

# *Third Sunday of Advent*Sunday, December 17th, 2023

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:00 a.m. (Said) Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. (Sung) Holy Eucharist



## **St. Matthew** the Apostle, Oriole Anglican Church

Come. See. Journey. 80 George Henry Blvd. North York, ON M2J 1E7 www.stmatthew.ca

416-494-7020 office@stmatthew.ca

"To Seek and Serve Christ in all persons"

Priest and Pastor: The Rev. Sherri Golisky

Archdeacon: Venerable Kyn Barker

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Canon John Wilton Music Director & Organist: Mr. David Braund

Lay Anointer: Mr. Clifford Wong

## **Today at St. Matthew**

Holy Eucharist (8:00 a.m.) Holy Eucharist (10.00)

## Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 a.m. HOLY EUCHARIST (BAS)

Everything you will need for the service is found in this leaflet, with the exception of hymns which are found in the blue book, Common Praise. We invite you to participate as you feel comfortable.

Masks are now optional. We have Hearing-Assist devices available for those with hearing difficulty.

Children are very welcome here! There are activity packages for children to use in church during the service - available from the Sidespeople in the narthex (the entrance area).

## The Gathering of the Community

Prelude: "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen".......Johaness Brahms

Sentence: The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord

has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. (Isaiah 61.1)

Processional Hymn: 101 "Hail to the Lord's anointed"......CRÜGER

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath\***

Third Sunday of Advent... Joy

Reader 1: During cold days and long nights, we wait for the coming of joy.

Reader 2: Joy in knowing you work in us, and through us; joy in seeing the fruit of

our labours; Joy knowing that our prayers are heard.

Reader 1: Joy that is deeper than cheer, longer lasting than happiness.

Reader 2: Peace will come with Jesus, our Prince of Peace.

(the candle of joy is lit)

Reader 1: Let us pray:

All: Light of the world, giver of all joy, be in our lives, and in our hearts,

may we celebrate all the ways you are God with us, this day and all

our days. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## The Greeting

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets

are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily

magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison......David Hurd

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** (please remain standing)

Celebrant: Let us pray (a moment of silence is taken)

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

#### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### FIRST LESSON

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

Reader:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All:

Thanks be to God.

Choir: When the Lord restored the | fortunes ' of | Zion, Then | were we ' like | those who | dream.

> Then was our mouth | filled with | laughter, and our | tongue with | shouts of | joy.

±± Then they said a|mong the | nations, "The | Lord has ' done | great things | for them."

All: The Lord has done | great things ' for | us, And | we are | glad in|deed.

Restore our | fortunes,' O | Lord, like the | water-'courses | of the | Negev.

Choir: Those who | sowed with | tears Will | reap with | songs of | joy.

All: Those who go out weeping, | carrying 'the | seed, will come again with | joy, | shouldering 'their | sheaves.

#### SECOND LESSON

Reader:

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not guench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24) Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Archdeacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Archdeacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Archdeacon: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a

witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Archdeacon: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily: The Rev. Sherri Golisky

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I

believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **Prayers of the People** (as announced)

(Please stand, sit, or kneel as is most comfortable and prayerful for you.)

#### **Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he

welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins,

confident in God's forgiveness.

(silence).

Most merciful God.

All: we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We

have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive

us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your

sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal

life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace (Please stand.)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: And also with you.

You are invited to share a word of peace with others in the congregation.

#### THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

## The Preparation of the Gifts

## **Prayer Over the Gifts** (please stand)

Celebrant: God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living

sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you **People:** And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you

thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever

sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are

full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in

the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have

made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you

and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command.

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant:

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.** 

## The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

## THE COMMUNION

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei (Sung)

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Please wait for the direction of the Sidespeople.

If you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please indicate this by crossing your hands over your chest as you approach the priest.

If you would like to receive the bread only, simply touch the base of the chalice as the wine is offered.

Gluten free-hosts are available.

**Anointing:** If you wish to receive anointing for healing, please approach the anointer prior to receiving Holy Communion.

