

REVELATIONS

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus



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A Message From Our Clergy Team

Dear friends in Christ:

Our Gospel reading on Easter Sunday, from the Gospel of John, indicates that the miracle of Christ's resurrection is revealed to us in the contrast between darkness and light. "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb" In fact, this is true of so many of the wonderful Gospel passages that speak about the ways that God has entered the lives of God's people in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Light that shines through the darkness" seems to be our own story in all that has transpired here in the Parish of the Valley and in our communities over the past two years and it is certainly something that we all pray for as we continue to witness the dark terrors that have been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people at this time. Our world, our church and our lives seem so often to be shrouded in uncertainty and darkness in these challenging days!

On the first Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene wept and peered into that dark and empty tomb, and there she saw the first glimmer of Easter light in the appearance of the two angels. That light burned ever brighter as she turned to see the risen Lord standing before her. This is echoed in us in liturgy as the one Paschal candle is lit and carried into the darkened church at the Easter Vigil service. The light of that one flame gives way to the light that is passed from one candle to another and soon gives way to the glory of our Easter celebrations.

Once again, this year, we gather in churches across the Parish of the Valley, to give thanks to God for the gifts of divine love and light revealed in Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is a light that can never be extinguished even in the darkest moments and a love that embraces

us and upholds us no matter what the future may bring. On Easter Sunday we will also give thanks for the many ways that our parish has been a beacon of that light to this broken and troubled world of ours and we will ask, in our prayers, for the strength and the courage necessary to continue to seek and serve the risen Christ in our common work and ministry.

We wish you all the blessings of this Easter season and we thank you for all ways that you have contributed to all that we have accomplished together! May this Easter light burn brightly in our hearts and in our homes throughout this Holy season and in the days and years to come,

Your faithfully in the risen Christ,

Bishop Michael, Rev. Gillian, Rev. Matthew and Canon John

Musings from Your Editor *(submitted by Jean Ostrom)*

My friend Hilda loaned me two books, *Inarticulate Speech of the Heart* is reviewed elsewhere in this paper; the other book is *Volume 1 of Psalms 365: Develop a Life of Worship and Prayer* by David Kitz. I decided to read it day-by-day as a Lenten study. It has taken me on a journey of insight and inspiration for practical daily application. Before, when reading the Psalms, I found it hard to find the deeper meaning in them, but Kitz gives an insight into what was going on in King David's life and how his relationship with God is expressed in his words. This has been a momentous journey for me. Thank God for Lent, and the extra impetus to find a closer relationship with God during this time of reflection. My prayer is that we all walk closer to God and all have a blessed Easter.

Holy Trinity Pembroke Warden's Message

As I write this, the first welcome signs of spring are beginning to appear and there is optimism surrounding the lifting of pandemic mandates. We have had great success in managing the virus these past couple of years because of a cautious approach to health guidelines and will continue in this vein to ensure that everyone remains healthy and safe. That said, it is hard not to feel a sense of relief and celebration in the air as Easter is upon us.

Despite restrictions, the business of the church has continued. We are grateful for the new property team that was endorsed at Vestry. They will support Peter Jacques in his role as Property Manager and have already been busy tending to updates to our kitchen lighting, fire alarms and other chores. In addition, the work of the Smallpiece Bequest Committee continues in the hopes of having our new entranceway steps and railings installed this spring/early summer.

And it was with happy hearts that we learned that the ACW was again able to meet in person in early March, the first time in a couple of years! We look forward to more of our in-person gatherings materializing in the near future as well.

Along with representatives from all of the churches across the Parish of the Valley, Holy Trinity is an active participant in the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation being led by Rev. Gillian. We are ably represented at the steering committee by Mike Johns, as we continue the process to discern how our area parish might evolve.

The new audio-visual system continues to be a blessing for us, allowing those who are unable to attend services in person to be active participants. Refinements continue to be made to the system but the savings, particularly in editing time, have already proven its value to our team. We encourage all members of the Parish of the Valley to take advantage of the online services.

As always, we thank the entire clergy team for their tireless commitment to our church community. The demands to 'pivot' over the last couple of years have been many and they continually met the challenge. Their thoughtful direction and strong technical skills continue to be such a huge blessing to us.

