



# Trinity Talks

winter 2020

## Welcome Christmas!

Christmas is a time of loving: loving our family, our friends, and our church community. This year our celebrations will look a little bit different and some of our traditions may even have to change. But one thing remains unchanged: Jesus is the reason for the season.

So gather around your computer, snuggle up to a loved one or a fluffy friend, and let's celebrate the birth of Jesus - God's love in human form.

Fill your heart with Christmas spirit by joining in on our many activities leading up to Christmas Day: Advent Sundays, a cookie-making event, a pyjama party, and maybe...even...breakfast with Santa.

Bless us one and all and have a merry Christmas!



"[COVID-19] hadn't stopped Christmas from coming! It came!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!"

- The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

### *In this Edition:*

- ★ Rev. Read's Advent message
- ★ Advent Wreath Challenge
- ★ Christmas Dates
- ★ Christmas Activities
- ★ ... and more!

### *Also continuing during the Christmas season:*

#### **Friendship Group**

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM

#### **The Living Room**

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

#### **Prayer Group:**

Saturdays at 11 AM



“The Lord is  
coming, always  
coming.  
When you have  
ears to hear  
and eyes to see,  
you will  
recognize him  
at any moment  
of your life.  
Life is Advent;  
life is  
recognizing the  
coming of the  
Lord.”

- Henri Nouwen



## Rev. Read Sherman

### Almost Advent 2020

Dear Friends,

I write to you in hope, hope that with the Christian season of Advent about to begin, Christmas is sure to follow. Yes, even now, when the temperature on November 10 hit 23C, a record! Yes, even now, when Montreal is still in the COVID-19 Red Zone. Yes, even now, when it has been so long since we've been able to see each other in person.

The Christian story is nothing if it isn't a story of light coming in a time of darkness. At a time of injustice for the Hebrew people, hope remained alive in the prophecies long foretold. One will come who will redeem the people from their oppression. That One would be the Messiah, the Christ, who would usher in a new realm of peace. Our Jewish friends still wait for that One to come and for the peace God promises. We who follow Jesus locate our peace in Him. His birth, His life, His ministry, His insight into a God who is intimate and knowable, a God who is bent on lifting the lowly and overturning the oppressor.

2020 has proven to be a year of crisis. The novel coronavirus pandemic seems like a mighty oppressor – turning our lives upside down all over the world. World political events seem a bit oppressive these days, what with the distraction in the USA over an internal divide over what is truth and who's telling the truth (Pilate might feel in good company!) and

who has or hasn't just won the US Presidential election. Meanwhile the balance of powers among the nations seems to be shifting – some would say teetering – towards the authoritarian versus the free and democratic. We know we have our share of political uncertainty too right here at home and enduring matters of justice that demand our attention and response. 2020, a year like no other year in recent memory. Is there light to spill upon us in a year like this?

In John's gospel we remember the words "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5). By rooting ourselves in hope once again, of a baby to be born, a star to appear in the night sky, of ordinary folks – shepherds – recognizing a new era of God's long history with the people is about to begin, we can and will prepare ourselves for Christmas 2020 and the new year beyond. We can pray for the world to put itself right, to resolve longstanding injustice, to find a home for all refugees, to set all captives free. By rooting ourselves in the truth of the Gospel, we can withstand the barrage of "fake news" and keep our eyes on the prize of a world being restored.

Although we travel this journey of preparation this year more virtually than in person, still amazing things can happen! On Zoom we will gather, sing, pray and praise. On Zoom and by phone we can connect, to know how much others care about us, how much we each belong to God's community.

Please join us for our regular gatherings on Tuesday morning for Friendship Group (10:30am); Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm for the TAPC Living Room (all welcome for casual socializing, fun topics of discussion, a little music-making or singing); and Prayer Group Saturdays at 11am.

Also, mark your calendars for a special Zoom Blue Christmas and Memorial Service scheduled for Thursday December 10 at 7:30pm.

More than ever during this pandemic, the church relies on you to be the church in action bringing who you are, using what you have where you are to be Christ's hands, feet and light to a world that truly needs it. If you have ideas to offer or initiatives to share, please let me or anyone on our Church Council know. I can always be reached at 514-592-7037.

