



Advent—Christmas Newsletter 2010

Sing Silent Night Advent Sunday Nov. 28 10:30 am

Canadian Anglicans are invited to raise their voices for the Silent Night Project: Anglicans promote peace in the spirit of Amazing Grace.

All are invited to send in videos of their church communities singing the hymn “Silent Night” on the first Sunday of Advent, November 28. All videos that are uploaded to the Anglican Church of Canada’s YouTube site by December 14 will be included in a documentary to be posted online

by December 25—a special Christmas gift from the Anglican Church of Canada.

Singers are also encouraged to each donate a toonie to support Anglican military chaplains who minister to the women and men of the Canadian Forces.

The model for this project—the 2008 [Amazing Grace Project](#)—was a resounding success. Thousands of Canadian Anglicans sang and recorded themselves in downtown cathedrals, seniors’ homes, and remote outposts. Over 500 videos were sent in and all were included in a

documentary, *Amazing Together*. The project also raised over \$95,000, now being used for suicide prevention in northern Canada.

This endeavour is our participation in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Primates World Relief and Development Fund whose work over these many years has included the relief of world hunger and the support of development for world communities in need of safe drinking water, sanitation, health care, education, community infrastructure and relief from natural disaster without prejudice to race, ethnicity or creed.

Advent Lessons and Carols Service to be held at 10:30 am Sunday, Nov. 28-to include Silent Night Project

Advent Sunday is the Church’s New Year. Advent prepares us to celebrate Christ’s birth. Advent literally translates as “to come”, signifying a journey we are to undertake. As we mark this occasion we are asked to come to-

gether in unity to make a new beginning as we prepare to journey together through another year.

As the day light becomes shorter during this season we reflect on our source of light that dispels the darkness characteristic of this

time.

The hymn silent night will call our attention to the night or darkness that the theme of this hymn is meant dispel. The Primates’ Fund has served as one of those lights.

Christmas Memorial Service– Sun. Dec. 12, 2 pm.

All Saints’ will host the annual Christmas Memorial Service at our church hosted by Kaye Funeral Home on Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 pm. The approaching holidays can be a difficult time when grieving the loss of a loved one. This service will offer an opportunity to honour the memory of those who have died in the past year and in years past. Through Carol singing and scripture, bereaved families can gather together and remember loved ones and to remember the promise of faith. All Saints’ members who desire are invited to join with others from the community at our church for this memorial service in order to remember your loved ones.

About the hymn "Silent Night"

The words to "Silent Night" were written by Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), an Austrian Roman Catholic priest and set to music by Franz Gruber (1787-1863). Joseph Mohr was serving as an assistant priest at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, in the Austrian Tyrol, when he wrote the words of the carol in 1816.

Mohr brought the text to Gruber who was the village schoolmaster and church organist. Gruber composed the music and the carol was played and sung for the first time, accompanied by Gruber on his guitar, on December 24, 1818.

A popular story associated with the carol says that the church's organ was broken in December 1818 and it was the prospect of having no music on Christmas Eve that occasioned the carol's first performance.

Soon after the 1818 Christmas Eve Mass, organ repairman Karl Mauracher came to the church and obtained a copy of the new carol. Through his influence the carol spread throughout the entire Tyrol region, where it became popular as a Tyrolean folk song.

In 1838 it first appeared in a German hymnal. It was first heard in the United States in 1839 when a family of Tyro-

lean singers, the Rainers, used the music during their concert tour. The English translation most widely used in North America, is that of John Freeman Young (1820-1885) an Episcopal priest (later bishop). Young's translation appeared in 1863, and this version is used in the Anglican Church of Canada's hymn book *Common Praise*.

During World War One, "Silent Night" was sung simultaneously in French, English and German by troops during the Christmas Truce of 1914. It was one of the few carols that was known by soldiers on both sides of the front line.

Missional Transformational Church Reading— see the Library

Twelve representatives from All Saints' joined with other churches to attend a recent diocesan Missional Transformational Church workshop in Toronto. We are among a number of diocesan parishes participating in a pilot project to discover ways in which we might rediscover and transform the mission of our congregation. Where is God active in our community and how might we discover and support this? Our church library display is featuring several copies of two recommended books for your reading authored by the facilitator of this mission workshop. They are available to you to borrow. If interested simply visit the display and sign out one of the books returning it after two weeks so that it is available for others. We are very encouraged by what we are learning and recommend this reading. You will be hearing much more about this as we continue to evaluate and discuss together at all parish levels our church's mission.