Charles Cheesman, People's Warden on behalf of
George Hodgkinson, Rector's Warden and
Lorna Sibley, Deputy Warden

From All Saints, Petawawa

All of us at All Saints' were happy to resume in person services on February 6th. As much as we are appreciative

of our clergy team for ensuring online worship opportunities, it is still best to get together to worship and sing! For the third year running, we did our annual vestry by mail. Twenty-three packages were picked up or delivered and we had 100% return on the motions. Our best year yet!

Ralph Storey has become our official bell ringer and we continue to rejoice that the bell is back up where it belongs.

We have mixed feelings on the retirement of Canon Susan. We wish her joy in her retirement but will miss her strong faith and love for us all. We look forward to meeting Canon John sometime soon on a Valley Sunday. It was good to see Bishop Michael on Valley Sunday. We definitely enjoy getting to know all of our clergy team.

We had our first coffee hour on March 27th after a two-year hiatus and it was enjoyed by all. It happened to be Louise's birthday and we were able to wish her well and share some cake. Thank you to Marion who set up the hall – the tables were decorated with spring-coloured cloths and center pieces. She also arranged to have the coffee and snacks set out.

We had a very successful Food Bank Sunday. Three full baskets that were split between Petawawa Pantry and St. Joseph's Food Bank. Thank you to Louise for dropping half off to each location.

We continue to pray for continued lessening of restrictions. All at All Saints wish everyone a blessed Easter.

Submitted by Louise Doran and Yvonne Andrews

Spring Greetings from St. George's!

As I reflect on the last two years of Covid restrictions, I am overjoyed to realize Easter morning will find churches in the Valley celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. How wonderful it will be to sing "Alleluia's" and proclaim our Lord has risen...he has risen indeed!

As covid restrictions begin to relax, each Sunday find more folks in the pews. Slowly, but surely, our churches are coming back to life.

For me personally, Covid has certainly given me perspective on the little things we take for granted. Celebrations with family, celebrations of life, visiting friends and family and church gatherings, will certainly be welcome after a two-year hiatus. May we always realize the importance of these moments and treasure them. Just like the season of spring, all things

are new again. May you have a blessed, joyous Easter with family and friends.

Kim Silkie

Bernard Raglin

Ascension, Killaloe / St. John's, Tramore Vestry

It was decided in early February 2022 that we would conduct our Vestry Meeting by mail again this year due to the Covid pandemic and the current restrictions on in-person meetings.

A Vestry package was mailed out that included the usual reports and a Ballot paper containing 8 motions for the election of 8 church officers for 2022, and for the acceptance of the financial statement for 2021. Clear instructions on completing and returning the forms were also enclosed.

It had been previously decided to make some changes to the church positions: namely reducing the Warden positions to just one, adding 2 assistant positions to the Property Manager position, and added "Soup and Sandwich" to the Outreach and Pastoral Care position. Treasurer and Music positions remain the same.

We had an excellent return response which gave validity to the voting.

It was decided that we were still financially stable enough to be able to maintain all our Outreach projects which are so important to us – comprising 12% of our budget.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Parks

St. John's Eganville Vestry

This was completed by mail in vote. 44 ballot papers were mailed on February 7 and 34 were returned by the February 27 deadline.

Officers of St John's, 2022

Peoples' Warden - Wendy Cayen

Rector's Warden - Marilyn Hill

Treasurer - Joan Boldt

Central Parish Treasurer - Heather Park-Wheeler

Synod Representative - Lesley Lancaster

Member at Large - Heather Park-Wheeler

Holy Trinity – Pembroke Vestry

On March 6th, the congregation at Holy Trinity gathered on Zoom for our Annual Vestry meeting. Three members of the clergy team attended with thirty-three parishioners. All motions that were presented were adopted. Also, two presentations were offered to Vestry for consideration.

The Ministry and Money Working Group propose the implementation of a congregational stewardship program. There will be a Pentecost campaign near Easter, in addition to the annual Advent campaign.

The Harold Smallpiece Bequest Ad-Hoc Committee is working to discern how to use a generous undesignated bequest. Many ideas were submitted by members of the congregation. One idea for consideration has been replacement of our church steps, which have been in disrepair for some time. No final decisions were made.

