

Sing a New Song Unto the Lord!

I love to sing! I haven't always loved listening to music – it took until I was in high school to really start listening to music regularly – but I have always loved to sing. Singing certainly runs through my family: my father was a regular in church choirs, my eldest sister often sang solos at school and church, and my twin sister is also a very talented singer. Singing does so much to speak to the most fundamental human emotions: joy, sadness, and everything in between.

Singing is vitally important for the life of the Church too, for these reasons and so much more. Singing is at the heart of creation: one needs only to peruse quickly through the Book of Psalms (psalms were very likely written to be sung) to see that music proliferates through the Bible, and there are numerous references to creation itself singing praises to God. When we join together in song, we join our voices to the chorus of all of creation – on earth and in heaven singing God's praises. In song, even for those who are not as comfortable singing, we receive a taste of the life that God offers to his church.

Singing as a church is also vitally important because through the large collection of hymns, praise songs and anthems, canticles and sung excerpts from scripture, we are exposed to a significant amount of deep theological thought – something which helps everyone, whether they are theologically trained or not to engage more deeply in their faith. This is why it is important that we as Grace Church sing a diversity of different musical styles: from the old favourite hymns, to spirituals, to Taizé, to praise songs, to plainsong, and much more. A diversity of music allows us to praise God in different ways and expands our theological awareness more and more.

Starting in the season of Advent we will begin to sing different parts of our liturgy (like the Kyrie and the Agnus Dei). Having Morris with us on a long-term basis gives us an opportunity to learn or relearn music and try out new things. I hope that as we explore the past and look to the future with regards to music at Grace Church, you will all join together as we "sing a new song unto the Lord!"

Rev. Graham McCaffrey



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Weekly Services

Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	7:00 p.m.	First Priority Prayer Service (1st of the month)
Wednesday	10:15 a.m.	Said Eucharist

Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, November 27

6:30 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:30 p.m. Children's Pageant and Family-Friendly Eucharist
 7:00 p.m. Eucharist Service
 11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass



Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

8:45 a.m. BCP Eucharist
 10:30 a.m. BAS Eucharist

Chancel Guild

Christmas is coming! We are having an Advent Lessons and Carols Festival the first Sunday in Advent and this year we will start decorating the church with our Christmas wreaths for this service. Decorations will be added as we progress through the Advent season and this year we are looking for fresh ideas. If you have any suggestions regarding adorning our church for the Christmas festival, please speak to Sylvia Slemmestad, Rev. Graham, or any member of the Chancel Guild. We would love to hear from you. You do not need to be a Chancel Guild member to come out and help decorate.

We are also looking for anyone interested in joining the Chancel Guild. This can be a very satisfying and rewarding experience. Please think about it.

Sylvia Slemmestad



A Hymn for Advent

Hymn #95 "O Come, Divine Messiah"

Text by Simon-Joseph Pellegrin;
 translation by Sister Mary of St. Philip

O come, divine Messiah;
 the world in silence waits the day
 when hope shall sing its triumph
 and sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
 Dispel the night and show your face,
 and bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, Divine Messiah;
 the world in silence waits the day
 when hope shall sing its triumph
 and sadness flee away.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
 whom priest and prophet long foretold,
 come, break the captives' fetters,
 redeem the long-lost fold.

Refrain

O come in peace and meekness
 and lowly will your cradle be;
 all clothed in human weakness
 shall we your Godhead see.

Refrain



Our Leadership

Incumbent

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Associate Priest

The Rev. Ronald Duncan

Lay Pastor

Andrew Kaye

Secretary

Doreen Brown

Choir Director

Morris Ellington

Children & Youth

Jonelle Douglas

Churchwardens

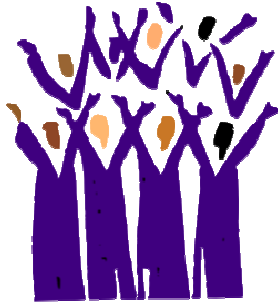
Yvonne Erwin-Knox
 Walter Snaith

Deputy Churchwardens

Linda Painter
 Ryan Ramsden

Hymn Highlight: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

By far my favourite hymn to sing in church is Charles Wesley's Hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing." I am not sure what draws me to this hymn, but I adore both tunes and have even been known to sing it to my daughters as a bedtime lullaby.



Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley (founder of the Methodist movement), is perhaps the most prolific hymn writer in the English Language. He authored more than 6,000 hymns including popular hymns such as "Jesus Christ is Risen Today," "Love Divine all Loves Excelling," "Rejoice the Lord is King" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing."

Charles wrote "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" as a response to his conversion experience in 1738, when suffering from serious doubts to his faith, a group of Moravian Christians prayed for him and offered him testimony and basic care, deeply affecting Charles and reconnecting him with a deep faith. A year after this experience, Charles wrote an 18-stanza poem which he set to music to commemorate the event of his rededication and recommitment to his faith.

While we typically only sing 5 verses of this epic testimony, the entirety of the hymn is a beautiful testament to the power of Jesus to renew and enliven us even from spiritual death! While we might never sing all 18 verses in church, if you are ever at my home at bedtime you might just catch them all as I sing it to lull my daughters to sleep!

Rev. Graham McCaffrey

It Doesn't Hurt to Have a Little Biblical Humour!

