



we, being many, are one body...



Monday, November 20th, 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 Friends in Christ in the Parish of the Valley,

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 many ministries of our local congregations. Those funds have now been transformed by God into radiant and gracious light: into faithful worship, meaningful pastoral care, and missional outreach at the local, national, and international level.

A light is indeed shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Your generous and sacrificial support has helped to make God's light shine even brighter in our Parish of the Valley, and because of your faithfulness, we know that God's light will continue shining through our beloved local Anglican community for many years to come, from generation to generation.

We know that many of you continue to experience extraordinary financial challenges brought on by the rising cost of living, and that an additional donation may not be possible at this time. Please know, that to any who find them themselves in this position, that 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 you are able, however, to offer added financial support to your local congregation as we work to share God's unstoppable light and love with all the world, we would be exceedingly grateful to receive your donation to this fourth annual Parish of the Valley Advent Appeal. An offering envelope, together with details about how you can support the Appeal, is enclosed with this letter. Every donation, no matter how big or how small, is gratefully received, and will faithfully be used to support the life and ministries of your Parish of the Valley congregation or chapel.

Dear friends, may this Advent remind us to be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of our lives. And may we 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



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There are multiple ways you can support your local Anglican congregation through the Parish of the Valley's Annual Advent Appeal

- 1. You can give to the Advent Appeal in person at your home congregation. Simply detach and complete the information slip below and place it in the enclosed envelope together with your donation. Envelopes can then be placed on the collection plate at your church.***
- 2. You can contribute by mail using the enclosed envelope. **Please make your donation payable to your local Valley congregation** (please write your cheque to "Holy Trinity Pembroke," "Epiphany Barry's Bay," "All Saints Petawawa," "St. George's South Alice," etc.) Donations can then be mailed c/o 68 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, ON, K8A 5R6. Once received your donation will be forwarded by the main office to your local church.***
- 3. You can give to the Advent Appeal online using your credit card. Visit the appeal page on our Parish of the Valley website at www.ValleyAnglicans.ca/advent-appeal to learn how. Be sure to submit your gift by Sunday, December 31st to qualify for a 2023 tax receipt.***



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My Name & Mailing Address: _____

My Parish of the Valley Congregation or Chapel: _____

Please accept my gift of: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100
(check one)
 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other

☐ ***I would like to sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittances or increase my monthly gift.***

☐ ***I would like to discuss leaving a legacy gift to benefit my congregation in my will.***

Thank you for your faithful support!