



# THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Epiphany 2022





# Epiphany Greeting

The central story of the Epiphany season, which runs from January 6th to Ash Wednesday, is the following of the star by the Magi. When they finally arrive at the place where Jesus lay, they offer their gifts. In 2021, the members of the Church of the Transfiguration offered their gifts in ways as incredible as the star that led the Magi.

On November 30th, our church was on track to have a \$40,000 budget deficit. Transitional years are always difficult and with another COVID-impacted year, we knew our finances were in trouble.

David, Steve, and I had known for a while that the balance sheet might look a little dark come Christmas, and so we began to plan for an Advent Appeal. And then like a shooting star out of nowhere, a \$25,000 gift arrived with the challenge to the rest of us: could we match the generosity of this anonymous donor in our parish?

With each week our Advent Appeal started to shine brighter and brighter. By Advent 3 we had raised \$40,000, by Christmas we had surpassed our goal of \$50,000, by year-end, we had broke the \$70,000 mark. If you include the money raised from the sign on the Hill inviting neighbours to donate, and our regular month offerings, we raised \$85,000 in December and turned a looming budget deficit into a \$37,000 surplus. To help put this brilliance in context, between January and September of 2021, we had raised \$86,000 in community offerings. In four weeks in December we almost got the same amount. Or to put it another way, in 2021, our community raised more money than any of the previous 5 years. Thank you. Thank you so very much.

Our Epiphany season started off with the unfortunate news that we had to close our buildings. I have missed being able to gather with you on Sunday. It has felt like being plunged back into the darkness. “We observed his star in the East” (Matthew 2.2). Yet, in the midst of humanity’s darkness the star from the East shone. In it we see a light that penetrates the depths of the darkness that separates us from one another. On February 6th we celebrate Candlemas, the feast when we bless the candles in our church. In the past, people would bring their own candles from home to be blessed too. And on February 6th we will be ready to welcome you back to church in-person and, of course, to continue to welcome you online via Zoom. May Christ, the light to the nations and the glory of Israel, shine on our path together as we worship him and welcome our neighbours in his name. Blessing this Epiphanytide.

