

**St. Helen's Anglican Church
The Vine December 2020**

Worship

All worship services and events can be found on-line at sthelens.ca



Advent

*Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

Sunday, November 29, Advent 1 The Advent Wreath: Hope

Sunday, December 6 Advent 2 The Advent Wreath: Love

**A Quiet Christmas Service
Available online by December 13, 2020**

A gentle, prayerful service designed for those who find the season difficult due to loss, loneliness, illness, grief, challenging present circumstances or sad memories.

**A Virtual Christmas Gala
Available online by December 13, 2020**

Seasonal scripture, reflections and music
with St. Helen's Choir and Emmaus

Sunday, December 13 Advent 3 The Advent Wreath: Joy

Sunday, December 20 Advent 4 The Advent Wreath: Peace

Christmas Flowers You may wish to make a financial offering towards the flowers that will grace our Nave this Christmas. Please place your cheque in an envelope, noting the names of those you wish remembered, your own name and telephone number (and church envelope number, if applicable). Please, put your envelope in our locked mailbox at the church by December 17th.

Thanks to Kim, who manages our Canada Helps platform, you can also make this offering by clicking on the Canada Helps button on our website, Christmas Memorial Flowers. Names will be included on slides during the liturgy.



Christmas

*O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.***

Christmas Eve Worship on Thursday, December 24 Online

Christmas Day Worship on Friday, December 25 Online

Christmas Communion On Monday, December 21st and Tuesday, December 22nd Peter+ and Susan+ will be available at the church to offer individuals Christmas Communion. Please make an appointment by calling the church office at 613-824-2010 and leaving your name and telephone number and the number of people attending with you, if applicable. We will confirm your appointment. *Please note that this plan is subject to change depending of the restrictions concerning COVID 19 during that week. Please do not come if you have been ill, or have been close to someone who is ill or have travelled outside Canada. Masks will be worn at all times; contract tracing, physically distancing, and sanitizing also all required.*

Sunday, December 27 First Sunday after Christmas Worship online

Compline or Night Prayers Now available on our website

Worship Ministries Thank you to those who have participated in our liturgies and to Derek, Director of Emmaus and Emily, Choir Director for their work to provide music online. We offer our appreciation to Derek Reid for his extensive work in the new ministry of Technology Administrator, as he produces every liturgy on our site. Thanks also to Ian Kelly, whose work with our website this year has enabled us to stay creative and current.

Chair of Worship: The Venerable Susan Churchill-Lackey

Discipleship

Quiet Garden A new December Quiet Garden Devotional coming soon...

Bible Study The current virtual topical Bible Study on Tuesdays at 9:30 AM continues until December 15th. We are using the online resource, *The Bible Project*. If you wish to attend this Zoom gathering, please e-mail the church to receive an invitation. **st.helen@on.aibn.com** The next series will begin in the new year.

Children's Ministry *Advent Family Packs* for use during the season have been mailed to those on our church school list. If you missed out and would like this package, please e-mail the church office. Check the website for more resources later this month.

Youth Ministry Meeting by Zoom and physically distanced events.



In November Parish Council gave approval to The Branches to redirect \$1000. of funds they raised through the parish for CLAY(which was cancelled due to COVID) to National Youth Homelessness(an initiative supported by CLAY). In conjunction with other churches they are preparing necessity backpacks for distribution to youth at risk in Ottawa. Thanks be to God for their(socially distanced!) outreach efforts.

Co-Chairs of Discipleship: Wanetta Cheung and Jeff McRae

Stewardship

Parish Christmas Letter You will receive a Christmas letter this month by regular mail. In the envelope you will find a ***Christmas offering envelope***. If you have been attending our virtual services, or not, and intend to continue supporting the church, you may do so with a 'catch up' offering to be received at the church no later than December 28. You can give through **Canada Helps** up until December 31 at 11:59 PM, as you will receive your charitable receipt directly from them and not the church. You can use this button on our website for your monthly donation as well.

Thank you if you have been able to be faithful in your financial donations, through PAR, Canada Helps or church envelopes.

2021 church envelopes may be picked up at the church on Friday, December 11, 1-3 or Saturday, December 12, 10-Noon.

You may also wish to increase your PAR amount in December, rather than wait until January. As electronic donations are preferred to cash at this time, the Financial Ministries Team encourages you to consider using Canada Helps or switching to PAR (pre-authorized remittance). A call to the church office (613-824-2010) or an e-mail to st.helen@on.aibn.com will help you to set that up or increase your giving for 2021. Note: Charitable Receipts are issued in February.

Property Thanks to Colin, Terry, Dave and others, inspections and maintenance for our building have taken place as required including the HVAC and Fire Alarm systems, winterizing of the lawn tractor and exterior property, confirmation of the Snow Removal Contract, upgrades to our computer, preliminary work on updating our telephone system(as we look for less expensive alternatives) etc.

Chair of Stewardship: Colin Taylor

Outreach

Christmas Outreach Although we cannot offer the same kind of support to our Community Ministries as we have in the past, we are again collecting gift cards(\$10.) to distribute through the appropriate agencies. Simply put them into our locked mail box by December 13th, 2020

Other ways to support outreach can be found on the PWRDF(Primates World Relief and Development Fund) of the Anglican Church of Canada, for international work and our Diocesan website for details concerning Community Ministries and the T4T initiatives. All charities are seeking support at this time. In Orleans you can support the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre in a variety of ways. Check out their website at ccolonna@crcoc.ca.

See also *Youth Ministry and the National Youth Homelessness initiative*.

Chairs of Outreach: Carol Danson & Sharon Tremaine

Community

Bazaar Thank you to those who purchased preserves, crafts and made to order face masks. Almost \$1700. was raised through the efforts of Helen Giroux, Sandra Clark and Johanna Mulder and our great parish cooks and crafters.

Pastoral Care Thank you to Maggie and to the Team for their ongoing work of pastoral care and the letter writing project. Thanks to John Leech for hosting our monthly zoom meetings.

Healing Ministry Although we cannot engage in Healing Ministry in the same way as we did pre-Covid, we can certainly offer prayers for healing, for strength and comfort, for relationships and any number of other life challenges. We can do so, however, only if you let us know of your need. **Prayer Chain** We understand that our God walks with us on every step of life's journey, in relationship with us whether we are aware of the presence of the Holy One or not! St. Helen's 'prayer warriors' are prepared to offer intercessions on behalf of others for God's blessing upon any number of concerns, needs or issues. Maggie Lorimer, our Pastoral Care Team Co-ordinator also manages the Prayer Chain. To request prayer support please e-mail the church office at st.helen@on.aibn.com or Maggie directly at: mlorimer@rogers.com

Thank you To members of Parish Council who meet virtually(with thanks to our host, Peter Humphries).

Annual Vestry Although Annual Vestry may be virtual this year we will still produce an Annual Report. If you are responsible for a submission please send it to the church e-mail by January 24, 2021

Communications For all updates, worship and devotionals, please see sthelens.ca

Chair of Community: Lorna Ponting

St. Helen's Anglican Church
1234 Prestone Drive, Orleans, Ontario K1E 3X6
st.helen@on.aibn.com; sthelens.ca
Office: 613-824-2010

Parish Clergy: The Rev. Canon Peter Lackey
The Ven. Susan Churchill-Lackey