

Holy Trinity Riverbend

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

November 29, 2020 – First Sunday of Advent

A Message from
Rebecca:
Welcome to
Advent everyone!

It may not be like past Advent seasons but together we will do our best to keep its meaning alive in our hearts and in all that we do. Being a small parish, we don't have the resources of some of the larger churches but I'm confident our children will have some Christmas songs and nativity pictures to share with us later this month.

The **church search committee** met earlier this week and were given the news that we cannot worship in high schools, or other venues due to Covid. The cost of leasing space was prohibitive so we will continue with virtual services. However, all is not lost! The committee is exploring some other ideas that sound promising which I will share when it is okay to do so. In the meantime, please continue to pray for HTR that we find our forever home.

I was once again **overwhelmed with the generosity of HTR members in support of our November clothing drive.** We now have an abundance of coats, gloves, undershirts, underwear, socks, sweaters, and hats to deliver to those in need. We will be delivering this mountain of warmth to the 'Inner City Pastoral Ministry' where **Rev. Quinn Strikwerda** is looking forward to passing them on to the neediest among us. Thank you!



Bishop Jane: Please join Bishop Jane in Prayer this Advent. With the help of the Very Rev. Alex Meek and

the Rev. Canon Chelsy Bouwman, she will be sharing Advent Prayers and the lighting of the candles with you throughout this coming Advent and Christmas season. The link to the first week of Advent videos is:

<https://edmonton.anglican.ca/podcasts/message/2020-11-27-advent-1>



HTR Virtual Coffee Session.

If you have been following our weekly newsletter, you know the coffee chatters are talking about Christmas traditions. Today's question was: "What is your favorite Christmas movie?" I expected a variety of answers and I was not

disappointed. **Carol** said her favorite is “White Christmas” with Bing Crosby. It brought back lots of warm memories for her. **Brian** had to think about it but decided “Home Alone” worked for him! **Ian’s** favorite was “A Christmas Carol” with Alistair Sim. I had to agree, that’s a great movie. **Ping** and **Catherine** didn’t have a favorite but liked both “Rudolph”, and the “Grinch Who Stole Christmas”. For fun, I tossed in “Miracle on 34th Street”.

Elisabeth mentioned she and her healthcare partners are now starting to work double shifts due to the alarming rise in Covid cases. Please, stay home if at all possible, and wear your masks when you are out. The frontline workers thank you.

We have resumed our HTR Virtual Coffee Hour, which takes place **every Sunday, at 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom, The link is sent to all parishioners on Friday’s. We hope you can join us as it is a great way to stay connected!



A **dv**ent: There is something very special about the Advent Sundays leading up to when Jesus was born. **Our newsletters for Advent will feature a number of activities which you can do to help prepare for and celebrate Christmas.** At the same time, these activities will help us to remember what Jesus brings to us.

A **dv**ent Children’s Countdown: **Just 2 days until you can open the first door!** Give a jump for joy or high five your family. At the same time, remember that some people are anxious about Christmas. Please ask God to be close to them in the coming days.



A **dv**ent Activities – **2020:** The advent activities (taken from the Episcopal Church in the USA) for this week help us prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Sunday, Nov 29: What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share

these words with a friend or family member

Monday, Nov. 30:

Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously or someone with a different perspective than you. Pray that you hear this person as God does.

Tuesday, Dec. 1:

Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying “yes” to God?

Wednesday, Dec. 2:

Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer – “Here I am, God” – until time is up.

Thursday, Dec. 3:

The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?

Friday, Dec. 4

In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. From what do you need to turn in order to be generous of heart?

Saturday, Dec. 5:

From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Find that rest today, and do it for as long as you are able.

Inspirational Thoughts:

"Right actions for the future are the best apologies for wrong ones in the past." ... Tyron Edwards

And

"You can tell whether a person is clever by their answers. You can tell whether a person is wise by their questions."

~ Naguib Manfouz



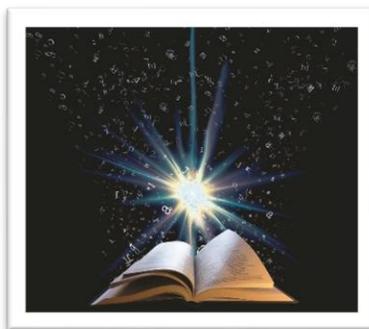
Message from Bishop Jane:

Following the Government of Alberta declaring a state of public health emergency, along with stricter, mandatory measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, **Bishop Jane has taken the decision to keep church buildings in the diocese closed until December 15.** Details of this decision can be found on the diocesan website.

