



All Saints Day – Wednesday, November 1st, 2023

*“O come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight.”*

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.”

Dear Members of St. John’s Eganville,

As the days grow shorter and the clouds that will soon give us a cold Valley winter gather on the horizon, we as God’s beloved Church begin our year anew with Advent, our annual season of holy waiting. Advent is a time in the life of the Church that is pregnant with anticipation. It is a time when we remember that God in Christ comes to us just as we are and shines the light of God’s love into every shadowy corner of creation. We rejoice in Emmanuel, for God is with us.

Only a few short years ago the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic seemed to make the gloomy clouds of this world thicker than we could possibly imagine. And now, as we look out at a world that continues to be marred by violence, intolerance, and greed, it is only too easy to begin to feel as though life’s shadows are all consuming. But as Saint John writes to us in the opening lines of his gospel, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” God comes to us precisely in the moments when we need God most and pours out for us the gift of God’s radiant and gracious light through the boundless generosity of faithful human hearts.

The Parish of the Valley’s Advent Appeal is now entering its fourth year. Through all the shadows of COVID, and the many challenges that have followed since, your generosity as God’s people in this parish has never faltered. Amazingly, over the last three years the Advent Appeal has raised more than **\$54,000** to support the ministries of our parish’s congregations. Those funds have now been transformed by God into radiant and gracious light: into faithful worship, meaningful pastoral care, and missional outreach projects at the local, national, and international levels.

Much of our parish's international outreach work is proudly led by the congregation of St. John's Eganville. **Once again, this year, St. John's is pleased to dedicate 100% of the congregation's Advent Appeal proceeds to the work of Kenneth Kasule's *Wide Smiles for All Through Education* in Uganda. Last year \$4,500 was raised to support Kenneth's work through the Celebration of Light Evensong and the Advent Appeal, and this year we hope to meet or exceed this goal. You can learn more about *Wide Smiles* by visiting their website: <https://www.widesmilesug.org>.**

We know that many of you continue to experience extraordinary financial challenges brought on by the rising cost of living. Please know that to any who find themselves in this position, your parish family and clergy team are here for you, and we do not wish to add in any way to your burdens or anxiety. If, however, you feel you can offer an additional gift to St. John's at this time to support the wonderful work of *Wide Smiles for All Through Education* in Uganda then we would be exceedingly grateful to receive your donation for our annual Advent Appeal. An offering envelope is enclosed with this letter, together with details about how you can make your appeal donation.

This year's Celebration of Light Evensong will take place in St. John's on **Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm**. Rev. Claire will officiate, Rev. Gillian will preach, and all members of our parish's clergy team will assist in the liturgy. If you would like for the gathered community to remember a departed loved one in prayer during evensong, or if you would like to honour a community member who helps to share God's light in the world, please contact Joan Boldt by no later than Sunday, November 26th. You can reach Joan at 613-628-6503, or joan.boldt@live.com.

A light is indeed shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We hope to see many of you in St. John's on Sunday December 3rd at 4pm. In the meantime, may the coming Advent remind us to be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of our lives. And may we indeed rejoice, for Emmanuel – God in Christ – is with us.

Yours faithfully in Christ,



The Reverend Gillian Hoyer
Acting Incumbent



The Reverend Nicholas Forte
Associate Incumbent



The Reverend Claire Brama
Assistant Curate



The Reverend Canon John Wilker-Blakley
Interim Associate Priest



***The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Eganville
Part of The Parish of the Valley
125 Victoria Street, Eganville, ON, K0J 1T0
Telephone: 613-628-2029
Email: office@valleyanglicans.ca***



***There are multiple ways that you can make a contribution to support
St. John's Annual Advent Celebration of Light Evensong***

- 1. You can make your donation at St. John's on or before the Celebration of Light on Sunday, December 3rd. Simply detach and complete the information slip below and place it in the enclosed offering envelope together with your donation. Envelopes can then be placed on the collection plate. Please make all cheques payable to "St. John's Anglican Church" with "Celebration of Light Advent Appeal" clearly marked in the memo line.***
- 2. You can contribute by mail using the enclosed envelope. Detach and complete the information slip and then mail your donation to St. John's Anglican Church, P.O. Box 339, Eganville, ON, K0J 1T0.***
- 3. You can give to St. John's online using your credit card. Visit the Advent Appeal page on our Parish of the Valley website at www.ValleyAnglicans.ca/advent-appeal to learn how.***



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***PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY: Place on Collection Plate or Mail to PO Box 339, Eganville, ON K0J 1T0.
For assistance, please contact Joan Boldt: 613-628-6503, or joan.boldt@live.com.***

Name of sponsor/donor: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ Church Envelope #: _____

Name(s) of those to be honoured (for the living): _____

Name(s) of those to be remembered (for the dead): _____

Thank you for your faithful support!