What kind of man was Boaz before he married Ruth?

Ruthless.

A Prayer for Moments . . .

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Sometimes it's hard just coping with everyday living.

In the hustle and bustle of ordinary life,
how do you make time for God?
And yet, he understands; for when you call him
he is there
just a prayer away.

Some days your world is dark and bleak;
the clouds are grey
you are lonely, you know despair;
and you wonder, where is God?
Just close your eyes,
tell him you need him
he'll be there
just a prayer away.

In the quiet moments of the night,
in the light of a new dawn,
that's when you'll find that you can;
make time for God;
tell him you love him,
you are there
just a prayer away.



Notices

Young Adults at Grace: Christmas Potluck on Sunday, December 11 following the 10:30 a.m. service. Please let us know if you plan to come.

Festival Evensong in celebration of Bishop Patrick's ministry on Sunday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough (2333 Victoria Park Avenue). All are welcome and invited. Reception to follow.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 12, 2017. Please remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.

Stewardship Conversation II

Dear Members of Grace Church,
Greetings,

I hope you read and took seriously my plea in "Conversation I" to think seriously about containing and reducing our church garbage. I encourage the return of the **blue** and **green** containers. It will require dedicated "B & G" helpers to separate articles to the appropriate bins. Also will be needed are volunteers to get it out of the church. I will happily deal with it if someone will put it in my car. A more permanent arrangement should be organised but in the meantime let us all take this garbage problem seriously. Let us each be eager "B & Gs!"

An interesting blurb came in my recent Enbridge bill. It announced an interesting plan to harness the toxic gas produced by decomposing garbage. This is an old idea Chinese farmers used for cooking and light. It is encouraging to see Ontario is going to give a try.



In its Climate Change Action Plan, the Government of Ontario announced its support for the use of renewable natural gas (RNG) with an investment of up to \$100M over four years.

As an evolving energy company, we are uniquely positioned to help transition Ontario to a lower-carbon future.

RNG, is a clean and carbon-neutral fuel that is created from decomposing organic waste – like green bin collection waste (vegetable peelings), cow and farm waste, and landfill gas. RNG could be produced in Ontario and put into our existing natural gas system.

RNG has the same environmental benefits as renewable electricity and helps reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by displacing traditional natural gas. RNG gives Ontarians an opportunity to sustainably use local waste resources, and produce a fuel with almost no emissions.

Margaret Crossman

This is Your Newsletter

We hope you will contribute to the articles. If you attend a conference or an event either inside or outside the parish, we hope you will tell us about it. Tell us about upcoming events. Feel free to send photographs or clipart, and we will try to include them. Submissions can be sent to **communications@gracechurchscarborough.com** (be sure to have "Newsletter" in the subject line).

The deadline for the next newsletter will be March 5.

Christmas in Popular Song



Songwriters of popular music try to capture the meaning, joys, and sorrows of Christmas. Some songs are widely known, whereas others would only be familiar if you knew the singer/songwriter. In any case, you would not hear them sung in a church service. In preparation for the Christmas season last Advent, we listened to some of these songs and discussed what the writer was trying to express. There will be 2 opportunities this year to participate in similar discussions.

Along with Margaret, we will have a discussion about **the symbols of Christmas** and how they are portrayed in song. We will gather **following the Community Lunch on Saturday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m.**

Sisters Connie and Beryl came to our discussion last year, and as a result SSJD asked Craig to lead the annual Christmas retreat at the convent this year with this theme. The sessions will be similar to the workshop last year, but some different songs are being planned. If you are looking for something different to celebrate Christmas, you may want to consider coming to the Convent this year. For more information and to register, contact the Guesthouse at **guesthouse@ssjd.ca** or (416) 226-2201 ext. 305. The retreat fills up pretty quickly every year. Call today if you are interested.

Margaret Crossman & Craig Gustafson

Quilting/Knitting Club

In early 2015, I made an announcement asking if anyone was interested in forming a quilting club to make quilted wall hangings to help combat the noise level in the hall. To my surprise we had about 14 people interested. We met every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The women of the club made several wall hangings that hang in the parish hall; we also made many items for the Christmas Bazaar. This continued until the summer of 2016 when we decided to take the summer off. Some of us wanted to continue coming once a week to the church, as we enjoyed the quilting and the comradery with the other women.

In June an announcement was made asking for knitters, because in June an e-mail was received from the Diocese asking churches to make wash cloths for them to give out at the Synod. This is how the knitting club was formed. I am pleased to advise that we made 33 wash clothes and we also made 14 baby blankets for Rev. Graham to give out to the newly baptised babies.



In September of 2016 we decided to join both of these clubs and we meet on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with approximately 10 – 15 women and 1 man from the community out to either quit or knit, some of the women do both. This season we have made 1 Queen-size quilt which has already been pre-sold plus 1 single-size quilt that will be raffled off at the bazaar on November 26. Along with this we have many quilted/knitted items to sell at the bazaar. I would like to thank all of the ladies/gentleman that made these items and for coming out on Wednesdays.

Quilting/Knitting is NOT the only thing on our agenda; we have lots of FUN, talking and laughing with each other. I know that some of the women say that they really look forward to Wednesday mornings; if you like laughing and talking to your fellow parishioners, come on out on Wednesdays.

Yvonne Erwin-Knox