

Dear Friend of the Cathedral,



This photo, taken by one of the architects working on the restoration, shows the clock being removed from the Cathedral spire, perhaps a fitting metaphor for the turn of the year. We will be challenged in several ways this month and spending a lot of time looking to the future, starting with two important events, this Sunday and the next.

Epiphany Sunday — January 8

At the 10:30 service, we will be welcoming Bishop Mary back into her Cathedral after a short sabbatical. There will be confirmation, baptism and reception into the Anglican Church (Skyla Reign Jordan, Jeannine Bélanger, Leonard Ciornii, and Esther Guillén). The service will begin at **10:25** with the chalking of the doors, an Epiphany tradition to bless our building for the year to come.

The choir will be back for this service and for Evensong. You can also look for images of the wise men worshipping the infant Jesus in the crèche in front of the altar. The figures in the Nativity scene were first planned and assembled in the 1940s by Cathedral mothers and children whose husbands and fathers were serving overseas in World War II. They were restored in 2016 by Amy German.

Sunday, January 15: Effective Climate Action in a Changed World



CATHÉDRALE CHRIST CHURCH MONTRÉAL

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

EFFECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION IN A CHANGED WORLD

with renowned author and activist

Bill McKibben



Sunday, January 15, 2023

Sermon + 10:30 a.m.

Presentation with Q&A + 12:00 p.m.

We are privileged to host Bill McKibben, one of North America's leading environmentalists. He will preach at the 10:30 service and lead a discussion group at noon, attempting to answer the question "What do we do now?" Come with your questions – and perhaps be ready to suggest answers. Please contact your friends and invite them to be with us. [Please click here and RSVP to the Facebook Event.](#) I think we are all beginning to be scared by the looming presence of climate change. It's time to think of ways in which we can act. If you can't be part of the discussion in person, you can listen to the service and McKibben's talk [livestreamed on Youtube](#), but we hope as many as possible will attend the event in person. It's suggested you wear a mask.

Discussion of *Eaarth*, Friday, January 13

Several of us have been reading Bill McKibben's challenging book *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. Deborah led a good zoom discussion last Monday. The in-person discussion will be held next week, on Friday, January 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Bishop's Boardroom. Please e-mail deborah.meister@montrealcathedral.ca to let her know you

hope to attend, and so she can share her phone number in case you are late. The door will be open 5:55 p.m. until 6:05 p.m. After that, people will have to phone to be let in.

Fundamentals of Christian Action: The Anglican Church of Canada's new guide

The ACC has adopted a new set of transformational aspirations to guide our work in the years to come. They are:

- To invite and deepen life in Christ
- To champion the dignity of every human being, and to work to dismantle racism and colonialism
- To embrace mutual interdependence with the people of the First Nations
- To nurture right relations among people of faith in local, global, and national communities and networks
- To steward and renew God's creation; to protect and sustain the earth; to pursue justice for all



Socks for cold feet

It has become a tradition to collect socks to be given to our guests at the end of the month lunch in January. The most economical way to do this is to buy in bulk, so you are invited to make a donation by e-transfer to accounting@montrealcathedral.ca or in an envelope marked "socks" in the collection plate. If you do an e-transfer, make sure to mention socks in the message box. Please do this as soon as you can so that Flo Tracy knows how much she can spend.

Communitas — a thank you from Peter Huish

The entire Communitas organization, directors, part-time staff, volunteers and beneficiaries expresses deep appreciation to Christ Church Cathedral for your decision to award our project a sum of \$3,000 in support of our activities in the social reintegration of men coming out of prison and for our in-reach to regional federal penitentiaries where we participate in chapel-based activities.

Given our recent loss of partial Government funding previously relied upon, your award at this time is especially consequential, and will be instrumental in allowing us not only to continue our efforts to build community, inspire volunteers, support newly released men, maintain our accompaniment of men already resident in the community but also to meet the particular challenges of increased numbers and demand for our services as pandemic related barriers and restrictions are being lifted.

It would be remiss not to mention that, financial assistance and support for Open Door and Table Talk aside, we are deeply touched by this reminder that you embrace our cause, and value the contribution, however humble, that we make to its furtherance.

