



PREPARE YE...

the way of the Lord!

Isaiah 40:3b KJV

November 9, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew's:

In so many ways, the past year and a half has been hard on all of us. It has been 20 months of fear, anxiety, loneliness, and deep sadness for many of you and your families. And, as a congregation, it has been a time of emptiness as we were unable to gather in our Church building to worship. But the good news is that the waiting is over! After much preparation, on Sunday, November 7th, we held our first in-person/in-church worship service since March 8, 2020! All of this seems fitting, as preparing ourselves is the message of our upcoming Advent season!

After centuries of waiting, John the Baptist cried out Isaiah's ancient proclamation: "*Prepare ye the way of the Lord...*", calling God's waiting people to get ready for the coming of God's Son. And this is what we will be doing in our "**PREPARE YE...**" Advent series. I invite you to join us, in person or online, as together we prepare to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

Since many of you are still uncertain and anxious about COVID-19 and gathering together – even for worship – the Session wants you to know that it is committed to continuing the broadcasting of our worship services live online on Facebook and to reposting it on our website for you to watch if you miss it live. For those of you who wish to join us in-person for worship, we're waiting to welcome you. Before you come, though, there are several protocols that you must follow to ensure everyone's safety. For a full list of these protocols, and to find our Eventbrite registration page (you must be registered to attend each service), go to the St. Andrew's website (<https://standrewsbrampton.ca>). To help you plan your Advent/Christmas calendar, a summary of our upcoming Advent & Christmas services can be found on the back of this letter – and on our St. Andrew's website.

Also, at this time of year, we hold our **Annual Budget Meeting**. Once again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, **we will be meeting online via Zoom**. The meeting will be on **Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 12:00 noon** – after the worship service. **The links for the Zoom meeting information – as well as the link to PDF versions of the Agenda and the Proposed 2022 Budget** – can also be found on the back of this letter.

Lastly, I draw your attention to the enclosed **Christmas Offering envelope** and pre-stamped return envelope. The Bible tells us that the People of God responded to the call to "prepare" by getting ready and offering gifts to God generously and faithfully. As you prepare yourself for the coming Christmas season, I pray that you will respond in the same way as you consider the ongoing work and ministry of St. Andrew's. *The Session thanks you for your continued generosity: St. Andrew's has been blessed by your support throughout the year.*

In closing, I pray that God will keep you safe during this trying time, and bless us as a community of faith in 2022. May you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Geoff Ross

Material for the Annual Budget Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 21st at 12noon

Zoom information for the Annual Budget Meeting:

Three ways to Join the St. Andrew's Annual Budget Meeting on Zoom:

To join by computer, laptop or tablet, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3752656843?pwd=ZnJtb3VGZkgxZjNxWGQvaUVseDIpUT09>

Meeting ID: 375 265 6843 Passcode: 489011

To join by mobile telephone, use the numbers below:

One tap mobile: +17789072071,, 3752656843#,,,,,0#,, 489011# Canada
+12042727920,,3752656843#,,,,,0#,,489011# Canada

To join the meeting by landline telephone:

Dial by your location: +1 778 907 2071; +1 204 272 7920; +1 438 809 7799 Canada
+1 587 328 1099; +1 647 374 4685; +1 647 558 0588 Canada

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdMqxnPnvr>

For PDF's of the Agenda, Minutes of the March 7, 2021 Meeting, and the Proposed 2022 Budget: click: <https://standrewsbrampton.ca/session/>.

In-Person/In-Church Information:

For more information on all worship service details, times, and registrations - as well as all congregational news: <https://standrewsbrampton.ca>.

“PREPARE YE ...”

An Advent Series about Preparing our Hearts

Sunday, November 28th: *1st Sunday of Advent & Communion*

“PREPARE YE ... For the Impossible!”

Sunday, December 5th: *2nd Sunday of Advent*

“PREPARE YE ... For God's Plan.”

Sunday, December 12th: *3rd Sunday of Advent*

“PREPARE YE ... For the Unknown.”

Wednesday, December 15th: *Blue Christmas Service*

“PREPARE YE ... For Hope.”

Sunday, December 19th: *4th Sunday of Advent*

“PREPARE YE ... For the Unexpected.”

Friday, December 24th: *Christmas Eve Services*

7:30pm: *Traditional Christmas Eve*

“PREPARE YE ... A Place.”

10:00pm: *Christmas Eve “Candlelight” Service*

“PREPARE YE ... For The Promise.”