



Gladwin Heights United Church

3474 Gladwin Road,
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DECEMBER 2018

Minister: Rev. Tim Bowman

Pianist: Jacob Greenan

Custodian: Rick Frier

Office Administrator: Eileen Arnold

DECEMBER READERS

Dec. 2 – Florine
Dec. 9 – Jan
Dec. 16 – Rita
Dec. 23 – Gladys
Dec. 24 – TBA
Dec. 30 – Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER WORSHIP HOSTS

Dec. 2 – Gayle
Dec. 9 – Elmer & Florine
Dec. 16 – Gayle
Dec. 23 – TBA
Dec. 24 – TBA
Dec. 30 – TBA

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair – Gayle
Secretary – Gina
Treasurer – Muriel
Presbytery Rep – Sheila
M & P Rep – Patricia
Spiritual Care Liaison – Rita
Property – Jenny
Sunday Morning Coordinator –
Gladys
Public Relations – Ray

MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEES

WITH ST. ANDREW'S

Joint Board: Jenny
Sheila
Arlene
Joint M & P: Lois
Patricia
Joint Worship: Rita
Carlene
Arlene

DECEMBER LECTIONARY

December 2nd, 2018

1st Sunday of Advent
 Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25:1-10 [VU 752]
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Luke 21:25-36



December 16th, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent
 Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6 [VU 880]
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

December 24th, 2018

Christmas Eve
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96 [VU 816]
 Timothy 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 9th, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent
 Baruck 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79 [VU 900]
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

December 23rd, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent
 Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:47-55 [VU 898] or
 Psalm 80:1-7 [VU 794]
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45, (46-56)

December 30th, 2018

1st Sunday After Christmas
 1st Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148 [VU 871]
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52



WHITE GIFT SUNDAY – December 2nd

We will be having our White Gift Sunday on December 2nd
 We ask that everyone who can bring a non-perishable food item
 and an item for a Christmas gift **(must be a new item)**
 to the church service on Sunday morning.

Suggestions for the gifts: Toys, hair accessories, books, gift cards,
 bubble bath, etc., jewelry, cash that can be given to the Christmas Bureau to
 purchase items they are in need of, "one size fits all" clothing items.
 Items for men and boy & girl teens are especially needed!

EVENTS & MEETINGS IN DECEMBER



- Dec. 1st** - 9:30 am – Mid-Fraser Cluster Workshop here at Gladwin Heights UC
- Dec. 2nd** - 9:30 am – The Advent of Hope Worship Service and White Gift Sunday
- 3:30 pm – Fraser Presbytery Celebration at Trinity Memorial UC
- Dec. 4th** - 6:30 pm – Gathering of Women Potluck Dinner at Gina Hartley's
- Dec. 5th** - 12 noon – All is Calm free Luncheon Concert at St. Andrew's UC, Mission
- 7:00 pm – Annual Carol Festival at Trinity Memorial UC, Abbotsford
- Dec. 6th** - 7:00 – Choir Practice - Sanctuary
- Dec. 7th** - 7:30 am – ROMEO Breakfast at JoJo's Bana Restaurant
- 9:00 am – Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina Service at St. Andrew's
- Dec. 9th** - **10:30 am** – The Advent of Peace Joint Worship Service here at Gladwin Heights UC
- 11:30 am – Christmas Potluck Lunch following the service
- 11:30 am – Christmas Mini-Bazaar
- 1:30 pm – Senior Worship at MSA Manor
- 3:00 pm – Serenata Singers Christmas Concert at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mission (more info following)
- Dec. 12th** - 12 noon – U.C.W. Christmas Potluck Lunch at Carlene Stein's
- 12 noon – All is Calm free Luncheon Concert at St. Andrew's UC, Mission
- Dec. 13th** - 7:00 pm – Choir – Sanctuary
- Dec. 14th** - 9:30 am – Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina Service at St. Andrew's
- Dec. 16th** - 9:30 am – The Advent of Joy Worship Service & Christmas Pageant
- 6:30 – 8:30 pm – Annual Wassail at St. Andrew's UC, Mission
- Dec. 18th** - 3:15 pm – Sandwich Group
- Dec. 19th** - 12 noon – All is Calm free Luncheon Concert at St. Andrew's UC, Mission
- Dec. 20th** - 7:00 pm – Choir – Sanctuary
- Dec. 21st** - 7:30 am – ROMEO Breakfast at JoJo's Bana Restaurant
- No Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina Service at St. Andrew's UC
- Dec. 23rd** - 9:30 am – The Advent of Love Worship Service
- 1:30 pm – Senior Worship at The Mayfair
- Dec. 24th** - 6:30 pm – Christmas Eve Family Service with Communion
- Dec. 30th** - 9:30 am – Lessons & Carols Worship Service

“CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY”

**The 6th Annual Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long
at Trinity Memorial United Church**
(33737 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford)



Wednesday, December 5th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

This is a joint Trinity Memorial, Gladwin Heights & Mt. Lehman United Churches service. Get your voices in shape and into the Christmas spirit! Please bring a non-perishable food item or donation for the local food bank.

Joint Worship Service with Communion at Gladwin Heights on the 2nd Sunday of Advent, the Advent of Peace



**December 9th, 2018 at 10:30 am
with a Christmas Potluck Lunch following.**

(Note the change in service time.)

We will be welcoming our brothers & sisters from St. Andrew's UC to this service and luncheon.