In addition, thanks as always for the ways you continue to give generously to keep our virtual doors open as well as maintain the building that waits for us to gather again in person! We know it will happen, and may that day come soon, Lord. Amen!

Blessings in Christ,

*Read*



## *Advent Wreath Challenge* Starting, Nov. 29

Since we won't be together in person to light the Advent candles, we challenge you to create your own Advent wreath and we will light them together each Sunday leading up to Christmas.

Need some inspiration? Check out these creative do-it-yourself wreaths:



Grab a few pine cones, pillar candles, and some Dollarama finds and voilà!



Here's a kid-friendly version: battery operated tea lights. What fun!



Candles in a teacup? Why not?

*C'mon, Trinity!  
Let's create!*

*Advent Dates:*

Nov. 29  
Dec 6

Dec 13  
Dec 20

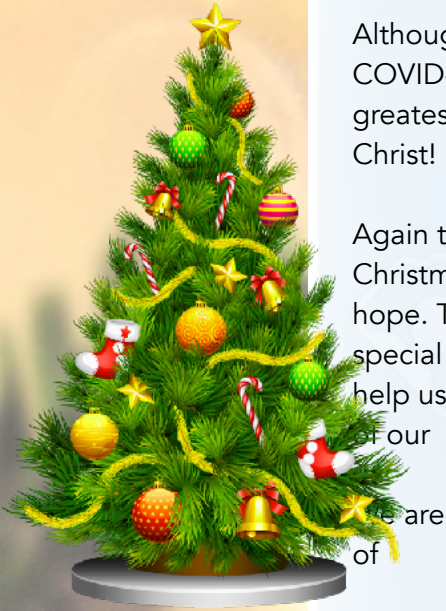




# Christmas Events

## *Christmas Tree of Thanks, Memories, & Hope* before Monday, Dec. 7

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Although things are different this year with COVID-19, we will still be celebrating the greatest event ever: the birth of Jesus Christ!

Again this year we are having our special Christmas tree of thanks, memories and hope. The money raised from these special help us memorial ornaments will help us with ongoing expenses of our church.

asking for a donation  
\$5.00 or more per

ornament. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10.00 or more.

Please fill out the form included in your Trinity Talks envelope and sent it to the church by mail or e-mail to [diane\\_red-pink5@live.com](mailto:diane_red-pink5@live.com).

Your ornaments will be placed on our special Blue Christmas tree and will be removed to be given to you just before Christmas.

*David Garland*

## *Blue Christmas* Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 PM

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It can hard to celebrate Christmas when you're missing a loved one, but we are here for you. Come participate in the Blue Christmas service and light a candle for your loved one. The Memorial Tree will also be lit at the service.



## *Christmas Pageant* Sunday, Dec. 20 at 11:15 AM

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Did you really think the pandemic was going to stop us from putting on a pageant? No way! Not with these tech-savvy kids!

We will be presenting this year's pageant in a whole new light! Our pageant, **Live from Bethlehem**, will make excellent

use of our Zoom technology as we zoom around the globe to bring you the good news that Jesus is born!

**PRESENTATION OF THE PLAY:**  
**December 20th at the 11:15 am service.**



## *The Gift of Giving* Sunday, Dec. 13 at 11:15 AM

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Particularly during Christmas time, we focus on giving to others. We believe this year will be particularly hard on people and helping those who are struggling at this time seems so important.

Usually we donate non-perishable food and money to buy toys, but this year our gift-giving is forced to look a little bit different.

Our friends at St. Brendan's Food Baskets tell us they would prefer to receive money or gift cards instead of food donations, to decrease the number of people handling food.

### **So if you wish to donate food, here are some options:**

- buy a gift certificate to Walmart or Maxi and mail it to the church
- send a cheque to the church specifically for food donations

We also believe that giving toys to children in need is very important right now. Perhaps even more so that ever!



### **So if you wish to donate toys, here are some options:**

- buy a gift certificate to Walmart or Toys R Us and mail it to the church
- send a cheque to the church specifically for toy donations
- donate on the GoFundMe page

Please donate by White Gift Sunday, Dec. 13th, to allow time for our gifts to be shared with those who need them.

