

NEWS from the BRIDGE

*Life @ Bridge Street United Church,
Belleville, Ontario, during COVID-19*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

AN INITIATIVE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TRANSITION TEAM



We premier our weekly online worship services on
YouTube, Sundays @ 10 a.m.

DETAILS ARE PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.



Sunday, December 20, 2020

ADVENT 4



Luke 1: 26—38



In order to add variety and depth to our spiritual nurture this Advent, the Faith Formation Team and Rev. David are providing a weekly resource that invites us to expand our thinking of the weeks (and days) of this season by offering additional focuses to the usual ones of hope, peace, joy, and love. This material will be forwarded in a separate e-mail, each Friday.

It is our prayer that they will stir within you affirmations, questions, and general wonder and awe relative to your faith journey.

Rev. David welcomes you to share with him your insights or inquiries by email to:
interim.clergy@gmail.com

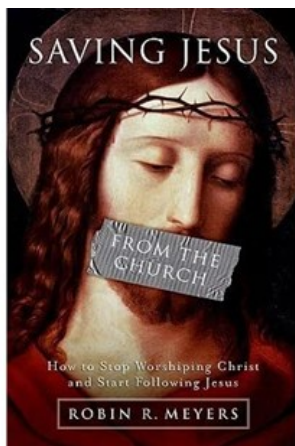
Thank
You!



BSUC United Church Women

Sincere thanks for fulfilling your budgeted pledge to the church with your donation this week of \$5,000 to the General Fund to support day-to-day operations.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM NEWS ...



The Faith Formation Team is pleased to offer an online study of the book "SAVING JESUS" by Robin R. Meyers, beginning in mid January.

Hosted by Rev. David, we will meet via ZOOM for up to 1 hour starting at 11 a.m. on Sundays, beginning January 17th. Each Sunday will see us explore one chapter; there are 10 chapters in total.

Since the book is out of print, 10 copies have been sourced from multiple sellers and purchased by BSUC. Copies will be "leased out" at a cost of \$20.00 each,

with a \$15 refund provided when the book is returned

To reserve your opportunity to participate, please email Carol Leslie (admin@bridgestchurch.com).

Books will be available for pick up starting Tuesday, January 5th in the church office. Please bring the loan fee in cash.

Zoom instructions will be issued to registered participants prior to the course's beginning.

If all 10 participant slots are filled and there's additional interest, a second program will be offered.

Please sign up early to avoid disappointment.



VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR ...

SUNDAY, December 20—Advent 4 — premiering at 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, December 24—Christmas Eve—premiering at 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, December 25— Christmas Day Greetings—premiering at 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, December 27 – 1st After Christmas – Worship for the Young and Young-at-Heart— premiering at 10 a.m.

One of these services will feature a pictorial montage of church members and adherents. Be sure to watch for a glimpse of some of your church family friends!

Bridge Street United Church

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**INTENTIONAL
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OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR ...



Regular Offerings - December provides a perfect opportunity to top-up your offerings to be reflected in your 2020 income tax receipt.

White Gift Offerings - As has been a tradition for many years, we invite you to make a "White Gift" contribution to the church to be directed to the area's "Christmas Sharing" program. (Your "White Gift" contributions will be tallied into your year's offerings and reflected in your end-of-year charitable receipt). "Christmas Sharing" has been operating since 1967 and now provides Christmas food boxes, toys for children, and assistance with the area's community Christmas dinner for residents of Belleville, Thurlow Ward, those east to Shannonville, west to White's Road and south to Ameliasburgh. **Last year, our White Gift offerings totaled \$1,060.**

Christmas Offering - This end-of-year offering is your special Christmas gift to the church.

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**There are currently four methods of contributing ...**

*Please be sure to denote where your offering is to be directed...*

**CHEQUE** - Please drop off or mail to 60 Bridge St. E., Belleville, ON, K8N 1L7.

**INTERAC e-Transfer** - Add **admin@bridgestchurch.com** to your INTERAC e-Transfer contact list and your donation will be automatically deposited into the church's operating bank account (no security questions/answers to worry about). Your INTERAC e-Transfer donations will be recorded and receipted at the end of the year.

**PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance, monthly, administered by the United Church of Canada) - Please contact the church office @ **admin@bridgestchurch.com** to arrange for this method of contributing.

**CREDIT CARD** - Click the "Donate Now" button on the home page of our website, [www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com), to contribute through "CanadaHelps".

*Thank you!*



**Of the many activities  
that contribute to the  
life of the Church,  
surely prayer is a  
prominent one.**

This week you are invited to pray for the following individuals and their circumstances. As seems right, please pray for their strength, pray for their soul to be comforted, and pray for a different and better future than is their current circumstance.

*Praying for one and  
another has long been a  
practice that  
communities of faith  
engage in at times of  
celebration,  
sorrow,  
uncertainty,  
fear,  
and thanksgiving.*

### **WE LIFT BEFORE GOD:**

**Those** who feel sadness, anxiety, frustration or loss during the Christmas season.

**Those grievers** who are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.

**Those** whose health is imperiled or who are experiencing anxiety brought about by the challenges of life in the time of a pandemic.

**Folk** who are poor, hungry, homeless or provisionally housed, as they live with uncertainty and fear.

**COVID-19 doubters and deniers** that they might come to a more fulsome understanding of the challenges that still beset the world, our country, our provinces, and our cities.

**Those** whose challenges have yet to be conveyed to us and yet are so very real.

*Rev. David welcomes news of others for whom we can pray. Please reach out and advise.*



# worship ONLINE

**... for the week of  
December 20, 2020**

Click below to access Rev. G. David King's  
YouTube address ...

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCt8ig2lpQ8ILzRfKjNmCuSw>  
or go to the home page of our church website for  
a link, [www.bridgestreetchurch.com](http://www.bridgestreetchurch.com).

**Available**

**Beginning**

**this Sunday,**

**December 20 @ 10 a.m.**

## the Revised Common LECTIONARY

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

Luke 1: 26—38

## *Advent 4*

**OPENING HYMN: Hail to God's Own Anointed—VU #30**

- 1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!  
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious  
in his sight.

- 3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

Words: James Montgomery 1921, alt./Music: Johann Cruger 1640; adapt. W.H. Monk 1861  
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### **CLOSING HYMN: My Soul Cries Out—MV #120**

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### *Refrain:*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn.



3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn.

4. Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.

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