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# St. John's Anglican Church West Toronto

Inclusive & family-friendly community



October 22, 2009

*Dear Friends,*

*Look at what is happening in the next 2 weeks... and enjoy the pictures of our exploration of life with God.*

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## This Weekend

**Messy Church, Saturday afternoon, October 24:** Our monthly worship time designed for 2-6 year-olds and their families. This month's story: [Jesus and Zacchaeus \(Luke Chapter 19\)](#); Jesus befriends and includes someone other people reject because of his livelihood and conduct. Jesus' vision is that everyone belongs. We share this vision with our children through story, crafts, singing, and a healthy snack, **3-5 PM**.

**Breakfast for the Homeless, Early Sunday morning, October 25:** Our volunteers serve breakfast at St. Stephen's Church, just north of Kensington Market, from **6 to 9 AM**.

**Sunday Worship, October 25, 21st Sunday after Pentecost: 8:30** Holy Eucharist; *Early and Peaceful*. **10:30** Holy Eucharist; Scriptures: [Job 42:1-8,10-17](#); [Psalm 34:1-8](#); [Hebrews 7:23-28](#); [Mark 10:46-52](#). Sermon: Gary van der Meer; Celebrant: Gary van der Meer; Musicians: Dorothy De Val, *organ*, and Susanna McCleary, *violin and vocal soloist*. Sunday School and Nursery during the service; Refreshments following.



*Last Saturday, we had wonderful weather for our Hike on the Bruce Trail. We started from the Brock Monument at Queenston, and concluded with a tasting at a winery. We held our earth blessing overlooking the lake and Toronto from the top of the Niagara Escarpment. Pictures: Thanks to Mollie Butler (red tailed hawk) and Tom Gehrels, St. John's Outdoors Coordinator.*



**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.

**SECOND SESSION: Tuesday, October 27.** The Theme is **JESUS**.

How is Jesus part of God? How do we make sense of his "turn the world upside down" teachings? How do we understand his miracles? The format is presentation with slides, questions and discussion. Presenters this week: *Marilyn Kluykens and Sean Watson*.

**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

**Advisory Board, Monday, October 26:** Come to the congregational meeting hosted by our wardens: Find out how we are doing financially; Offer your ideas for our future plans. Question: *Would you like to go on a Mission Trip?* Meeting is held in the Church. **7:30 PM.**

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

**Thursday Morning Worship, October 22:** Holy Eucharist with Ministry of Anointing for Healing. Scripture: Hebrews 7:23-28. Refreshments and visiting following the service. **10:30 AM.**

**Halloween, Saturday, October 31:** Treats and Free Halloween Costume Photo Shoot, courtesy of Frans Altena 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: fransaltena.com](http://fransaltena.com). We welcome volunteers to assist in giving treats and tours of our sanctuary. **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.

## "Theism" and "Panentheism"



**Christianity 102: Week 1 "God"**  
**Sheila and Brian introduced 2 Approaches to Christian Faith**  
**Both are ancient and found in most communities...**

**Theism**  
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: God is a supernatural person-like being; God is outside of and rules over  
d God created. God is: all perfect, unchanging, loving, merciful, just. God  
es in the world (virgin birth, Jesus' miracles and resurrection). God  
is to intervene in the world; God answers prayer by curing people who are  
an ask God to intervene on our behalf. Christian Life emphasis: Focus on  
ments and rewards - what to believe or do to be saved.

**Panentheism**  
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**Panentheism:** God is real; God is not separate from us and from the world; God  
is immanent - the ground of all being. There is a stupendous, magnificent,  
is "More" - God is that "More". We cannot know God or understand God but  
experience God. Jesus reveals to us what a life full of God looks like; Jesus  
is the best example of a human who was in touch with God. The universe is not  
separate from God - The universe is IN God (St. Paul: "God is the one in whom we  
live and move and have our being.") If God is the "encompassing spirit" there is  
no need for God to intervene in order to act. If God intervenes - how do we account  
for suffering and prayers which seemingly go unanswered. Panentheism cannot & does not try to explain how God relates to the  
world - it is a mystery! Christian Life emphasis: Transformation in this life through  
relationship with God.

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

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.

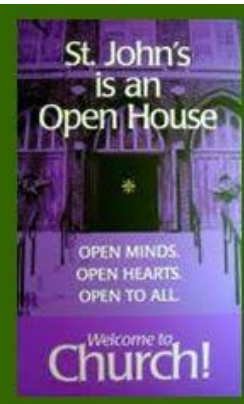
Best wishes, Gary+

**Check our website. [www.sjw.ca](http://www.sjw.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**