Thank you!

*Judy Ciciola* (Membership & Pastoral Care)  
*Stacey Ciciola* (Mission & Outreach)  
*Sheri Cameron* (Youth Group)

## *Christmas Eve Service* Dec. 24 at 7:30 PM

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*O come let us adore Him like never before!*

This year's Christmas Eve service will be one for the history books!

Come celebrate the timeless story of Jesus' birth at the Christmas Eve candlelight service. A special time of gathering over Zoom and

reaching out to friends and family around the world.

This year's service will be followed by a time of community as we grab a hot chocolate and settle down to watch a Christmas movie together.





# Activities for All Ages

Christmas isn't just for kids! All who are young or young at heart are welcome to join in on these activities.

All of the events happen on Trinity's KidZone Zoom Link:

**Meeting ID: 642 805 8318**

**Password: YayGod!**

## Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, Dec. 5 at 9:30 AM



It's true!  
Santa wants to have  
breakfast with you!

BYOB  
(bring your own  
breakfast!)

## Best Gift Shopping

Sunday, Dec. 13 in the afternoon

If Santa can do it, then so can we!  
We will find a way to make this  
happen in a safe, socially-  
distanced way.

If you would like to participate in  
the gift buying, please reach out  
to Sheri at [kids@trinityuc.net](mailto:kids@trinityuc.net).



## Dough Holy Night

Sunday, Dec. 20 at 2 PM

Join us for an afternoon of  
cookie-making, story-telling,  
and carols.



## PJ Party!

Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 4 PM

Don we now our gay  
apparel - it's a Christmas  
pyjama party!

Crafts, games, and a  
movie!



# Mission & Outreach

To my dearest congregation,

In these uncertain times and the holiday season approaching, I sit and wonder about one too many things. Obviously, I work in retail and wonder if I'll make it through Black Friday, Christmas Eve and Boxing day. People act nuts, selfish and rude. Add-on keep your distance, wash your hands and please wear your mask properly; things are stressful as they are but some people have the worst attitudes.

In this case, I'm driving myself nuts with my internal debate that of spirituality and childhood. I already have a countdown on my cell phone until Christmas or is it the birth of our Saviour?

I work in a kids clothing store so the music is all about Santa Claus. At home or in the car, I hear the songs from our voices united. The kid in me is like Santa Claus is coming to town and I should be writing a letter to him. The adult wants to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and be the little drummer boy.

Should I be naming all of the reindeer? Or remembering the stories from the apostles? Have I been naughty or nice? If you know me, then you know the answer to that. If you're smiling, well then that's a little gift from me to you.

My dear sweet Trinity family, I don't know if we will be our home, the sanctuary this year. I miss seeing you all

from the choir loft. I do wish that you all are happy, safe and healthy.

**God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it. – Pope Francis**

So God gave us both a Saviour, his son, Jesus Christ and a child-like belief in Santa Claus. Maybe my inner debate was never needed. I can be blessed in the arrival of Jesus and be giddy in the thought that St-Nick will soon be here.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and, if we don't see each other, have a Happy New Year!!!

Your social distanced, hand washing and mask wearing Elf,

*Stacey*





# Angels We Have Heard on High



What are your Christmas blessings? What are your Christmas wishes? Rev. Read wants to know!

We invite you to write a Christmas blessing or a Christmas wish on the angel that was included with this newsletter and send it back to church before December 20, 2020 for a gathering of Christmas angels.

I have a self-addressed envelope in my envelope.  
What do I use it for?

- ★ send your Christmas angel
- ★ send a Christmas offering
- ★ send a little message

Note: All envelopes are opened by either Rev. Read or Christine Tatarewicz, who is currently helping in the church office.

Keep in touch!  
We love hearing  
from you!

Trinity  
United Church  
3050 Rosemont  
Montreal, Quebec H1Y 1M2  
phone: 514-721-1830  
email: [welcome@trinityuc.net](mailto:welcome@trinityuc.net)  
website: [www.trinityuc.net](http://www.trinityuc.net)

