



October 30, 2009

Dear Friends,
Remember to turn your clock back on Saturday night. If you forget, we'll have the coffee on for you on Sunday at 9:30!

This Weekend

Halloween! We're giving Treats and Tours of the Church. Plus a Free Halloween Costume Photo Shoot, courtesy of Frans Altana Photography; this will be a professional shoot with portable studio equipment. The original size photo can be downloaded for FREE from a secure online gallery, info:fransaltana.com. **Saturday 3-8 PM.**

Sunday Worship, November 1, All Saints Day: *We remember Saints and Souls. You are invited to offer a brief eulogy or remembrance of one of your loved ones. This worship service is specially designed to help us grieve and honour our personal saints.* **8:30** Holy Eucharist; *Early and Peaceful.* **10:30** Holy Eucharist; Scriptures: *Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44.* Preacher and Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion.* Sunday School and Nursery during the service; Refreshments following.



Messy Church: Doing the Craft! The next Messy Church is **Saturday, November 14, 3-5 PM**. The Story: James and John ask Jesus for special treatment, and the others are unhappy with them. Young children might not yet understand "I am *more* special than him" (adults know this well!) *We will focus on how to God and to Jesus, each one of us is very special. Our foundation: Without comparison, that is how we treat each other.*

Christianity 102, Our own Introduction to Christianity as we Practice it at St. John's (the Second Edition): This is for anyone who wants to learn more.

THIRD SESSION: Tuesday, November 3. The Theme is **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. How does the Holy Spirit work? How is this part of God? How does the understanding of the Holy Spirit compare in different religious traditions? The format is presentation with slides, questions and discussion. Presenters this week: *Dionne Watson and Bob Shantz*.

COME FOR SUPPER AT 6:30 PM. If you are rushing directly from work, join us for hearty soup (meat and vegetarian options), bread and cheese. \$5 donation.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: 7:30 TO 8:45 PM.

6 weeks with the following themes: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Creeds, Talking about our faith. The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Fred Hiltz will join us for the concluding session, Living the Mission God has given each of us, Tuesday, November 24. You are welcome to 'drop in' or come to everything.

Next Week

Christianity 102, Tuesday, October 20: Theme - "The Holy Spirit" See the **ORANGE** information box above for details; Review last week's session "Jesus" in the **BROWN** information box below! **6:30 Supper; 7:30 Presentation.**

Thursday Morning Worship, November 5: Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing. Scripture: *Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9*. Refreshments and visiting following the service. **10:30 AM.**

Sunday Worship, November 8, 8:30 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service; *Early and Peaceful.* **10:30** Holy Eucharist and Healing Service; Scriptures: *Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44*. Preacher: Brenda Stewart; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Jaroslaw Czerwinec, *accordion*. Sunday School and Nursery during the service; Refreshments following.

Field Trip to the Dead Sea Scrolls at the ROM: Meet us at the Royal Ontario Museum entrance **Friday November 6, 7:00 PM.** *We'll tour the scrolls together, then walk to a local Yorkville Pub for refreshments.* *From the ROM website: "Reduced admission prices to the exhibition apply during the ROM's Half Price Friday Nights, presented by Sun Life Financial, from 4:30 pm to 9:30 pm: Adults: \$17; Seniors and Students: \$15.50; Children \$7.50; Children 3 & under are free."



Jesus: Teachings and Miracles



Christianity 102: Week 2 "Jesus" "The Jesus I never Knew"

Referencing Philip Yancey's book, Sean and Marilyn talked about their journey of discovering Jesus

From Philip Yancey's book, "The Jesus I never Knew", he describes how some people thought Jesus would be an odd shape... at least the way our experience...

We look at the Beatitudes - what did Jesus mean when he said "Blessed are the poor..." and how that could be different from what we think of as "poor" in our world today.

We look at the Miracles - do we expect miracles to take this form today?

Why is Jesus so interesting? Marilyn: Each time I come back to Jesus, I am struck by how much there is more to understand. Sean: The parts of Jesus that didn't make sense to me before are the ones that attract me now.

Philip Yancey: "Suppose we hear an unknown man spoken of by many people. Some suppose we were puzzled to hear that some men said he was too tall and some too short; some objected to his fatness, some lamented his leanness; some thought him too dark, and some too fair. One explanation...would be that he might be an odd shape. But there is another explanation. He might be the right shape. Perhaps (in short) this extraordinary thing is really the ordinary thing; at least a normal thing, the centre." Philip Yancey quotes G.K. Chesterton, to get at the heart of who Jesus is...

We look at the Beatitudes - what did Jesus mean when he said "Blessed are the poor..." or "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." It is about a commitment to how the world could be. It is about our own detachment from "things."

We look at the Miracles - do we expect miracles to take this form today?

Why is Jesus so interesting? *Marilyn:* Each time I come back to Jesus, I am struck by how much there is more to understand. *Sean:* The parts of Jesus that didn't make sense to me before are the ones that attract me now.

**What about the Holy Spirit? See you on Tuesday!
Dinner at 6:30; Presentation at 7:30.**

One day, the heavenly beings came to present themselves to the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself to the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my friend Job, who suffered much and despite everything remained faithful?" Satan replied, "I am done with considering your servant Job, for truly you were right that there is no one like him on earth. His exceptional conduct proves nothing about the rest of human beings. They readily turn away from you over the smallest obstacles. If I were to test *them*, all of them would fall away. They are worth nothing."

The Lord replied, "You will not test them. They endure trials enough from their own temptations, pain enough from those who already harm them, and fear enough from the cumulative sins of those who have gone before them. I repent of the permission I gave you to harm my servant Job. Satan, you are finished with interfering in human affairs."

And Satan said, "Ah, but you are not finished with interfering in their choices. For I know that you will go to them."

And God said, "I will go to them; I will weep with them and I will rejoice with them, and I will make my home among them. I will show them the choices that are theirs to make. We will see faith equal to that of Job in most of them."

*Ending the Book of Job: There is a form of creative writing that is popular these days, where extra text is **added** to works in the public domain. (Think of the bestseller, **Pride and Prejudice and Zombies**.) I wanted to argue with the author about the idea that God brought about Job's suffering by giving Satan permission, for purposes of argument and debate. Is God capricious? I know this is a set-up, a literary device, but it is the part of the story that doesn't get resolved by the end of the book. I am reflecting on the tensions between a theist and a pantheist representation of God in our tradition.*
Gary van der Meer

P.S. I hope you find it helpful to get an update like this from St. John's Church, West Toronto. If you would like something listed in the announcements, or if you know someone who would appreciate receiving this, please contact me. If you would prefer not to receive news from St. John's in this way, please also let me know.

Best wishes, Gary+

Check our website. www.sjwt.ca

And remember this!

The St. John's Community: "We are not a Building!"

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight and gay. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries. We call on all who will to come and join us.



We Live God's Love Here