that we are, and which makes visible among us and around us the Christ whom we seek to glorify in all things.” If you didn’t receive the letter please check your junk files and adjust your spam filter.

Another communication you will have received this past week came from the Cathedral Treasurer, updating you on your giving to the Cathedral during 2020, between January 1 and October 31. I don’t need to remind you that we are heavily dependent on the generosity of the community at a time when there are almost no visitors or events in the church.

However, in addition to the three in-person Eucharists at 8 am, 9 am and 10:30 am on Sunday there are now also **Eucharists in the Cathedral at 12:15 pm on Thursday and Friday** as well as **Morning Prayer at 10:05 am on Wednesday**.

The Cathedral is offering many opportunities for worship and reflection, mainly by zoom, to which you can find the links at <https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar/>. I’ll just draw your attention to two new evening sessions. Recently a group has begun meeting Wednesdays at 7 pm for evening prayer and an informal bible discussion, and a new group focused on contemplative prayer is about to start next Tuesday. Deborah asks “Are you hungry for simplicity and peace? Join us on Tuesday, November 10th at 6 pm for the first meeting of our online contemplative prayer group. Bertrand will lead us this month, with a focus on Light in Darkness. No prior experience is necessary; all are welcome to go into their own room (or closet), shut the door, and join in.”

Meanwhile, Jean Daniel continues his ministry to children and young people, with youth-oriented services and bible studies, very important at a time when so many students and young adults are stressed and anxious. Details are on the events calendar.



Please note that the weekly intercessions are posted on the website in English and French for your personal use.

<https://www.montrealcathedral.ca/prayers-for-the-week/>



This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, contentious for people who think we should focus on peace today rather than wars in the past, but I'm old enough to find it an emotional and reflective day, a memory of our history which makes the search for peace more meaningful.

"In Flanders Fields..."

The Cathedral is the garrison church of the Canadian Grenadier Guards. The High Altar is a memorial to the troops who died in World War I and contains a fascinating hidden story which few people know. The carving of the reredos was done in England then assembled in Montreal. The altar is built of Caen stone from Northern France on a platform of Italian marble. The altar slab is marble from Canterbury.

Here's the part we no longer see:
Ten stones in the form of a cross are inlaid in its centre. Four came from Jerusalem; from the Anglican Cathedral, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Mount of Olives. Under this last "Calvary Stone" is a stone from the catacombs in Rome where Christians hid. Four other stones symbolising the spread of Christianity come from Ireland, Iona, Canterbury and Anapolis Royal, an early settlement in Canada. Beneath the Anapolis stone is a small clump of Flanders mud scraped from a photograph of three soldiers picked up on Passchendaele Ridge in October 1917.



WWI War Memorial

After the 10:30 am service this Sunday, November 8, Deborah will start us on the Cathedral's journey to understand racism and our desire to promote anti-racism in support of **The Community God Loves**. This is the first of several opportunities to think together about God's vision for a whole and healed humanity. Tune in at 11:45 am, on the Zoom line for the 10:30 am service.



During the 10:30 am service, we will be remembering Gloria Hall, who died on September 16 and would have been 82 on November 6th. Gloria was associated with the Cathedral for many years, even after she became housebound, crippled with arthritis. Her cousin Joan Dillon has sent these virtual flowers in her memory. Gloria loved Jamaica where this picture was taken.

I have been asked by [ESJAG](#) to remind you that cathedral members are invited to attend the [Monday night Fall Forum](#) organised by Kairos on Climate Justice, part of the diocesan "For the Love of Creation" initiative. English/French translation will be available for all sessions except Nov 16th. Topics, information and registration at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0udu-sqDoqGdD2QWgb58TRsb9zZFAV_XfY.

ESJAG under the leadership of Brenda and Gabrielle, with support from Lisa and Joseph, is also offering some **great ideas for Christmas**. As I mentioned last week, Gabrielle is putting together a **catalogue of alternative gifts** which are ethical, affordable and easily delivered. She is including items crafted by members of the Cathedral Community. If you have an idea or contribution please contact Gabrielle via ann.elbourne@montrealcathedral.ca as soon as possible. The Catalogue will be published in next week's newsletter.





If you're thinking about Christmas baking, remember that there are a number of ingredients you can purchase from the **Fair-Trade Boutique**. Lisa or Joseph will deliver.

You'll find the inventory here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/IRMenh5mth8204T6DQmq5IAPzUN38SiatEn4iXwMb69c/edit#gid=0>

To place an order, please email fairtrade@montrealcathedral.ca with your wish list and Lisa or Joseph will arrange the delivery to your doorstep - no order is too small or too big. Payment is by e-transfer to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca - please be sure to add a note "Fair Trade" - or by cheque.

Join us in welcoming Guest Speaker, Dr. Anna Kim

Assistant Professor in Management for Sustainability at the McGill Desautels Faculty of Management.

Sunday November 15th at 11:45 am

Dr. Kim has been invited by the Ecological and Social Justice Action Group to the Cathedral coffee hour Zoom to speak about fair trade at the intersection of social and ecological sustainability. Having conducted research with fair trade tea, coffee and craft producers in countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Nepal, Dr. Kim has gained firsthand experiences of fair-trade initiatives on the ground. Learn how communities use resources from fair trade to invest in more sustainable futures such as tea producers who maintained beehives for the dry season. Save the date! Bring your questions about fair trade and sustainable development.

[Thank you ESJAG for helping us be socially responsible.](#)

Brenda Linn has shared a poem which reflects the sadness many people feel in early November, particularly perhaps this strange year.

All Souls Morning

All Souls morning,
misty, mild.
Dew shines on dark red berries,
copper leaves.
Briars are bright with rose hips,
and Michaelmas daisies
have turned to tiny puffs of creamy seed.

Trees, half-shrouded,
are more felt than seen
and in the soft air,
grey and gentle as a living thing,
I feel your presence,
all of you,
those whom distance has taken from me,
or time.

And in that presence
pain is so shot through, so intermixed, with joy,
I will protect it,
like a flame
against the coming snow.

May our faith bring us comfort and hope as we wrestle with our anxieties. I'll finish with a prayer from the Epistle to the Colossians 1:11-3



*May you be made strong with all the strength
that comes from God's glorious power,
and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience,
while joyfully giving thanks to the Father,
who has enabled you to share
in the inheritance of the saints in light.
He has rescued us from the power of darkness
and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son*

Ann Elbourne,
with thanks to everyone who contributed and to Elizabeth.
November 6, 2020