Our church corporation Parish of the Valley Clergy Team & Holy Trinity Church Corporation include:

Rector's Warden (appointed by Incumbent) George Hodgkinson

People's Warden (elected by Vestry) Charles Cheesman
Lay Members of Diocesan Synod Alexis Anderson (1 Year Term)

Ryan Paulsen (1 Year Term)

Jennifer Cross (1 Year Term)

Robert Hanson (Ex O: Diocesan Council)

George Hodgkinson (Ex O: Diocesan Council)

Deputy Warden Lorna Sibley

Treasurer (nominated by Corporation) Alexis Anderson

Alternate Lay Member of Diocesan Synod Lorna Sibley

We are very thankful to all members of our parish for their support of our church in the Parish of the Valley. We are looking forward to gathering together in person, and continuing our ministries as regulations allow.

Submitted by: Naomi de Repentigny

Parish Profile of Rev. Canon John Wilker-Blakley (Submitted by Jean Ostrom)



It was with great pleasure that I talked with Rev. Canon John Wilker-Blakley a few weeks ago. I was delighted when I heard that he was going to be interim priest in the Parish of the Valley on the retirement of Canon Susan Clifford. We go back more than thirty years when he was incumbent at St.

Barnabas in Deep River and our family was worshipping there. A young, active priest who loved the out-of-doors was a wonderful role model and friend to our three teenaged sons. Canon John is an avid outdoorsman, bush-crafter, hiker and paddler and has had many

adventures in Algonquin Park and other areas of the Ottawa Valley.

Not so young or quite so active now, Canon John still loves the out-of-doors, so has purchased a lot on the Bonnechere River near Eganville and built a cabin there where he and his wife Wendy go for vacations. Now, Canon John and Wendy are planning to build their dream home on the property starting in June, with the aim of retiring there permanently.

Canon John was born in Winnipeg in 1958, but raised in Ottawa from 1962 on. He attended Brookfield High School and participated in high school athletics in track, cross country running and skiing. He spent much time sailing on the Ottawa River. It would be true to say that he was drawn to the love of nature by the beauty of the Ottawa Valley.

He attended Carleton University for a BA in religious studies, and then Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario where he earned a Master of Divinity degree before being Ordained Deacon on Ascension Day 1983, and Priest on St. Andrew's Day (November 30th) 1983.

Since then, he has served as Assistant Curate at All Saints' Westboro, and as incumbent at The Parish of Wakefield, St Barnabas Deep River, St Michael and All Angels Ottawa, The Parish of Bearbrook, Vars, and Navan, St Matthias Ottawa, briefly as Associate priest at All Saints' Westboro, and incumbent of the Parish of March before retiring in May of 2021. John has been worshipping and preaching as a retired priest at All Saints' Westboro.

A back injury some years ago and newly developed arthritis have resulted in early retirement from active priesthood and Canon John is looking forward an assessment in the near future at the total joint assessment clinic, which is the first step, prayerfully, toward full recovery. An interesting tidbit – where the priest stands when delivering the sermon can influence the delivery and meaning of the message. Canon John usually stands in front of the altar to deliver the sermon, but when doing a series on worship through the ages, he used the pulpit. Conversely, when his back was at its worst, he had to sit to deliver the sermon. The three aspects of relationship to the congregation made a profound impression on him.

Many of the churches where Canon John has served have been in a rural setting, and many have been urban churches to which he was sent by the Bishop to help them either recover after division in the congregation or to close gracefully when a decline in attendance meant they were no longer viable. An example of the latter is

St Matthias in Ottawa where Canon John assisted the congregation to discern their future which was to join with All Saints Westboro to become again a wonderful viable congregation with an amazing outreach program brought over from St. Matthias.

John is married to Wendy and they have three adult children, Bronwyn 32, Jenna 31, and Alexander 29. Bronwen, who has a degree in music, is in Waterloo working at People's jewelers, Jenna works for DND in Ottawa and Alexander has a Master degree in film studies but is looking at an entirely different career in the trades, specifically plumbing.

For some time, Canon John was heading up Ecumenical and Interfaith Partnerships for the Ottawa Diocese. He has recently given over that assignment, but has deep interests in the study of various religions – Christian, Islamism, Judaism, as well as other non-Christian faiths. He has noted that at the deepest level all religions have a universal belief.