Michael+



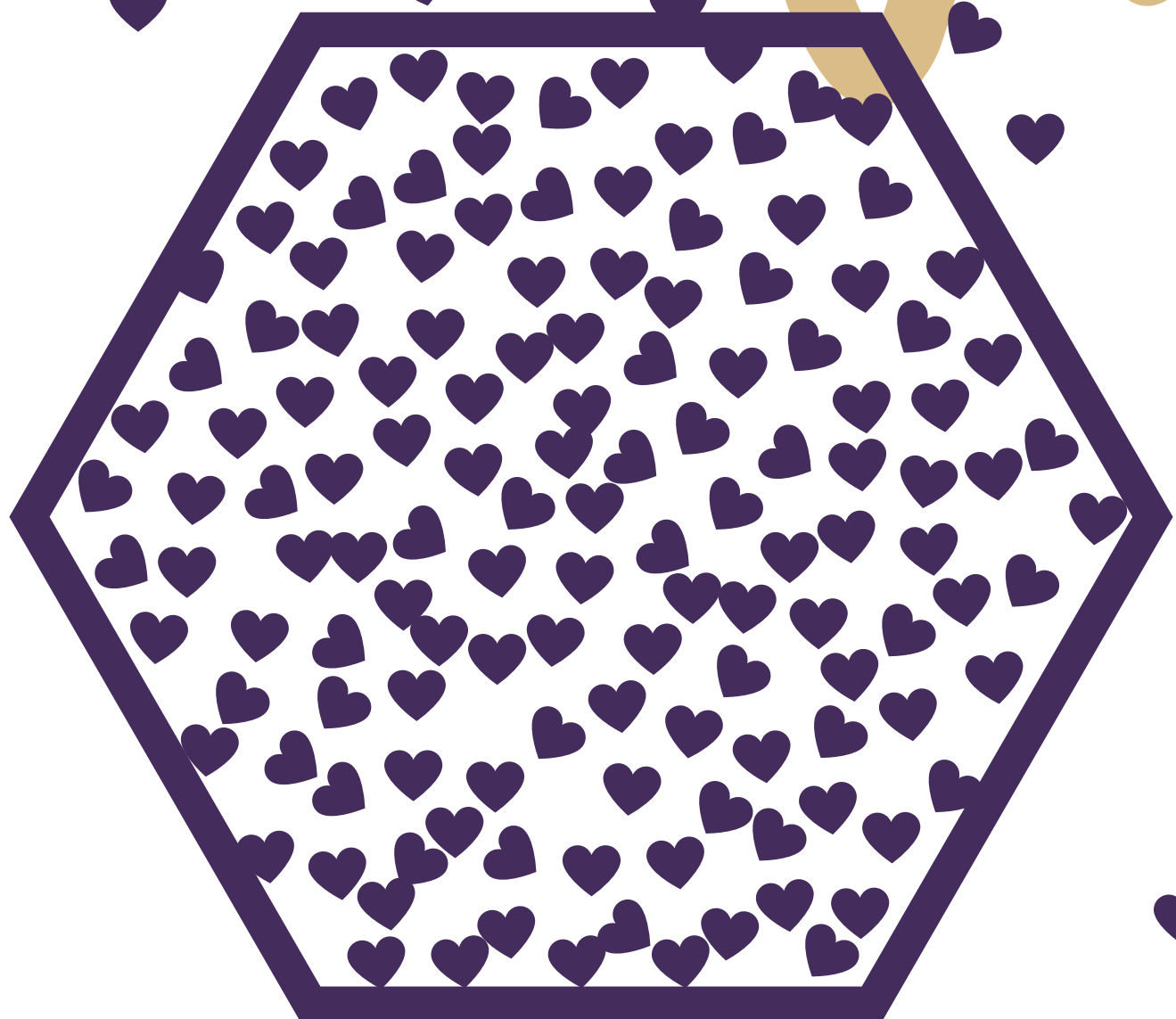


# Advent Appeal

With deep gratitude we announce that we have received **\$70,979.80** towards our Advent Stewardship Campaign. As you may remember, our original goal was \$50,000 - so we have smashed that out of the park! Thank you all so, so much for your faithful support of our Church of the Transfiguration and of God's work here in this place. Our cup is truly overflowing.

Thank you

*Let us hold fast to the  
confession of our hope  
without wavering, for he  
who has promised is  
faithful.*



*Hebrews 10:23*





*Celebrating  
Christmas*



*at Church  
of the  
Transfiguration*



Deb plays  
guitar



Rev. Michael  
preaches

Decorations by the  
Chancel Guild





*"I loved the pageant. After years of working on the pageant behind the scenes with the kids years ago, this brought back such happy memories. I used to shepherd the rather rowdy shepherds so it was lovely to see the lamb again, as well as familiar costumes from the wardrobe department. I bet Kamalini never thought she'd graduate from conducting the Little Angels singing Away in the Manger, to being Mary herself! And Patrick with his measuring tape-too funny.*

*This was great fun to watch with wonderful music.*

*Even the typos in the subtitles were funny.*

*I loved the "stunts", the sound and "special effects". Well done to all of you who created this unique Pageant.*

*Very imaginative. "*

*~Linda Wright*



Ann as King Herod,  
with Rev. Michael  
as the Star



Patrick and Kamalini  
as Joseph and Mary



Audrey and Henry as  
Kings; and Juliet  
as the Angel Gabriel

*"The part when Caesar was talking, that was pretty funny, and the part with King Herod. I liked being different characters and wearing lots of costumes. I think it was a success!" ~ Juliet*



# Return of the Transfiguration Singers

Although you can't see the smile behind the mask, trust me I am smiling! It is good to return to the choir and my seat in the back row. Singing through a mask might alter the quality of my singing but the joy cannot be masked. Not the best pun, but God will forgive me. Singing again made this a memorable Advent and Christmas. Sing on Transfig, sing loud and sing with joy. ~ *Kathy Bailie*