Bishop Jane will monitor and review the situation before the 15th with the hope - though not the guarantee - that churches might open again for Advent 4. She asks that we

keep one other continually in our prayers during this unprecedented time. **HTR, as you already are aware, will continue with virtual services until such time as a location for in-person worship is found.**

This Week's Bible Quote -- *"The name of the Lord is a strong fortress: the godly run to him and are safe." ... Proverbs 18:10.*



December Celebrations! **Ping Fok, Brian and Carol Graham, and Trinity Johnson**, celebrate birthdays this month. On behalf of the entire parish we send you all our blessings on your special day!



Fund Raiser: Piper Johnson's fund raiser concludes this week - please see the

November 15 newsletter (posted on our website) for details.

Sermon: A copy of the Sunday Sermon, and the Prayers of the People, are emailed to our parishioners every Sunday morning. Today's sermon is from Rev. Rebecca and Prayers of the People are courtesy of **Grant Kvemshagen.**

U pcoming for next Sunday, December 6, 2020:

Preaching:
Tentatively, Rev. Dr. Elisabeth. Prayers of the People: **Bonnie Tejada.**

Readings - (Second Sunday of Advent)
Is 40:1-11
Ps 85:1-2, 8-13; 2
2 Pet 3:8-15a
Mk 1:1-8

Virtual Sunday School: Sunday School **takes place each Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to approx. 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.** If you would like your children to take part, please let **Sarah Alexander** know so she can arrange to deliver the necessary materials to you. We are also including (courtesy of the Diocese of Chelmsford), **an additional series of activities for younger and older children.** Please see the end of the newsletter to

view the material you will need as well as the lesson.



HTR Online Worship:

We have moved to online worship services using ZOOM. The link to the services is distributed each Friday, along with the HTR Virtual Coffee Hour link. You do not need to have ZOOM on your computer to be able to view the service.

To access the service, simply click on the link on Sunday (**the service starts at 10:00 a.m.**). The **service bulletin will be sent on Saturday. Please join us on Sunday.**

Annual Winter Clothing Drive **LAST DAY:** With the colder weather now upon us, during the month of November we will be doing our annual clothing drive. We are looking for the following: **thermal**

layers for men's/women's size M/L, warm socks, gloves, mittens, toques and new or gently used coats. If you are able to donate, please let Rebecca know and she will arrange to come to your home to pick them up. The last day for pick-up will be Monday, November 30. A huge 'thank you' to the many parishioners who have already donated a number of these items. We will work with our inner city ministry to have your donations given to those in need of this type of clothing.



Vestry –
Steve Johnson
Rector's Warden
Suzanne Pearson –
People's Warden
Grant Kvemshagen –
Treasurer
Sarah Alexander – Music
Director
Maureen Bantle
Vince Tejada

Clergy:
Rev. Rebecca Harris
Priest-in-Charge
rebecca.harris@telus.net
Ph: 780-431-1817

Rev. Dr. Elisabeth
Thompson – Honorary
Assistant

Church details: Holy
Trinity Riverbend
1428- 156 St. NW
Edmonton, AB
T6R – 2S1
Website:
www.Holytrinityriverbend.com

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/htrchurch/>

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 29th November
First Sunday of Advent

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the promise of Jesus' return!

You can find it in your Bible in:
Mark 13 v 24–37

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Isaiah 64 v 1-9
Psalm 80 v 1-8, 18-20
1 Corinthians 1 v 3-9

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for your promise that Jesus will return and this passage that reminds us to be ready. Help us to grow in relationship with you and to encourage others to know and love you too.

We pray that this advent season as we prepare to celebrate your birth as a baby we would draw closer to you too.

We pray for our friends and family members who don't yet know you as their friend and saviour. Help us share the Good News of your love and sacrifice with them.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

How do you think we can make sure we are ready for Jesus' return?

If you have ever been in a room with your back to the door you will know what a surprise it can be to turn around and see them. If you are looking for somebody to arrive or talking to somebody as they enter from another room you won't be surprised by their arrival.

We can work on our relationship with God every day and help others to do the same. This passage is not talking about us being physically asleep – we all need to sleep(!) but it refers to being spiritually asleep. If we develop daily patterns of prayer, bible study and relationship with God we will be wide awake and ready!

A question to answer as a family

Why do you think we are thinking about this passage at the beginning of Advent?

When Jesus the Messiah first came to the earth it was in a small town in the middle of the night while everybody slept. Even though God's people had been waiting and praying for a Saviour many did not recognise Him when He came. God's people were expecting a warrior and they were sent a tiny baby. When Jesus comes again it will be very different, this time do you think we will be ready?