He is interested in teaching the deeper aspects of Christianity. He explained this to me in the following:

"In our culture, partially because of the prevalence of fundamentalism, and partially because, I think, we have tried to treat sacred text like scientific or history books, we have forgotten what many of the ancients knew, namely that scripture stories were remembered because they had multiple layers of meaning that kept us searching and often had metaphorical meanings buried within them which express greater truths than the literal meaning alone. In fact, I would say that if we get caught by the literal meaning we may miss the true depth of the text.

"My favorite example is the story of Jesus walking on water. If we take it literally, it is a 'miracle' which happened in Jesus' life, by the grace of God, but it really stops there. If we understand that the texts are metaphors, then we search and find that in the time of Jesus, water was a symbol of the terrifying chaos which is sometimes a simple fact of human life. Fishermen and sailors know that water is dangerous and to some degree unpredictable. So, for the early church to say that Jesus walked on water is to say that he stepped out onto the dangerous and unknown. In this meaning each and every time you or I step out in faith, or enter difficult and uncertain circumstances, we are following his example...we are walking on water.. but more, we are called to walk on water and each time we speak truth to power, do something scary for us, or stand with the oppressed or ostracized, we are walking on water. So, the text speaks to all of us about our lives too. Sadly, most Sunday school curriculums teach the stories

literally because in child development it is felt that kids can't handle the more abstract interpretations. Then because so many youths disappear from our churches before their teens when they begin to ask deeper questions, they never get past Sunday school theology.

"I am always taken aback to do baptismal prep with the adult children from faithful Anglican families who somehow think that I must believe that Adam and Eve were real people who lived 4000 years ago rather than profound metaphors for the human condition."

With this in mind Canon John has teamed up with Rev. Dr. Linda Privitera, an artist and theologian, to lead the Theophany Project during Lent, designed to take us deeper into Scripture, to the truth that God is unknowable, but fervently seeks to be known.

I am very much looking forward to connecting with Canon John again as he and Wendy make their home in Eganville.

Happenings Around the Parish

Rev. Canon Susan Clifford retirement.

Thank you to everyone of the Parish of the Valley for your many contributions of encouragement, prayers, affirmation and love. Our celebration of retirement with Rev. Canon Susan on March 13 was a joyous event filled with memories of times together and hope for Rev. Susan's future. Your generosity of time and resources proved to make every effort filled with meaning and appreciation.

Thank you to All in our loving Parish of the Valley. Wardens of St. John's Tramore, Ascension Killaloe and St. John's Eganville

An Update from the Killaloe Lunch Program

A number of months ago we shared about the lunch program that was begun by the Church of the Ascension, Killaloe, in partnership with the local food bank. We heard a lot of interest in the program and so felt it was time to give an update!

Judy Martin, parishioner from Ascension and lunch volunteer writes how much everyone is enjoying this project:

It started as "soup, sandwich & cookies, and we served just 4-6 lunches. Now, the menu is the same but we're up to 35-40 lunches, primarily for people using the food bank. The volunteers have formed little teams to make and serve lunches, which seem to be working well. We

have also been able to include a volunteer from the community at large, which is wonderful.

Thank you for sharing more about this successful ministry in the community!

The Coldest Night of the Year

(Submitted by Wanda Hiltz, St. George's South Alice)

February 26th 2022 wasn't the coldest night of the year but it was the night the community joined together in a family-friendly walk to raise money for the homeless, hungry and those hurting in our community. This walk was organized by The GRIND in Pembroke. The Grind is a volunteer driven, not for profit, charity that serves the low to no-income community throughout Renfrew County. It has a Christian focus and is non-denominational, inclusive and respectful of all. The Grind has a Community Kitchen, Coffee House, Outreach Program, Crisis Line, Client Services and Youth Program. They are open from Mon – Fri from 10am – 2pm.

This year the Parish of the Valley entered "The Parish of the Valley Glowshoes" with a modest goal of raising \$500. This goal was exceeded with a total of \$830 raised from across the valley. A team snowshoed at the Laurentian Valley Skating Trail during their Glow Skate. It was a beautiful crisp night with eight eager walkers lighting up the trail with their glowing snowshoes.

"Love keeps the cold out better than a cloak." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Thank you for the love and support from across the Parish of the Valley. Hopefully next year we will light up the trail again and help bring our most vulnerable out of the cold.