Oh what a joy to be singing again in our choir, right in time for the Christmas Season! And we have new voices joining us - such a blessing! Even with our masks, Gillian tells me that we sound very good indeed! (Thanks, Gillian!) It is such a comfort to get back to some “normal” again. With David and Kirk on the piano to keep us in tune, and of course Ann’s beautiful voice to lead us - we are back “raising voices pure and strong to sing our praises in song!” Even if a little off key, with a bit more practice, great we will be!

~ *Katharine Klose (pictured with husband, Steve, and son, Thomas)*



I have been a member of the Transfiguration choir for at least 30 years when Alice Medcof invited people to join the choir for the Christmas Eve service. I have also been a member of the Ryerson University choir for many years and had the privilege of singing Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, in a mass choir in Carnegie Hall, New York City and in Berlin with Jenkins conducting over 2000 singers and a 100 piece orchestra. It was an amazing experience! But it does not compare with how I felt when finally being allowed to sing for and with my Transfiguration family!

~ *Laura Wilson (pictured with husband, David)*



Although the last time I sang a note was about a decade ago now, I grew up singing. I have fond memories of my somewhat more formal Anglican church choir that I participated in as a child - robes and all. I was delighted when Ann invited me to sing along with the Transfig choir during this advent - even if the experience was a little shorter than we'd hoped due to the pandemic. It was a lovely way to get to know some of the other parishioners better, and it felt very nostalgic to be singing church songs again. I look forward to the day that our world is a little safer, and we can be in song and worship together again! ~ *Emmy Nordstrom Higdon*





# Roehampton Gift Bag Drive

Over two weeks in December we co-ordinated and collected Christmas gift bags for the Roehampton shelter. **On Sunday, December 12** we were able to deliver 130 bags full of various goodies, from extremely practical hand cream to indulgent chocolates. We met our goal of being able to provide each resident with a bag to open up on Christmas morning.

Thank you to each and every person who contributed bags or individual stuffing items for this drive. An extra special thank you to Heather, Kileen, Kathy K, Kathy B and Donald who shopped for additional items, helped organise and assemble extra gift bags, and drove the bags over to the Shelter with Michael and I on Sunday afternoon.

The enthusiasm this community shows for supporting the local shelter is very uplifting, and is greatly appreciated by the residents and the staff at the Roehampton. Thanks again, to one and all!

*Deb, Parish Missioner*



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH GROUNDS

## DONATIONS WELCOME

If you enjoy using the hill, please consider giving a donation to help us maintain the grounds.

Donations are made through Canada Helps, are secure, and are tax receiptable.

Choose the "Grounds Upkeep" Fund.



Church of the  
**Transfiguration**

Every gift helps, whether it's \$10, \$20 or \$50!  
We rely on donations for all we do, and for keeping the hill a green space for our community to enjoy.  
Thank you for your generosity.



## Grounds Upkeep Donations

In December we put a sign on the hill inviting those who use our grounds to donate to their upkeep. As of printing, we have received an amazing 11 gifts totaling \$1,260 from generous neighbours. Some of them included messages with their gifts:

*Thank you on behalf of all the dog walkers who benefit from your grounds. ~ Katherine*

*Bento our morkie thanks you for the use of your grounds ~ Alan*

*From an appreciative dog owner ~ James*

*Thank you for keeping the grounds maintained. ~ Michael*

*Thank you so much for letting us dog owners use your grounds! ~Adam*

*Hello, as one of the many dog-owners very appreciative of the Church in our neighbourhood permitting us to walk our pets on your property, we make this small donation. ~ Jay*