— Peter Huish

English Book Group

Coincidentally the novel the English book group is reading this month also deals with the future of earth after extreme climate change. *The Ministry for the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson is described by Goodreads as one of the most powerful and original books on climate change ever written. We will discuss the book over zoom on Sunday, February 5 at 7 p.m. Speak to Jane Aitkens (treasurer@montrealcathedral.ca) if you have not joined the book group discussion before, and would like the zoom link.

Christmas Music — a chance to listen again

If you missed hearing some beautiful Christmas music from the Cathedral in the week before Christmas, here are the YouTube links.

You can hear (and see) the Wedd Scholars concert [by clicking here](#).

[Click here](#) for the service of Lessons and Carols.

And watch Nick Capozzoli's performance on the organ of La Nativité du Seigneur by Olivier Messiaen [by clicking here](#).

Christmas in Dawson City

Jeffrey Mackie and his wife Natasha Henderson are former very active Cathedral parishioners, now living in Dawson City where Jeffrey is the priest at [St Paul's Anglican Church](#). I have his permission to quote a couple of his recent posts on Facebook where he describes an experience of winter very different from ours in Montreal.



December 21 — at 10 in the morning in Dawson City, solstice, and so we will get 4 hours of daylight. With the cold snap continuing the mail truck is not coming in and we are moving our Blue Christmas service online. It will be -56 this evening so not safe to go out to the church along with the other challenges of extreme cold. We especially pray for all those finding the season difficult and are reminded that we need to check on those who are isolated at this time.

December 22 — In 16 hours we have the church temperature up 20 degrees to -15. It is still -50 outside, but will be warmer by Christmas Eve, when the church will be ready. We fill the stove every four hours. In winter we meet in a smaller chapel, but we want to use church for Christmas. I hike over to the church as the car won't start, about half a mile there and back.

December 25 — “And the darkness comprehended it not.” Whatever winter experiences we may know in the course of our earthly life, whatever coldness and darkness may seem to overwhelm us, light and life everlasting, grace and mercy, love and goodness come to us, warmly enfold us, and forever hold us in the Christ Child. May He be our comfort and joy, this Christmas Day and all our days.

Speaking of Saints

This week, we will speak not of saints, but of magi. The Feast of the Epiphany (also known as Twelfth Night), which marks the day three wise men from the East arrived in Bethlehem to honor the infant Christ, concludes the Christmas Season. The word “epiphany” means a revelation, a showing forth of God’s glory. The visit of the Magi is the first time in Scripture that God’s glory is shown beyond the people of Israel, pointing toward the inclusive nature of God’s love revealed in Christ. While they had the opportunity to see Jesus himself, God’s epiphanies are all around us: in the blaze of a bush burning in autumn’s scarlet, in the kindness of a friend, in the face of a child, in the tenacity and resilience of those around us. This week, pray that your eyes may be opened to such glimpses of grace.

— Deborah

Annual Reports — a reminder from Administrator, Elizabeth Smith

As you can imagine, and since the Cathedral is a busy place, it takes a great deal of time for the Administrator/Operations Manager to collect, translate, and compile the annual reports of the many committees and working groups.

This year the deadline to receive reports is February 3, 2023.

Update from the Cathedral Treasurer

Jane Aitkens sent this 2023 Pledge Update — Rejoice and give thanks! [Our thermometer has reached 100%](#). 52 pledges have been received so far, totalling \$133,444. This surpasses last year's pledged amount by almost \$10,000, and our target of \$133,000. The average annual pledge has increased from \$2,214 to \$2,566, the equivalent of an average donation of \$49 each week.

Recruiting!

Have you ever wondered about those people robed in white who serve on the altar? They are called servers, and we are recruiting! Warm-hearted, encouraging training is provided. If you would like to learn more, please contact Deborah Meister or George Deare.

Flower Donations

If you'd like to give flowers in memory of someone, or to give thanks for a particular event, please contact Julie Wang at flowers@montrealcathedral.ca. Attributions will be run in the corresponding week's bulletin. We ask a donation of \$75 for one vase \$150 for two.

Hymn for Epiphany Sunday

*As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold
As with joy they hailed its light
Leading onwards beaming bright
So most gracious lord may we
Evermore be led to thee.*

May the light of our saviour be manifested throughout this troubled world bringing peace, love and awareness of our part in the earth's destiny.

Ann Elbourne with special thanks to contributors Peter Huish, Jeffrey Mackie, Deborah Meister and to tech wizard Alex Griffin and French expert Michel Gagnon
January 5, 2023