

*Come unto me all ye who labour  
and are heavy-laden*



Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Almost certainly all the readers of this letter are concerned with social justice and worry about the health of the Earth. Here at the Cathedral our consciences are regularly pricked by ESJAG, the Ecological and Social Justice Action Group, and we are grateful for the many ways in which they educate and enlighten the community.

SJAG was founded in 2011 with the stated objectives of taking concrete actions and reflecting on what social justice means for us as Christians. Overcoming injustice, they declared, means more than outreach to those in need: it means addressing root causes in order to transform the unjust structures of the world. God requires justice and calls us to participate in bringing all people into right relationships with each other and with *all* of nature. In 2018 SJAG was renamed ESJAG to reflect concerns for ecological justice.

In January 2012 Forum recommended that the Social Justice Action Group should take the lead in suggesting recipients of the social outreach budget and also be responsible for educating and involving the congregation. It was decided that half the grant money should be allocated to outreach beyond Montreal via the work of the PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) and the rest should be given to one or more local organisations who fit the criteria of being centred on social justice, effective, accountable, in financial need, connected to the Diocese. This year Corporation increased the Outreach donation budget for 2021 to \$10,000. In June, we sent \$5,000 to PWRDF. The other 50% - \$5,000 is for local outreach, allowing us to partner with local agencies which meet the criteria outlined above.

There will be a very important meeting hosted on zoom by ESJAG at 5 pm on Monday, November 15, when there will be a discussion about the distribution of this year's money. All interested members of the congregation are urged to attend and to give their input, especially if they are involved with a local charity which does good work in the area of social or ecological justice. If you are aware of a project which could use some assistance, please send a description to Dean Bertrand, Brenda Linn, and Deborah Meister using this link: [Project Suggestion](#) Recommendations will be made to Forum for approval, before Corporation makes the final decision. Our treasurer reminds us that "the decision about the recipients of the year's donation needs to be made in the same year. That is the way our budgeting works." However, it is planned to start the process much earlier next year, so you have time to work on a presentation of ideas for the 2022 donations. Each year a theme for the year is decided by consensus, and again, please add your voice to influence this decision, especially as donation suggestions are usually linked to the educational theme ESJAG presents during the year.

This year ESJAG focused on the intersection between indigenous rights and environmental degradation and hosted regular zoom events for the congregation, as well as posting important information and advertising outside events. Last year's local outreach grant went to the Montreal Restorative Justice centre, (Centre des services de justice réparatrices) of which our former Associate Priest Jean-Jacques Goulet was until recently the Director. Our donation was used to fund an online Healing of Memories Workshop for those living with the effects of racism and ecological disasters. Participants included immigrants and members of indigenous and other racialised groups in Montreal and in the North.



Reconciliation



Creation

Images from Anglican Church of Canada web site: Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice

### More outreach opportunities

1. Brenda Linn reports that Saturday's "For the Love of Creation" Symposium drew people both clergy and laity of all denominations, from coast to coast to coast. The take-home message was one of extreme urgency, and a shared sense that the precarious state of the environment is not one concern among many, but rather is the context of all our other concerns. There seemed also to be a shared recognition that the way we respond, or fail to respond, to the present crisis is a powerful and highly visible statement of what we really believe, about nature of the Divine, and about the depth of God's love for all creation.

The Symposium included a commissioning of the nine delegates to COP 26, including Taddy, who will be reporting on the experience over the course of the next two weeks.

2. PWRDF is offering a webinar on Nov 9 at 11am: **Welcoming the Stranger – Profiling PWRDF Refugee Support**  
PWRDF has a long history of supporting refugees around the world, as well as supporting a network of volunteers in Canada who support new refugees through the Sponsorship Agreement Holder program. The webinar will introduce you to some of this work <https://pwrdf.org/webinars/>

3. Last Sunday in the Month Lunch, October 31 – Adrian’s report

Last Thursday evening Donna and I attempted to print up our 300 handouts advertising the lunch only to discover that we were out of toner. I humbly recall that Donna had strongly suggested that we always stock one in reserve. Next morning I ran across McGill campus to Copie Nova to be there as they opened at 9. The result was that I ended up giving out the handouts at 9:30 rather than my usual 7:30. Because of this I missed the bulk of my usual clientele in the three different missions which I visit.

