



# Connections

*Prepare the way of the Lord.*

*Mark 1: 1*

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Advent 2020

## Christ Church prepares for Christmas

It's still a few weeks away, and our focus is on the lovely themes of hope, peace, joy and love which we taste in Advent. But this year we need to think carefully about how we are going to celebrate the magical season that marks the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

Certainly it will be different - no shopping sprees in packed malls, no large family dinners with people we love, no neighbourhood sing-a-longs with all the familiar Christmas carols. We will miss these traditions, but we know that they are small sacrifices to keep ourselves, our parents and children and friends safe from the virus that lurks around us.

Unfortunately, the number of COVID-19 cases in the Scarborough Village area is alarmingly high, putting the people in our community even more at risk. The upshot is that when the Parish Board met on December 1, it was decided that we will not be having in-person worship services in the church on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or Sunday, December 27. After that we will consider carefully when we can safely open again for in-person services. This will definitely not happen until after the new year. Our aim is to focus our attention on creating meaningful worship experiences online through our website. Please join us online at [www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com) on Sunday, December 13, for an Advent service with the theme of joy, and on December 20 when we will gather virtually for our annual service of Lessons and Carols. (See page 2 for details.) Then on Sunday, December 27, be with us for worship with a reflective, quiet, enter-into-the-new-year emphasis.

A very special online Christmas service will be posted on December 24, available for everyone who chooses to be with us on our website.

Our Christian family would not be complete without you; the circle of Christian love and community will be made whole by your presence.



### YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US ONLINE AT

[www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)

**December 13 - Third Sunday in Advent**

with theme of "joy"

**December 20 - Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Lessons and Carols with music led by Christ Church choir members, soloists and organist Sam Tam

**December 24 - Christmas Eve**

Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with montage of faith-family faces

**December 27 - Reflective worship service**

to prepare for the new year

**For this season in the life of the church, masks should be seen as a liturgical garment, worn as an act and symbol of humility, service and love.**



*Andrew Arbil,  
Bishop of Toronto*

# A Service of Lessons and Carols

December 20, 2020

In our traditional Christmas observances, the service of Lessons and Carols holds a special place.

We take time from our usual shopping, baking and festive rounds of visiting friends to hear once again the age-old story of the birth of our Saviour Jesus as a little child, his humble beginning in a stable far from home, the hope and peace and joy and love he brings to us. We sing the carols we have known and loved since we were children, and we set aside for this brief period the cares of everyday life. This year will be different. Each of us will hear the same scripture lessons from the safety of our own homes; we will sing the same carols, but as we join in the singing we will be heard only by the close family that lives in our household. This is an opportunity for even those of us who can't carry a tune in a bucket

to sing out in the joy of the Good News that the angels chorused, and know that our song is sweet in God's ears.

The online service will include some of the carols being led by members of our very own choir, we may even have a professional singer soloist, and we will be able to enjoy the skill of our fabulous Music Director, Sam.

Please visit our website at [www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com) to access the service of Lessons and Carols on December 20.

## You can be a star!

For the Christmas service, we are working on including pictures of our parishioners in a photo montage.



If you wish to be included, your picture must be sent to Sam, our organist and online guru, by Friday, December 18th. Yes, you can wear your favourite Christmas sweater (ugly or not), bring along a pet and of course include any family members or others in your household bubble. Send these files or Google drive links to Sam at [ccsvonlineservice@gmail.com](mailto:ccsvonlineservice@gmail.com). You will see your friendly fellow faith-family faces (try saying that fast ten times!) at Christmas as we worship together in 2020 style.

If you are not online and want to be included, Pastor Pam will make a mini-visit to your porch or apartment lobby and take your picture.