A prayer of hope



As we light the first Advent candle, we remember the hope we have in Jesus.

We ask for God's hope to fill our hearts in these dark and difficult times.

We thank you God for your amazing rescue plan for us all, thank you that you came to the earth as a baby and that you will return again. Amen.



A verse to remember

1 Corinthians 1 v 8

Jesus will keep you strong until the end so that there will be no wrong in you on the day our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate a copy and put it up somewhere you can see it during the week.

Active Advent

Jesus said that we should be ready for His return, but we also have a part to play in making sure that other people are ready too and know about God's love.

Why not take on these hope sharing challenges during the first week of Advent, you could do one each day or do them all at once.

Nov 29th

Choose a friend or family member who doesn't yet know God as their friend and saviour. Draw a picture of them.



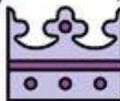
Nov 30th

Draw a heart on your picture, pray that they would know God's love!



Dec 1st

Draw a crown on the picture, pray that they would know that they are a child of God the King!



Dec 2nd

Draw a gift on the picture, pray that they would know the amazing gifts God has for them.



Dec 3rd

Add yourself into the picture, ask God to help you be a good example for them.



Dec 4th

Spend some time listening to God, ask God to share with you how much He loves the person in your picture.



Dec 5th

Send an encouraging message of love and hope to the person in your picture.



Family Activity 1

Grandmother's Footsteps

The grandma (or grandpa) stands at the far end of the room, with their back turned to the rest of the group. The rest of the group has to sneak up on grandma. At any point, the grandma can turn around. When they do, everyone has to freeze! Anyone seen moving by grandma is either 'out' or sent back to the beginning again.



Use this game to think about being ready and looking out for Jesus' return!

Family Activity 2

'Learn a lesson from the fig tree'

What lessons can we learn from the trees around us today? Create some leaf rubbings together. Find some interesting shaped leaves, place them under a sheet of paper and then rub over the top with crayon or coloured pencil to make a picture.

Perhaps you could add faces, arms and legs and turn your leaves into characters!



A colouring page you could print and colour together

1 Corinthians 1 v 8

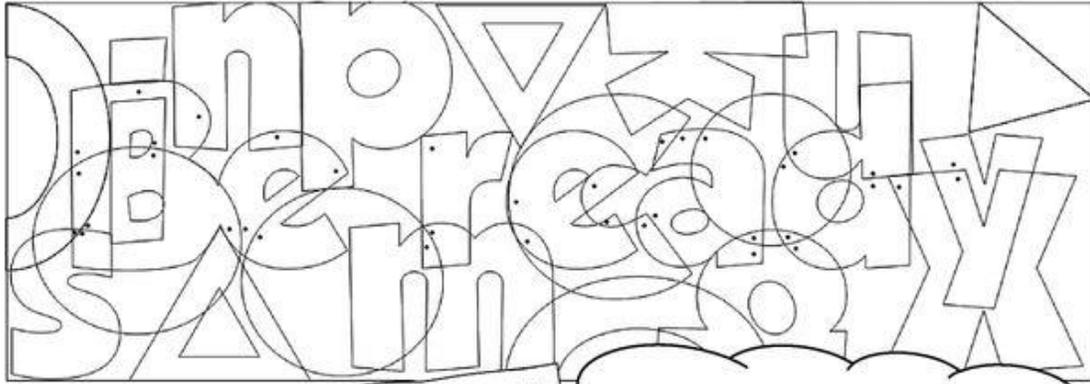
Jesus will keep you



until the end so that there will be no
wrong in you on the day our Lord
Jesus Christ comes again.

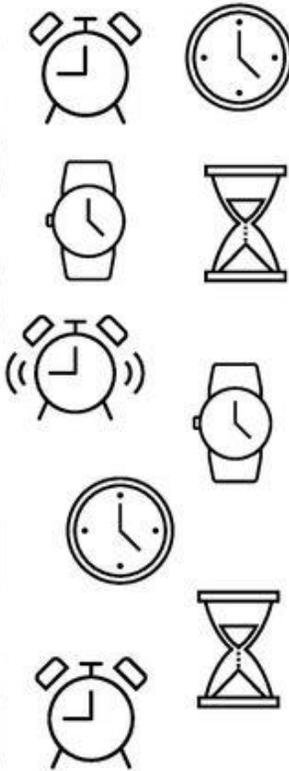
PUZZLE SHEET

Colour just the shapes with a dot in to reveal the hidden message!



There are two of each clock except one.

Colour the matching clocks to look the same and work out which clock is the odd one out.



What do you think it will look like when Jesus comes back?
Draw it here.