On Saturday we had a successful shop with John despite the drizzle. We particularly enjoyed the cookie pick up from Peggy’s where one batch arrived hot out of the oven. John quickly offered to look after those on his lap. Luckily he did share some of them with us. I have long since given up counting the total cookies delivered by Peggy in comparison to the total given out. The word that applies to this situation I think is “shrinkage”.

Sunday we woke up at 6:30 to steady rain. The weather forecast was more of the same well into the evening. I tried to drive to the Cathedral via Rene -Levesque and Robert Bourassa only to discover that there had been a huge fire on St. Catherine St. so I was unable to get through. I took my van back to Aylmer St. and walked down carrying the extension cord for the coffee maker etc. To my embarrassment Carol and Joanne were standing waiting for me in the rain despite my best efforts to arrive ahead of them. Flo and Donna arrived shortly after and we all agreed that things looked pretty grim for any prospect for attracting many of our needy friends so we scaled back our usual preparations. It was particularly disappointing as John had prepared his delicious meatballs and gravy. We packed each take-out container with three huge meat balls, potatoes, carrots and gravy along with 7 large cookies. Peggy, to our great delight, has been experimenting with new varieties of cookies prompting fierce arguments in the kitchen over which are the most delicious. I am sorry Bertrand wasn’t there to help referee as he usually does.

To our complete surprise and amazement our usual crowd of 80 did turn up through the rain. They were immensely grateful and often asked for extra sugar in their coffee. We had to scramble to prepare more lunches than we had anticipated. There were mixed emotions. We feel saddened that there is such a need amidst so much affluence but pleased that all John’s culinary efforts did not go to waste. Afterwards while we were eating our own meal we had an unexpected delightful visit from Margary Sharp and her chauffeur, Jane Aitkens.

Blessings,  
John, Flo, Carol, Joanne, Donna and Adrian

(And of course a huge thank you to that wonderful anonymous cathedral member who generously sponsored this ministry this month)

Note to readers of the newsletter. It costs \$400 to sponsor a lunch, but any amount will be gratefully received by Adrian King Edwards and his gang of cookie eaters who faithfully produce and serve this lunch every month.

## Events at Christ Church Cathedral

[www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar](http://www.montrealcathedral.ca/events-calendar)

- November 7 Pain, partage et prière, 10:15am in the Undercroft  
English Reading Group 7pm. Get the zoom link from Jane Aitkens  
[treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca)
- November 8 Brown Bag Bible Study, 12pm  
Gen 4:1-17; 6:5-8; 7:1-5; 8:1; 9:7-17, Ps 51, James 4:1-8  
McLaren Chapter 5 (for those who have it)
- November 9 Christian Meditation, 6pm
- November 11 Adventures in Travel, 1:30pm

And for those of us of British origin-

*Please to remember  
The fifth of November  
Gunpowder, treason and plot  
I see no reason  
Why gunpowder treason  
Should ever be forgot*



Perhaps George Deare could light a bonfire in the forecourt?

## An Advent Quiet Day

At Christ Church Cathedral  
Saturday, November 27, 2021, 10:00am – 3:00pm

Come for a quiet day of teaching, meditating, reflecting and communion.  
We will be studying the “O Antiphons”



*O Wisdom, come and teach us.  
O Lord and Ruler, come and redeem us.  
O Root of Jesse, come and deliver us.  
O Key of David, come and free us.  
O Dawn of the East, come and enlighten us.  
O King of the Gentiles, come and deliver us.  
O Emmanuel, come and save us.*

With four teaching sessions, time for reflection, prayer and communion. Led by the Ven. Ralph Leavitt, Honorary Associate Priest. There will be an hour set aside for you to have your lunch outside the Cathedral. To register to register contact the office [administrator@montrealcathedral.ca](mailto:administrator@montrealcathedral.ca), 514-843-6577 ext. 241.

## News about People

### Deborah

Have you all received an email from the Dean forwarding a letter from Deborah about the new spiritual path along which the Spirit is leading her? If you didn't get it, look in your junk or spam folder. We will pray for her as, listening to God's call, she begins a monastic rule of prayer and contemplation while serving the poor and the marginalised here in Montreal and continuing her role of Associate Priest at the Cathedral. Deborah asks us to join her in prayer, either in person or online, or in your heart, as she makes a First Profession on Thursday, November 18th at 5:30 pm, at the Cathedral. She wrote that her vows are a public acknowledgement of the direction in which her life has been moving for a long time.