Generous Hearts



Thanks to generous hearts across our parish, last year's Advent Appeal raised more than \$21,000 to support our ministries. In some of our congregations, funds were directed to support critical operational needs as we continue to cope with the many challenges created by the pandemic. In others, notably St. John's Church in Eganville, monies were directed to a longstanding outreach ministry, the "Wide Smiles for all through Education" program in Uganda.

More than anything, the success of our second annual Advent Appeal is a testament to the commitment of our Anglican community in the Valley to faithfully supporting God's mission through our area parish. As your clergy team, we would like to thank all of you for your steadfast and sacrificial financial support. We know that every donation our congregations receive is made in love, and in service to our Lord Jesus.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

The Clergy Team



Digging Deep, Reaching High

Digging Deep, Reaching High

At Holy Trinity's Annual Vestry Meeting in March, we shared plans for a new congregational stewardship program in Pembroke: one that will help us explore how we can best use the gifts of time, talents and financial resources that God has blessed us with, allowing us to further live into God's mission as a Church Family. This first annual Pentecost Appeal will also help our congregation begin to shift away from our annual dependence on December offerings, which currently represent nearly a quarter of Holy Trinity's annual income, thus easing some of the associated financial pressures. We are pleased to share with you the theme and logo for Holy Trinity's first Pentecost Appeal: "Digging Deep, Reaching High".

Watch your mail towards the end of April for a letter with more details. We invite you to review its contents and prayerfully consider your response.

Watch for details of a fundraiser to support a family from Ukraine, being sponsored by St. James Anglican Church, Lanark

Marie Cheesman

Chair, Ministry and Money Working Group

Holy Trinity Pembroke

The Reed

Given by the Holy Spirit to Wendy Cayen, January 1984

In a marsh at the edge of a stream there were many bulrushes and reeds. This is a story about one of those reeds.

This reed was quite noticeable. Resolute and courageous it seemed, in the face of all elements it stood straight and tall. Reflecting the golden hue of the sun, positioned in consequential support of itself, it was silent, still, ever hushed.

The marsh was home to many, including a frog. The frog hopped over to the reed and sat at home on a large lily pad releasing its sticky tongue catching and eating insects that wandered close by.

The frog looked up, broke the silence and spoke to the reed. "It's too bad you are so silent, reed. I have heard from others that when reeds bend and break, crack and turn, the wind passes through them and makes a beautiful noise called music."

In response the reed remained silent, standing straight and tall reflecting and mulling over the words of the frog. "Beautiful noise, music. I don't need that. I'm quite content to be golden, straight and silent." Days passed and the reed continued to think about what the frog had said.

Soon a bird flew over the reed's head and rested on a nearby rock. The chickadee said to the reed, "too bad you are so silent, reed, I've heard the music that is made when reeds crack and bend letting the wind pass through them, it is beautiful music."

This made the reed very curious. First the frog speaks of the beautiful noise and now the chickadee. The reed then decided that she too wanted to hear this noise but she did not want to have to turn and break to let the wind pass through her. This turning and bending would be dangerous for the reed as this would make her very weak and the reed knew this.

So in the passing of time the reed always listened carefully for this music; however she heard nothing. The summer ended and autumn began. The reed noticed that other reeds were broken but there was no beautiful noise. The frog and the chickadee had told her a fairy tale and she had believed it. As the reed settled in and prepared herself for winter, she chuckled to herself for being fooled by the frog and the chickadee.

She slept.

Then suddenly, late one early spring afternoon when the sun reflected off the straight, golden, silent reed, she was awakened by a sweet, soft, sound that began to whirl around her, and she could see that the other reeds were cracking and bending, turning and breaking and releasing a beautiful noise - enchanting, psephitic, medicinal, "could this be music? Oh, that this noise would happen to me!" However, she knew she would need to crack and break, turn and bend. "Surely these reeds realize that now they are weak, they aren't golden and straight anymore, but," she pondered, "they aren't silent either".

The seasons passed and the reed thought many times about this noise, this beautiful sound, this music. Often the frog and the chickadee would assure her that the bending and cracking would not be as painful as she thought it would be. "It would hurt, but remember the music, it can be yours too."

Seasons and years came and went. The reed, still standing tall and straight and golden and silent, longed to make the music. But she was afraid.