*Thanks for sharing your lovely grounds with the community. ~ Monique*

*For our late great dog Gilbert who loved your amazing space.*

*Thank you. ~ Michael*

*Woof woof thanks for letting us poop here ~ Anonymous*



# A New Chapter

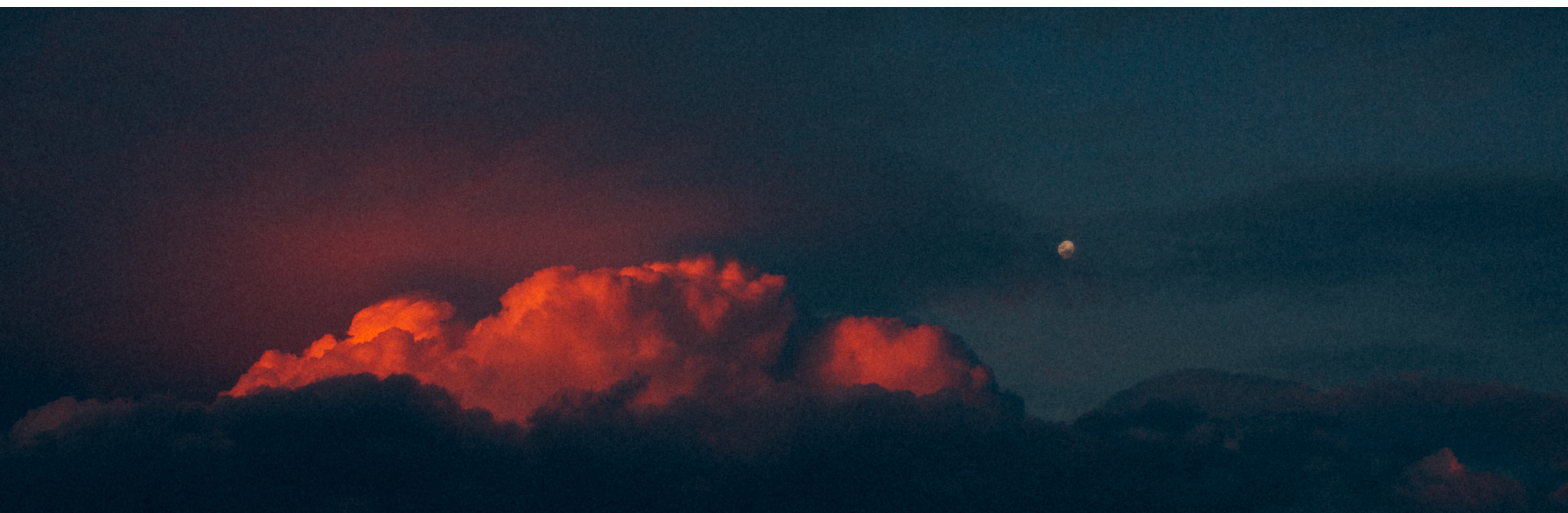


Dear fellow Transfigers,

If there's one thing I've come to know over five and a half years of being at this parish, it is that the people of Transfiguration are a welcoming, warm-hearted, delightful, and resilient bunch. I think of all the feet that have come through those wooden doors over the last one hundred years, and I count myself blessed to be among that number. As you have heard, or gathered from this letter, my chapter of time at Transfiguration is coming to an end this January. Even though Transfiguration was my place of work, it was also more than that: it was an important community in my life, one with whom I enjoyed spending time – BBQs, Harvest Festivals, Music Nights on the Hill, Pancake Suppers, Afternoon Teas, and so many more! In my time I got to do the regular administrative things: answering emails, receiving phone calls, organizing files, planning interesting ministry opportunities, attending meetings, and trying to catch as many typos (usually my own) as possible before printing bulletins (e.g. My proudest moment: catching 'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sin' before printing). And, I got to do the irregular administrative things: hauling Christmas trees inside, raking leaves (lots of leaves!), writing prayers, mixing the odd batch of concrete, driving through a snowstorm to pick up children's ministry furniture, making greeting cards, struggling to carry a MASSIVE cake inside for a celebration of new ministry, and vacuuming a lot of water from the Max Ross Room after the 2018 flood. And it's not just the above events that made the work special: it's the people—you—who I got to do them with. I treasure all the memories I have from my time with all of you. Thank you for inviting me into your lives and the life of your church. Thank you for dropping by or calling just to chat. Thank you for your encouragement and your laughter. Thank you for carrying on the work of God, whether during times when it is slow and lamenting or times when it is fast and jubilant.