Gladwin Heights will supply the turkey, ham, condiments & buns so bring your favourite side dish or dessert to share and join us for worship, food and fellowship.

CHRISTMAS MINI-BAZAAR

Sunday, December 9th after the worship service

There will be a Bake Sale, Crafts, Vintage Items and a Book Sale.

Come and buy your baking, jams and jellies for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 16th, during the Worship Service

Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with our annual Christmas Pageant during our Advent of Joy worship service at 9:30 am.



All is Calm Luncheon Concerts
free noon hour concerts
at St. Andrew's United Church, Mission
Wednesdays through the Advent season
from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
in the St. Andrew's church sanctuary

Bring your lunch and enjoy an hour of music in our sanctuary.
Tea and coffee will be provided.

Come and join us.

Dec. 5th – Medieval carols from England & Spain
with Deborah Handley & Mina Lee Saas

Dec. 12th – Folky, Funky, Bluesy Seasonal songs
with Jennie Bice & Tony Ivan O'Hara

Dec. 19th – Music for the Soul with Cathy Hardy

(St. Andrew's is located at 33077 2nd Avenue, corner of James & 2nd, in Mission)



WHAT SWEETER MUSIC CAN WE BRING
THAN A CAROL FOR THE KING?

The **Annual St. Andrew's Wassail** will be held on Sunday,
December 16th, beginning at **6:30 pm** and continuing until 8:30 pm.

As usual, warm drinks, will be provided to keep us cozy.

We ask that everyone bring a **small** plate of Christmas sweets
or savories to share. So gather your children, friends & neighbours
and join us for an evening of carolling.

If you have them, bring along your instruments to add to the joyful noise!

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE – 6:30 pm

Gather up your children, grandchildren, & friends,
and come and celebrate the birth of Jesus
at our Christmas Eve Family Service
with Communion at 6:30 pm
on Monday, December 24th, 2018.

CHRISTMAS  EVE

All ages are welcome to attend – please join us!



CHRISTMAS WITH SERENATA

“Starlight and Snowfall”

at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 32550 – 7th Ave. in Mission

This year set aside **Sunday, December 9th, at 3:00 pm**

& celebrate the joy of Christmas with the Serenata Singers,
conducted by St. Andrew’s Music Director, Deborah Handley.

“Starlight and Snowfall” offers an opportunity to come in from the busyness
of the season and relax in candlelit warmth, listen to some wonderful
Christmas music, sing some of the great carols of Christmas, and enjoy a
festive reception. What more can you ask of an afternoon?

Tickets available now from Serenata choir members, at the
Spark Art Collective (33072 – 1st Ave in Mission), or at the door

MINISTER’S MESSAGE

For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

- 2 Timothy 1:11-14

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

From time to time over the last few years, in the United Church we have debated our theology: what we believe about God, and what we should believe. The last few years have also brought news of rising tensions abroad, and close to home: a rhetoric of fear and security in the United States, and the rise of dictatorial and violent leaders and actions in countries such as Russia and Saudi Arabia. At such a time, debating theology - debating *belief* - can feel somewhat irrelevant.

But I am reminded of Marcus Borg's discussion of faith and belief. We can believe a set of assertions: we can give our assent to them, such as the historic creeds of our faith and the New Creed which we recite every Sunday. But we can also believe *in someone or something*: we can put our faith in them to be faithful. This is faith as *trust*.

I offer the following as a sort of mini-creed, a statement of my current belief, which resulted from thinking about these issues as I drove home from church one day.

"Do you believe in God?"

I believe in God the same way I believe in gravity, or in my family:

I trust in them to ground me and to orient me.

I trust in a divine presence

who animates and interpenetrates Creation,

who is neither limited to nor standing outside the world,

but rather includes and transcends it.

I trust in the Bible,

an anthology of encounters with the divine,

which the Wisdom of my tradition judges to be true.

In affirming its truth I neither confirm nor deny its literal historical-factual accuracy,

but name it as the central interpreting narrative of my life.

I trust in the divine indwelling presence dignifying every human life,

and in Jesus of Nazareth its definitive revelation.

I believe in God.

If the main thing we believe *about* God is that we can believe (trust) *in* God, then maybe belief is not irrelevant when the world is consumed by fear.

Who or what do you believe in? Who or what do you trust?

Yours in Christ,

Tim

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
at
GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

- Sun. Dec. 2nd** *The Advent of Hope* - 9:30 am
 White Gift Sunday
- Wed. Dec. 5th** *Christmas Carol Sing-a Long* - 7:00 pm
 at Trinity Memorial United Church
- Sun. Dec. 9th** *The Advent of Peace - Communion* - 10:30 am
 Joint Service at Gladwin Heights UC
 with Christmas Potluck Lunch following
 Mini-Christmas Bazaar after worship
- Sun. Dec. 16th** *The Advent of Joy* ~ 9:30 am
 Christmas Pageant
- Wassail at St. Andrew's, Mission* - 6:30 pm
 an evening of caroling & good cheer
- Sun. Dec. 23rd** *The Advent of Love* ~ 9:30 am
 Worship Service at Gladwin Heights
- Mon. Dec. 24th** *Christmas Eve Worship* ~ 6:30 pm
- Sun. Dec. 30th** *Lessons & Carols Service* ~ 9:30 am

Donations to the Abbotsford Food Bank can be made throughout the season.