Supporting the ministry of military chaplains

The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, has asked that donations from the Silent Night Project be directed to support the ministry of Anglican military chaplains, who work among the women and men of the Canadian Forces. There are more than 85 Anglican military chaplains who serve in the Canadian Forces. Some minister specifically within the Anglican Military Ordinariate (AMO), the grouping of all Anglicans in the Canadian Forces. Yet their work of spiritual support extends

to all members of the Forces—Anglicans, other Christians, and people of other faiths. Chaplains serve wherever the Canadian Forces are stationed. A chaplain may travel overseas on a humanitarian mission, serve the Eucharist aboard navy ships, or counsel women and men who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Bishop Peter Coffin serves as Bishop Ordinary to the AMO. He sums up their work and need for support: "The

ministry is huge...and the chaplains really need the support and link with our church as they carry out their ministry." Funds from the Silent Night Project will bolster chaplains' ministry by supporting the work of their pastoral head, the Bishop Ordinary.

Together, the Bishop Ordinary and the chaplains carry out an essential ministry: witnessing to God's transformation in a broken world.

Unexpected Peace- Reflections on the Silent Night Project

Ideas for reflection

The gospel speaks of not knowing, but still being prepared for the unexpected. I wonder—I really wonder—• if I can be prepared for unexpected. I know that I can cope with it and even thrive in the face of unexpected challenges, but is that really the same as being prepared?

When that first German soldier sang • *Stille nacht, heilige nacht* was he prepared to hear *Silent Night, holy night* sung back to him? Was that first English soldier prepared to sing? Had he done his warm-up scales, reviewed the music, found the right note? I expect not, but he responded. I suspect that he responded at a heart level. His brain heard that familiar melody and his heart responded to an offer of beauty, hope, and ultimately, of peace.

Those soldiers had been

prepared even in the midst of war to open themselves up to compassion and hope. • Somewhere in their past they had been nurtured by song and tradition. They had been shown how to be human and to connect to another human being regardless of physical location or circumstances. They may not have expected a truce that night or have been prepared to cross into no man's land to bury the dead and share their care packages, but they had been taught to be human and to be embrace an offer of compassion and peace.

Have we been prepared and are we preparing our children to respond to the unexpected? Can we appreciate • those quiet moments in the schoolyard before the bell rings at day's end? Do we acknowledge God in that brief quiet? I think being prepared for the unexpected is embracing what you are offered, taking what is given and enjoying it to the fullest.

The unexpected hug from the cool teenager or a quiet evening at home with a loved one when suddenly the children are elsewhere. Being prepared for the unexpected is dealing with the bad stuff in life, like accidents and unknown illnesses. It is drawing on your inner strength, tapping into your faith, calling on your God to be all that you can be in the face of devastating news.

The Isaiah passage speaks of turning swords into ploughshares and “learning of war no more.” It gives hope • of a future where children do not bully, and adults do intentionally harm themselves or one another and nations do not go to war. Do we really expect this? Do we really think our families can be places of peace and our schoolyards arenas for hope and compassion? Or will peace be unexpected? And if it is unexpected, will we know how to be in that moment?

2011 Donation Envelopes

Your offering envelopes for 2011 will be available by mid December for pickup, if you are already on our list of having used them. If you do not currently have offering envelopes and would like some please contact the church office or our envelope steward, Arnold Allen. Offering envelopes promote regular giving and enable us to track your donations both for your own information and for the benefit of issuing you a receipt for income tax deduction purposes. Remember that pre-authorized direct debit is another way for your to donate. Please refer to the PAG brochure or contact the church office.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat

Sunday, February 20th, 4:00 pm

Director:

Christine van der Bank

Co-Sponsored by :

Canon Dr. Giles Bryant & A. S. Choir and Church School.

All Saints Youth and Adults combine to present popular Biblical Musical !!!!!!!!

Christine van der Bank is organizing a parish presentation of this popular musical presenting a contemporary approach to the biblical story of Joseph and his dream coat of many colours.

There are many opportunities for parish youth and adults to be involved. If interested please contact Christine.

Preparations for this event will begin soon and continue throughout the winter.

Join us in this wonderful opportunity to relive this important biblical event.

Tickets will be on sale soon. Coordinator of ticket sales– Mr. Bob Williams.

Christmas Services 2010

A Christmas Message from the Wardens

Christmas Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday, Dec. 19, 4:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

Friday, Dec. 24th

7 pm, Family Service

11:00 pm

Choral Candlelight Service with midnight communion.

Christmas Day Service

Saturday, Dec. 25, 10:30 am

The wardens wish to offer our greetings of the season.

We have much to be thankful for this season.

Among other things we celebrate the successful installation of our new heating system. Our thanks to those who gave their support through financial contributions, labour and leadership.

Our thanks to the ACW for their continued support of the church's ministry and especially roof repair.

Parish member donations to the operations of the church continue to run about \$10,000.00 behind previous levels and budget.

Please find enclosed the 2010 Christmas envelope .

You have proven yourselves generous in your support of your church's ministry.

Please use this occasion to respond generously so that we might begin 2011 without a deficit.