One day there were many people gathered at the stream. A man was pouring water over each one, dunking others, in the flowing stream. Just then one of the people stepped forward and walked into the water brushing his hand against the reed - cracking her, turning her. She cried, expecting to die from the anticipated pain. It all happened in an instant, she didn't know what to do. She was bent and broken and she knew it; she was weak now and she multiplied the pain.

The man at the stream poured water over this person. The clouds overhead were parted by the wind that, in spoken word, embraced this person's soul and drew a spiritual path for him in his mind toward sacrifice, truth and love. This wind touched the reed and passed through her. She could not believe what she heard. Was this her music, softly resting in her heart creating, all at once, a place for her in this man's truth? She was no longer silent.

The frog and the chickadee heard the sound from the reed and jumped and danced to her music. The person in the water looked about because he too heard her music. His glance caught her eye. She knew now that she was not weak but beautiful, not in pain but full of joy.

So the reed is broken and turned, a few more cracks every season and so ever sweeter the music that passes through the reed.

Miss You

I miss you
when crimson shadows dance over eastern horizons
and night gives way to a lively dawn chorus

I miss you
when iridescent beads of vapour
cling tenuously to spider's intricate web
glistening in sun's early glow
I miss you
when morning's calm gives way
to a gentle south-westerly
and finger-like needles of tall pine play their sweet song
imperceptibly moving over each note
I miss you
when my paddle pulls in steady rhythm
canoe lost amid northern rugged islands
and loon's lonely cry echoes over channels of blue
into hidden bays I call home
I miss you
when sky and water meld
into colours of dreams
hues so rich and deep I may never surface again
I miss you
when rains come; mists lift; sun shines and night falls
leaving me breathless; drowned by my beating heart.

Kristina J. Loevenmark

Book Review of Inarticulate Speech of the Heart by Larry McCloskey: *(Submitted by Hilda Young)*

Publisher Castle Quay Books: 208 pages;

Inarticulate Speech of the Heart is a challenging book to read. The cover of the book intrigued me as it was a family photo taken of two young men at an iconic place in Canada: Lake Louise. One man was in a wheelchair. What was the significance of this photo to the writer? Why was it in the brown tones instead of black and white or full colour? What did it imply?

The photo featured Paul Menton, a quadriplegic, who was taken on a cross Canada trip by his two brothers. It was an old photo as it was taken decades ago when Paul was young and the brothers wanted to express their love for him in an inarticulate way. It tied together what Larry was trying to accomplish with the book.

It is a complex book as on one level it tells stories about men through accidents of life who have been paralyzed so become dependent on others. The book shows how the men coped with their new realities and advocates to give their lives meaning. Many people with disabilities at all levels are ignored.

Larry, through his 35-year career advocating for people with disabilities, shows that their lives have meaning. He

states that we are tasked to figure out what our meaning might be on this earth for the short time we have here. It is difficult to answer the big questions of life. The title of the book shows the contraction of life. Paul Menton who died at the age of 37, had an impact on Larry who named the centre for coordinating disability services at Carleton University after him.

Perhaps the most poignant aspect of this book is the reason for writing it. Larry said that he wanted to give meaning to the short lives of these people who had insurmountable issues to deal with through an accident. Every life has meaning and needs to be valued.

This book is worth reading for anyone who is contemplating their own role in society, it shows that the inarticulate speech of the heart has more of an impact than words alone! I suggest it be required reading for anyone going through a crisis as it puts life in perspective.

THE INVITATION

(from outside Holy Trinity, Merrickville)

*This is the table, not of the church, but of
Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those
who love and want to love him more. So
come, you who have much faith and you
who have little; You who have been here
often and you who not been here for a
long time or ever before; You who have
tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, not because the church invites you; it
Is Christ, and he invites you to meet him
here.*

Time – *(submitted by Roger Steinke)*

As we sing every November 11th at our Canadian
Remembrance Day ceremonies:

Time, like an ever flowing stream
Bears all our years away
They fly forgotten like a dream
Dies at the opening day

Time flies! Where has the time gone? Or – It seemed as though it would never end. Most of the Psalms in the Bible never ask the question “why” – they ask “how long?” Our experience of time is personal and varied, depending on the situations, circumstances, events happening around us and inside of us. Time is the River in which we live our lives, carrying us from a beginning to an end. It is a gift of God, the only Eternal One and the author of time. We come from God and we go back to

God. Time is a gift, just as life is a gift. The sole purpose of both is to learn how to love. Because the One we come from and to whom we are returning is Love. This is what Jesus has shown and taught by his own birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus is the eternal Christ made visible in time, in human flesh, who makes known to us the One who sent him and gifts us with the Holy Spirit – the Teacher.