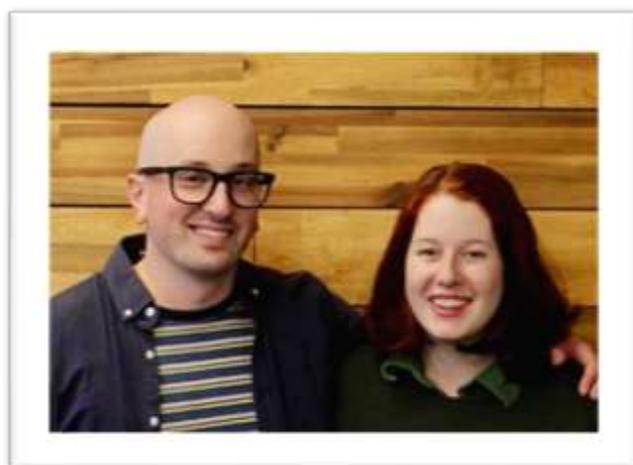
In the Prologue to his monastic rule Benedict wrote



“Listen, O my son, to the precepts of thy master, and incline the ear of thy heart ...What, dearest brethren, can be sweeter to us than this voice of the Lord inviting us? See, in His loving kindness, the Lord showeth us the way of life.”

### Gabrielle and Mike

Gabrielle and Mike Boyd finally have permission to fly to New Zealand to visit family and will probably already be there after a 50-hour trip as you read this. Apparently, there is a waiting list of 30 000 to enter the country with its closed border and tough COVID restrictions. They have been isolating for two weeks and have missed seeing us at the Cathedral. Their main reason for the trip is the wedding of their daughter Bridie to Tepene Marsden on 27th November. Some folks may remember Bridie who helped for a while with the Sunday school when she was staying with her parents in Montreal. She looks forward to returning to the Cathedral with Tepene hopefully mid 2022. Gabrielle has promised to send wedding photos and says love and prayers for the happy couple are most welcome. She also wishes us all a fabulous wind up to 2021, a lovely festive season and blessings for the new year – when she and Mike will return!



## Remembering All Souls

This Sunday at 4pm a special memorial service will honour people who died of COVID or who died during the pandemic. There will be special music, readings and prayers. You can attend in person (no pre-registration) or listen to the service by following one of these links

- ✓ Live on Radio VM 91.3 FM <https://www.radiovm.com>
- ✓ Live and recorded at <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchMTL>
- ✓ Livestreaming on Youtube [www.montrealcathedral.ca/live/](http://www.montrealcathedral.ca/live/)

## Flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God and in memory of



Van Gogh

Camille Michaud by Flo Tracey;

Donald Aitkens and John Oliver by Jane Aitkens;

Malcolm Pickering, Brian Wilson, Ros Lewis and Kate Lowry by Ann Elbourne;

Claudia Riddell by Norman Riddell;

Keith Morrison by Sarah Wicks;

Patrick Wedd and Lynda Catchpole by Robert Wells;

James and Pamela Hafner by Joseph Hafner

**Lord of hosts, we praise your glory reflected in your saints.**

Last Sunday, on the Eve of All Saints, the choir sang Psalm 148 with great beauty and conviction. This psalm could not have been more appropriate for the first day of the COP 26 deliberations in Glasgow: a source of hope and inspiration, as we remember the conference in our prayers. (Psalm begins at 9 minutes 48 seconds). [Choral Evensong on 31 October 2021 / Vêpres chantées du 31 octobre 2021](#)



Luca Della Robbia statues of a Renaissance choir singing this psalm.  
No photocopies of scores in those days!



*Praise the Lord upon earth \*  
ye dragons, and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and vapours \*  
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;  
Mountains and all hills \*  
fruitful trees and all cedars;  
Beasts and all cattle \*  
worms and feathered fowls;  
Kings of the earth and all people \*  
princes and all judges of the world  
Both young men, and maidens;  
old men, and children:  
Let them praise the name of the Lord...*

I love getting contributions to these letters. Please don't hesitate to share ideas, photos, stories. Thank you, this week, to Deborah Meister, Brenda Linn, Gabrielle Boyd and Adrian King-Edwards. As always, thank you to Elizabeth Shama for formatting and posting the final draft.

Ann Elbourne  
November 5, 2021