*Please pray for these members of our community and their families*

Anita F	James Y
Anna Mary K	Jenille L
Anne S	Joan N
Annet K	John J
Beverly Barber	Judith R
Christina & Joshua	Ken K
Connie & David M	Lennox &
Corinne P	Leonora Y
Crisent T	Leonora B
Dave M	Linda & Robert E
Dawson family	Margaret B
Deb A	Madhuri M
Deborah T	Philip I
Ebun D	Robbie & Bev R
Gwen P	Sherri-Ann & Ron

*and for all those affected by COVID-19, racial discrimination or any injustice*

**CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH**

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**Website: [www.christchurchscarborough.com](http://www.christchurchscarborough.com)**

**JOIN US ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WORSHIP**

## TIME FOR AN UPDATE

Every year at this time we check our parish list to make sure we haven't left anybody out and that all addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are correct. We also like to double-check spelling.



With the importance of keeping our faith-family connected in this pandemic, we want you to confirm your current contact information.

**Please email Parish Administrator, Ellen, at [office@christchurchscarborough.com](mailto:office@christchurchscarborough.com) or call the church at 416-261-4169 and leave a message.**

We ask you to do this even if you think we already have all the correct information. We keep a list of everyone in the family's name, and your address, phone number and email address.

This information is of course confidential and used only for valid parish needs.



## Notes for December

**December 2, 1960.** Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher met with Pope John XXIII in the Vatican. It was the first meeting between leaders of the Anglican and Roman Catholic faiths since the founding of the Anglican Church in 1534.

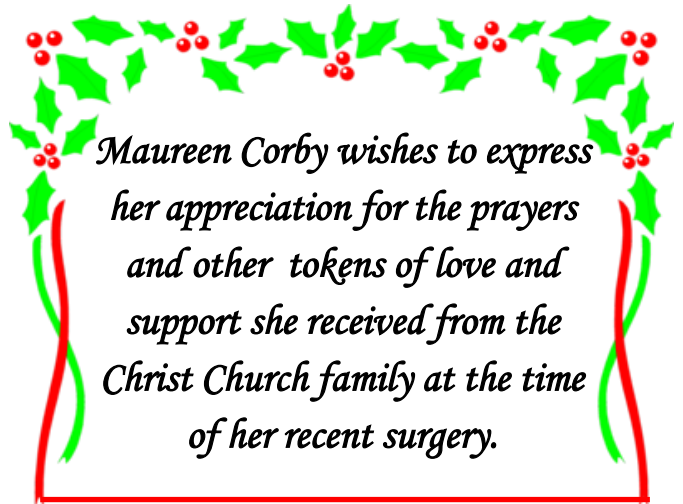
**December 6** On this day the Church remembers Nicholas, Bishop of Myra in the year 342, whose generosity is the basis for the legends of Santa Claus, also known as Père Noël (France), Ded Moroz (Russia), Father Christmas (England), Babbo Natale (Italy), Dun Che Lao Ren (China), Julenisse (Norway) and Hoteliosho (Japan).

**December 7, 521** Saint Columba, Irish priest and Celtic scholar and apostle to Scotland, was born. He established a monastery on the Scottish island of Iona, from which he sent out missionaries to what are now Holland, France, Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

**December 25** marks the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. Although scholars don't know exactly when His birth actually took place, the world has long bowed in reverence on this one holy night.

PRAYER FOR A NEW YEAR  
Day by day, day by day,  
O dear Lord,  
Three things I pray:  
To see thee more clearly,  
To love thee more dearly,  
To follow thee more nearly,  
Day by day.

*from Godspell*



*Maureen Corby wishes to express her appreciation for the prayers and other tokens of love and support she received from the Christ Church family at the time of her recent surgery.*

**December 26** is called "the feast of Stephen" in the well-known carol Good King Wenceslas. Saint Stephen was a young deacon in the early days of Christianity. He is remembered as the first martyr, stoned to death for his faith.

**December 28** is called Holy Innocents Day to recall the little boys slaughtered by King Herod after Jesus' birth, because one of them might be the baby foretold as a king by the magi from the East.

**December 29, 1170** On this day Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was murdered on the steps leading up to his altar by knights who thought they were carrying out King Henry II's wishes. Becket and the king had been close friends until the Archbishop understood that his faith required him to challenge some of Henry's actions.

**December 31, 999** European Christians expect the world to end this night and prepare for the Second Coming and Judgment Day.