It is hard to comprehend that the planet Earth we live on, which has given us life from God, is somewhere around three and half billion years old. As Richard Rohr has put it, “If creation history were a calendar year, humans would first show up in the last three minutes of December 31. That means the entire Judeo-Christian tradition appears in the last millisecond of December 31.” - Radical Grace, page 186. “God has been there ever since creation for the mind to see in the things God has made.” – Romans 1:20. Life in time brings more gifts: inquiry, discovery, fascination, excitement, wonder. Life in time is an adventure.

Be assured that time marches on at exactly the same pace always and for everyone. It just doesn’t seem like it. So we measure time, in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years and decades. As a young child I was not aware of the measurement of time. Little children have the innocence and ability to live in the moment. This is why Jesus said, “Unless you become as one of these little ones, you will never enter the kingdom of God.” Awareness of the past and of the future is one of the things that makes us uniquely human. Yet I believe that God always intends for us to experience life in its fullness in the present moment. It is good to remember the past and to plan for the future. Yet the present is where God will always be experienced in reality and truth. What a challenge, to try to always live in the present and not in the past or the future.

In my later years I have discovered that the measurement of time is a helpful way for me to look at and map a picture of my whole life. I was born on September 28, 1947, in Schenectady, New York. When I was five and half years old our family moved to Syracuse. There are special and specific pictures and memories in my mind of my life in Schenectady. Our family arrived in Syracuse in April, 1953, moving into the house at 1049 Westcott Street. I attended Edward Smith Elementary School from April, 1953 – June 1959 – Kindergarten through Seventh grade. From September 1959 – June 1962 my school was T. Aaron Levy Jr. High School – 8th and 9th grade. High School was at Nottingham High from September 1962 – June 1965. From 1955 – 1962, summers were spent on Skaneateles Lake, which over

time became my first vision of heaven or paradise. This is the beginning of my personal map that could easily be filled in with many, many more details - dates, places, titles, appointments, experiences, pictures, people and memories.

My purpose is not to write an auto-biography though. It is to illustrate how the measurement of time can be a means for mapping and seeing the picture of one's whole life. And every human life in time is extremely short, whether one lives ten years or one hundred years. "My days pass away like a shadow, but you, O Lord, endure forever, and your name from age to age." – Psalm 102. That is why I believe that seeing the whole picture of one's life in the light of eternity, God's presence, God's love, is so important and so liberating. As a Christian, I know through my own experience of life in time, and as a disciple of Jesus the Christ, that physical death, our exit out of physical time and space, is nothing to be afraid of. The deaths that Love teaches us to die in our lives in time help us to know that our final death in this world is a transition/transformation into another form of life that is beyond and bigger than anything we can think or imagine within the parameters of our life in time.

So, make the most of the time. Live in the present moment. Live with thanksgiving and gratitude for the gifts of life and time. Do not be afraid. As St Paul wrote to the Romans thousands of years ago: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8: 38-39

The Boy and the Bell *(submitted by Mike Johns)*

One evening Angela noticed on social media that a 9-year-old boy just loved bells and his father was reaching out to the community for an opportunity to fulfill his dream of actually ringing a bell.

We contacted Reverend Matthew to see if it would be ok if Holy Trinity would allow him to ring our bell. Reverend Matthew had also been talking with the father and he graciously said yes.

We met on a Saturday afternoon and we were lucky that Reverend Matthew could attend as well. It is heartwarming to see a young boy wide eyed with excitement ringing a bell. He also explored the church and enjoyed the stained-glass windows.

Angela and I were so pleased to offer this form of outreach and very proud of our church.

Just recently we were contacted again for another visit, as the young man had been practicing in front of his mirror. We gladly said yes.

After ringing the bell he explored the whole church and I even showed him the "secret door" into the organ pipe room.

We all feel richer from this experience.

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Wordsearch for Easter



apostles believe cave church cross crown crucified faith family God
 Jesus lamb miracle nails Pontius Pilate prayer redemption resurrection
 risen sacrifice Saviour Son thorns worship