Transfiguration, and all of you, will remain in my prayers. May you know always the deep and abiding hope and love and joy of God as made manifest through Jesus, who came to give us not just life, but abundant life. May you deeply know that abundance now and in all the years to come.

In Christ,  
Amanda





# Music Update

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## Getting to know David King

*David joins the church in February as music director.*

David split his childhood between England and Northern Ontario before arriving in Toronto at the age of 12. With an Anglican priest father and a piano teacher mother, a life of making music in churches was practically pre-ordained. Attending Little Trinity Anglican as a teenager was influential as David led a youth worship band from the keyboard, dabbled with the organ and had the chance to play alongside many terrific musicians. After completing a music degree at Western University and a short stint working with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (where he met his wife Jenn) he worked as music director of Grace Mennonite Brethren Church in Waterloo and most recently St Matthew's Anglican Church Riverdale here in Toronto. In his spare time he enjoys playing crokinole (he is a former cue doubles world champion), watching David Attenborough documentaries and composing. In 2020, David released an album of original piano compositions called "Solitude". In church music ministry, David values collaboration, good relationships and musical growth. He is excited to start working with the choir and other musicians at the Church of the Transfiguration.

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## Where is Brenton?

Hello to my family at Transfig!!

Quite tardy but a Happy New Year nonetheless. By the time you see this message, Lunar New Year will have passed as well so I'm just late on all fronts..... I blame Deb! Haha, oh dear, can't take that back now. Gonna get a lashing. I best be prepared. I jest. Now where was I? Oh yes, here's a little update.

During our time apart, I have been putting all my energy into providing music entertainment for Concerts in Care Ontario. Concerts in Care, as the name suggests, specializes in presenting concerts for seniors in care. Everywhere from independent living to palliative care. Zoom concerts, music videos, syncspace.live collaborations, music care packages, and when safe to proceed, transitioning back to in-person meetings at retirement and long-term care homes, adult day centres, rehab facilities, dementia care, etc. Perks of the job include being able to work with artists (musicians, actors, and dancers) from all across Ontario. From Ottawa to Windsor, and as far north as Thunder Bay. Forming a connection with the residents and patients is such a reward. Best way to see it is in the eyes of my inner child, "I have extended grandparents everywhere. This is amazing!" Downside, like every aspect of life, is handling the constant fluctuations of COVID-19 protocols, and how they differ across various health networks. I find myself being the fun police on many occasions. As Forrest Gump says, "That's all I have to say about that." Until the next time we see one another, I pray you and yours are happy and healthy, and found space to place all this snow.

Till then,  
Brenton





# Staff Update

## Ivan Lukago



Originally from Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, Ivan came to Toronto this past summer and has been a fixture of the Transfiguration community ever since. In Kampala, Ivan worked for 10 years as a motor mechanic before switching careers to be a manager for a touring musician.

Ivan is excited to bring his organizational skills to his position as the church's new groundskeeper. Putting things right as they are meant to be brings him a lot of satisfaction; it is a skill which made him such a good mechanic and a good manager back in Uganda!

Talking to people, helping others, and building community are some of Ivan's passions. He hopes to build those skills and give back to others by becoming a social worker in the future. He is currently taking courses to help him towards that goal.

Outside of his work, Ivan enjoys socializing, playing sports, and going to the gym. He enjoys watching football (soccer) and cheers for the Vipers Football Club.