Celebrant: Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with

unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.** 

**Doxology** 

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask

or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the

Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Announcements**

**Blessing** 

Recessional Hymn: 111 "Herald! sound the note of judgement".....NEANDER

**DISMISSAL** 

Archdeacon: Followers of Jesus: inspired by the Holy Spirit.. serve the world God loves.

All: Thanks be to God.

► Join us for our Coffee Hour following the service ◀

## Next Week's Readings ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Canticle18 Luke 1:26-38

#### **CYCLE OF PRAYER**

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

Anglican Church of Canada: The Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary,

and the staff of the General Secretary's Office

Diocese: The Anglican Church Women (ACW) – Enid Corbett, Diocesan President

Deanery: Church of the Ascension

Parish: Families of Bruiners, Cameron & Charles

#### **Assisting Today**

Sidespersons: The Margaret Gordon Allen Team Readers: Ulrina Gamalial, Helen Edmonds

Intercessor: Cliff Wong
Chalice: Janice Sanders
Altar Guild: Claudette Blake
Livestreaming Emma Braund

#### **Liturgical texts:**

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## Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Most scholars think that Isaiah came into being over a period of about two and a half centuries—a sort of extended building and gathering project that began with the work

<sup>\*</sup>Advent Wreath Reading sourced from <a href="https://www.knoxtoronto.org">https://www.knoxtoronto.org</a>.

of Isaiah of Jerusalem in the late 8th century BCE (ch 1-39), was added to with the poetry of a great Babylonian period prophet (ch 40-55), and brought to completion sometime in the Persian period by a new group of followers of the earlier prophets after the return to the land of Judah during the Persian empire (ch 56-66). So Isaiah is a model of the way God's word continues to be interpreted and reinterpreted in different times and places through the continuing activity of the Holy Spirit. One of the ways that reinterpretation took place was by including the section of 2 Kings 18:13-20:19 that told about the miraculous deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrians in the time of King Hezekiah and First Isaiah (Isaiah of Jerusalem—around 720 BCE). It ends with the account of how Hezekiah welcomed the envoys of another rising power, Babylon, and showed them all his property and riches. Isaiah's word from the Lord is that Hezekiah's foolish trust will lead to a time when his descendants will be captives and eunuchs (castrated men who were harem workers) in Babylon. Hezekiah things, "Well, as long as there is peace in my time." Our reading today catapults us to Babylon 170 years later, and in a wonderful passage full of unidentified voices in God's heavenly court we hear a new prophet being summoned to speak a word of comfort and hope to a people in exile who have passed through great suffering and deprivation. The chapter lays out several of the key themes of this new prophetic voice (Second Isaiah, or Isaiah of Babylon, chapters 40-55) comfort for the exiles, the vision of a great highway across the desert on which people will return of Jerusalem, human frailty and God's eternal creative power and constancy, and the foolishness of people who worship things instead of putting their trust in Israel's God and deliverer, YHWH. [Dr. Walter Deller/2023]

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## Parish News

**TUESDAY COMPLINE** ~ **December 19th at 7:00 p.m.** Join us for a half-hour reflective service Tuesday evenings using the tradition of Compline (or "Night Prayer"). Come pray together, and find peace at the end of your day. Through the coming weeks, we will have a special focus on "PRAYERS FOR PEACE." **NOTE**. There will be no Compline on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

<u>FAMILY SERVICE</u> ~Our next Family Service will be on Sunday, **January 14th** at the **10:00 a.m.** 



**MESSY CHURCH** ~ We will have an Epiphany Party on **Saturday, January 20th at 11:00 a.m.** Expect activities, songs and prayers and an entirely new way to express your faith (eg. Lord's Prayer bean bag toss). Please register by the Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at office@stmatthew.ca. Adults must remain with children.

**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN** ~ Tuesdays from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m. and Fridays from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. via the main South door. Please ring the Bell outside the East wing door (on the left side of the door frame) for entry.

**INTERCESSIONS** ~ Each week as a church, we lift up our prayers for one another, presenting our requests to God. If you wish for us to be praying for someone you know, please add their name to the "Blue Binder" found in the narthex, or speak to Reverend Sherri or Archdeacon Kyn.

<u>PASTORAL CARE</u> ~ If in need of pastoral support, please contact Reverend Sherri <u>priest-stmatthewtheapostleoriole@toronto.anglican.ca</u> or by phone at 416-494-7020 ext. 2. In case of pastoral emergencies, please call (416) 880 – 4211. Sherri's day off is Mondays.

## EPIPHANY OPEN HOUSE AND NEWCOMERS TOAST

Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Rectory, 70 George Henry Blvd.

All are welcome! Let us kick off the Epiphany season with some festive fun! With a special toast to all the newcomers to St. Matthew.

#### **SAVE THIS DATE!**

Our Annual Vestry Meeting will be on Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 following the 10:00 a.m. service

#### Installation of The Rev. Canon Lisa Newland

The Bishop of Toronto has named our former Incumbent, the Rev'd Lisa Newland, to be an Honorary Canon of St. James' Cathedral. This is in recognition of her service to the wider Diocese of Toronto, in addition to her excellent ministry in the parishes she has served. All are welcome to attend Lisa's Installation as a Canon at St. James' Cathedral on Sunday January 21 at 4:30 p.m.



**Gentle Fitness Classes Return in February, 2024!** Keep your eyes on this spot, details to come!



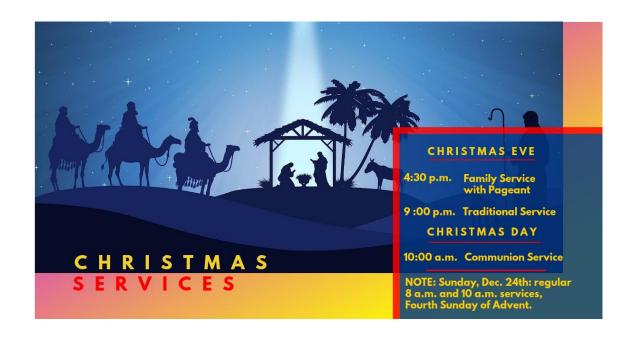


## Opportunities to serve!

There are many ministry opportunities open at St. Matthew. We need your help! If you would like to learn more, speak to Rev. Sherri or one of the wardens. The opportunities include but are not limited to...

Sidespeople, Greeters, Live-Streaming Support, Counters, Messy Church, Children and Youth, Hospitality, Altar Guild, Readers, Intercessors, Choir Members and Instrumentalists, and more…

Parish Calendar	
December 2023	
Sunday, 3rd	Family Service 10:00 a.m. and First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, 5th	Tuesday Compline 7:00 p.m. / Advent Study 7:45 p.m.
Wednesday, 6th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, 9th	Messy Church 11:00 a.m. Gingerbread Nativity and Hot Chocolate Cafe
Tuesday, 12th	Tuesday Compline 7:00 p.m. / Advent Study 7:45 p.m. on Zoom or stay in person at the church after the service
Wednesday, 13th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, 16th	Pageant Rehearsal 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, 17th	Anointing with prayers for healing at both 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, 19th	Tuesday Compline 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 20th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, 24th	8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services, Fourth Sunday of Advent
	4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service with Pageant
	9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service
Monday, 25th	10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service
Tuesday, 26th	Please note there is no Compline this evening.
January 2024	
Tuesday, 2nd	Please note there is no Compline this evening.
Wednesday, 3rd	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Saturday, 6th	Epiphany Open House 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Sunday, January 14th	Family Service 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 17th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.
Saturday January 20th	Messy Church: Epiphany Party 11:00 a.m.
Sunday 21st	Anointing with prayers for healing at both 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday 24th	Choir practice 7:15 p.m.



## **Nativity Set Journey**



This year we have a travelling Nativity Set going from house to house, each night through Advent.

If you would like to participate please contact <a href="mailto:office@stmatthew.ca">office@stmatthew.ca</a>.

How wonderful to see the Nativity Set in the home of Parishioner Helen Bruiners!

## **CHRISTMAS PLANTS AND GREENERY**







Help us to make the church beautiful and Festive for the Season!



- If you would like to donate towards the greenery and Christmas plants, there are four ways to do it!
  - 1....Please fill out and put your money in the "Season Flowers Donation and Request envelopes (located in the Narthex).
  - 2....You can send it by mail or drop it off in the Black Church mailbox at the south entrance. Mark the envelope 'Christmas Flowers' and include your name and dedication.
  - 3....We accept e-Transfer at treasurerstmatt@gmail.com
    Q: What is the name of Rev. Sherri's dog?

    A. Toby

or

- **4.** You can donate online on our website. Just click on the **BLUE GIVE** button on the top right and select "**Give Online.**"
  - Dedications may be made in the Memory of Loved Ones or in Thanksgiving.

## End of Year Givings - Update from Reverend Sherri and your Churchwardens

Thank you to all our parishioners for your wonderful generosity in supporting the ministry and mission of St. Matthew the Apostle Oriole.

We had some unexpected expenses including a new furnace needed at the rectory, as the 17-year-old furnace broke down in the month of November.

We are confident, however, as in years past, that with your generosity and following the historic trend of seeing an up-tick in givings at the end of year, that we can successfully close the gap.

To help us end the year in a strong financial position, we encourage those who may not be up to date and current in their givings to please consider catching up before the end of December, and thank you to all for considering an end of year gift. All donations will receive a charitable tax donation receipt.

If you'd like more information on becoming a Regular Giver and supporting the ministries of St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, either through regular Envelopes or Pre-Authorized Remittance, please contact Rev Sherri, or one of the Wardens or Sandra Lumb, our Envelope Secretary, at treasurer@stmatthew.ca



We have reached and surpassed our goal!

Total funds received to date: **\$262,063.82** with pledges remaining of **\$21**, **660.00**.

Thank you to all our parishioners for your generosity! The Capital Campaign will conclude in Spring 2024.

Projects completed to date include:

- ✓ Sanctuary window cladding (2019)
- ✓ Landscaping enhancements (2019)
- ✓ Accessibility renovation of education wing washrooms (2022)
- ✓ Parging/repairs of cement/bricks on north side of building (2023)
- ✓ Roof replacement fellowship hall (2023)
- ✓ Ongoing electrical upgrades and repairs including upgrade of fire alarm system (2023)... with more exciting projects to come!

## **Five Ways to Give!**

## 1. Pre-Authorized Giving

Ask a Sidesperson for the form

Contact Rev Sherri, or one of the Wardens or Sandra Lumb, our Envelope

Secretary, at <a href="mailto:treasurer@stmatthew.ca">treasurer@stmatthew.ca</a>

Also, available from our Website

#### 2. eTransfer

The email for the eTransfer is <a href="mailto:treasurerstmatt@gmail.com">treasurerstmatt@gmail.com</a> The question is "What is the Name of Rev. Sherri's dog?" Answer: Toby.

#### 3. Cheque

Mail

Put it in the plate during the service.

Put in the Black Mail box (locked) at the George Henry entrance.

Your weekly/monthly envelope

Make payable to: St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Anglican Church

#### 4. Cash

Your weekly/monthly envelope on the plate

Put in the Black Mail box (locked) at the George Henry entrance.

## 5. CanadaHelps

You can give online through our Website or directly at CanadaHelps

## **Anti-Racism Committee Monthly Column**

## **Results of Systemic Racism: A Reflection**

by Anne Creighton

If I ask you if you have heard of Jamal McNeil, you might answer that you might not have heard of him, but if I ask you if you have heard of "Marilyn Denis and Jamar", you might answer that you have heard of the CHUM-FM Morning Radio Team. When Jamal McNeil (a famous DJ and radio personality in New York) joined CHUM-FM on July 16, 2018, the

morning show was renamed "Roger and Marilyn with Jamar". This way, the Toronto audience could get to know Jamal McNeil before Roger Ashby retired in December 2018.

In the fall of 2018, after being in Toronto for only a few months, Jamal McNeil explained on air to Roger Ashby and Marilyn Denis that he had recently been stopped by the police on the way to work. Both Marilyn and Roger, who are white radio hosts, were surprised and stated that they had never been stopped by the police while driving. Jamal, who is of African-American descent, explained that this was not his first time being stopped by police. Studies of various police forces across North America show that black drivers are more likely to be pulled over by police than white drivers for no apparent reason. The phenomenon of being pulled over by police in search of an offence has been called "Driving While Black".

Masai Ujiri became General Manager of the Denver Nuggets in 2010 and then General Manager of the Toronto Raptors in 2013. This made him one of a very small group of N.B.A. General Managers who were of African descent. In 2019, he won the N.B.A. championship with the Toronto Raptors when they beat the Golden State Warriors in California. Sadly, on the most important day of his career, he was stopped from joining his team by a deputy sheriff who refused to let him pass and pushed him back despite what Ujiri was explaining. Ujari was only allowed to join his team when one of the Raptors, who witnessed the altercation, came and escorted him past the deputy sheriff. Luckily, the whole episode was captured by the news media. Ujari explained later, "The video sadly demonstrates how horribly I was treated by a law enforcement officer last year in the midst of my team, the Toronto Raptors, winning its first world championship." He also said, "... Yet, unfortunately, I was reminded in that moment that despite all of my hard work and success, there are some people, including those who are supposed to protect us, who will always and only see me as something that is unworthy of respectful engagement. And there's only one indisputable reason why that is the case — because I am Black."

Studies of various police forces across North America have also shown that black and white people cannot always expect the same treatment by the police. On the Statistics Canada website, there is an interesting document called "Perceptions of and experiences with police and the justice system among the Black and Indigenous populations in Canada". It cites the 2021 Canadian Legal Problems Survey which aimed to "identify the kinds of serious problems people face, how they attempt to resolve them, and how these experiences may impact their lives".

The 2021 Canadian Legal Problems Survey involved tens of thousands of Canadians across the country and it found that when dealing with the police, "Black people (8%) were more likely than non-Indigenous, non-visible minority people (2%) to have encountered a serious problem or dispute related to discrimination. Indigenous people were more likely than non-Indigenous, non-visible minority people to have had a serious dispute or problem with the criminal justice system in the past 3 years (5% versus 3%). This was the case even after controlling for other factors, such as age, gender, and income." Many other examples of racism and their impacts were found in this report.

(https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00003-eng.htm)

Studies, such as the 2021 Canadian Legal Problems Survey, are helping Canadians to become more aware of the systemic and structural racism in the criminal justice system so that changes can be made. (Systemic and structural racism are forms of racism that are deeply embedded in "systems, laws, written or unwritten policies, entrenched practices, and established beliefs and attitudes that produce, condone, and perpetuate widespread unfair treatment" of people of colour.) Learning about the results of systemic and structural racism helps Canadians to make sure that recommendations are made and issues are addressed not only in the criminal justice system, but also in government settings, in medical settings, in educational settings, in religious settings, and in business settings.

#### PRIEST-IN-CHARGE CONTACT INFORMATION

You may reach the Rev. Sherri by email at

<u>priest-stmatthewtheapostleoriole@toronto.anglican.ca</u>, or by phone at 416-494-7020 ext. 2. Rev. Sherri's day off is Monday. In case of pastoral emergencies, please call

(416)880 - 4211.

#### **CHURCH ASSISTANT'S OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** The office is open to visitors by appointment only.

Please email the office at <u>stmatthewtheapostleoriole@toronto.anglican.ca</u> or <u>office@stmatthew.ca</u> to make an appointment.

#### **Parish Officers**

Rector's Warden Valerie Seales
Peoples' Warden Steve O'Keefe
Rector's Deputy Warden Nigel Jansz

Peoples' Deputy Warden Norma Walker Roberts

Office/Rentals Donna Lam
Treasurer/Bookkeeper Sandra Lumb

treasurer@stmatthew.ca

Sidespeople 8:00 Trevor Evans
10:00 Valerie Seales

Music Director/Organist David Braund Envelope Secretary Sandra Lumb

Synod Representative Margaret Gordon Allen
Alternative Synod Member Norma Walker Roberts

Church School TBD

Nursery Director and

Messy Church Facilitator Diane Wilton
Altar Guild Chair Gwynne Barker
Fundraising Bonnie LaRue

Sherry Jansz
Growing Healthy Stewards Chair Delores Lawrence

Social Justice & Outreach
Hospitality

Valerie Seales

Margaret Gordon Allen