## Water's Edge Is Back!

*One of the most common questions I have heard at Transfig throughout the pandemic, in all the chaos, shifting and pivoting, is "When will Water's Edge be back?"*

It is encouraging to know this service has had a deep impact on people, whatever the reason: the intentional and thoughtful language in the liturgy, the singer-song writer reflection pieces paired with hymnody, or the family-style meal following the service. There are many elements to Water's Edge that render it "alternative" to a typical service, but the worshipful and intentional community that has grown around it has been no less beautiful. We are bringing the Water's Edge service back as of Sunday April 10th. The services will happen monthly at first and, naturally, will look different than before. While we won't be able to eat together around the table right away, we plan to return to that ritual when it is safer to do so, and are cooking up some ideas of other ways to "eat together" until then. As always, we would love to have people to read Scripture, lead prayers offer their gifts of music and song. We ask you to consider if there are ways you are willing to participate. Regardless of how you are involved, we are excited to welcome and reconnect with you, as we rebuild and re-form this community into its next embodiment. See you in April! Pray for the Water's Edge service as we prepare to re-connect after a two year hiatus.



## Upcoming Dates

April 10

May 8

June 12

July 10



# JEOPARDY!

On a dark and cold winter's night in January, Transfig trivia buffs gathered around a warm and cozy Zoom link for our 2nd Annual Virtual Jeopardy Night! A fierce but incredibly fun battle ensued as two teams tested their knowledge of all things Transfig (plus a few other topics!) While both teams did amazingly well across categories such as Transfig People, Transfig Fun Facts and "Get off my (church) lawn, kids" Team 1 eked out the victory in the final jeopardy round with their bold betting strategy. (Editorial note: Team 1 \*may\* also have enjoyed an advantage by having Michael on their team, at least for the "Church Nerds Unite" category...).

For those that want to test their knowledge, some sample questions are below, including the final one, which stumped everyone!

- This active member of the choir and coffee hour team retired from the travel industry years ago, and can't wait to get back to jet setting after the pandemic.
- At this year's Harvest on the Hill, Michael raced across the field wearing his black cassock and this balanced on his head.
- On at least one memorable occasion even BEFORE the pandemic began, Transfig had to close its doors to services at the last minute on a very significant day in the Church calendar due to an emergency. Name the day and the emergency.

And the stumper:

- This is the full name of our Chapel, named for the figures depicted on its stained glass windows.

Reach out to Patti (pattiryan.home@gmail.com) to confirm your answers, but make sure to submit them in the form of a question :) A special shout out to Henry Sims (Tech and Zoom Assistant) and Audrey Sims (Head Judge and Audience Coordinator) for their amazing help in running this fun event. Hope to see you all again next year!

-Patti Ryan





# Upcoming

Epiphany is a season of stars, the glory of God made manifest in the star that led the way for the Magi to visit Jesus. It is a season of hope, the same felt by the Magi as they brought gifts to Jesus, a new king born not to great wealth or power in a palace, but to impoverished parents who would soon have to flee for their lives and become refugees in Egypt. It is this king we follow, and this upside down kingdom whose story we are a part of. And each Sunday morning and each Thursday evening you are invited to join us as we learn more about this story and grow deeper in our faith.

**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP**



**DISCIPLESHIP  
NIGHTS**

## February

6 - *Book a Month Club*, Acts of the Apostles, 12-1 pm (in-person & online)

10 - *Reconciliation Walk*, 7pm (online)

17 - *Compline*, 7 pm (in-person & online)

24 - *Compline*, 7 pm (in-person & online)

27 - *Vestry*, 12.30-1.30 pm (online)

## March

2 - *Ash Wednesday*, 7 pm (in-person & online)

3 - *Taizé*, 7 pm (online)

6 - *Book a Month Club*, Psalms, 12-1 pm (in-person & online)

10 - *Reconciliation Walk*, 7pm (online)

17 - *Compline*, 7 pm (in-person & online)

24 - *Compline*, 7 pm (in-person & online)

27 - *Bishop + Andrew* visits (in-person & online)

Complete details are in the weekly email. Not yet on the mailing list?

Email Ann at [office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca](mailto:office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca)