

THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



EPIPHANY 2024

An Epiphanytide Message

BY REV. MICHAEL PERRY

One of my greatest laments about urban dwelling is how the streetlights wash out the night sky. Instead of the stars, we get an electric glow that casts an awkward light in our windows at night. I find the little bits of streetlight that illuminate my bedroom highly annoying, but in a funny way, it reminds me of the great Epiphany theme: light in the darkness.

During this season, there are three great feasts that speak about light. There are the Magi who follow the star at Epiphany to the baby Jesus; Simeon who declares Jesus a light for the whole world at Candlemas; and, the dazzling radiance of the transfigured Jesus atop a mountain. In all cases, the theme points us to what St. John writes in Scripture: “that Jesus is the light of the world.”



I have a funny memory from Taizé connected to light. In Europe, it is a common practice that the Scouts will go to Bethlehem and draw from a candle in a grotto under the Church of the Nativity the Light of Peace. It is then carried back to Europe and spread throughout the various countries. The idea behind the light is to signify the light of Christ as peace, which is distributed to as many people as possible. I find this both a fragile and beautiful message.

It is fragile because the light from a candle is easily extinguished. But it is beautiful because when it is shared the light does not diminish the original candle. Instead, they both grow together. Unfortunately, when I was in Taizé, someone unfamiliar with the Light of Bethlehem, accidentally blew the candle out at the end of evening prayer. A brother quickly arrived on the scene and said, ‘light it again.’ It was an unintentional mistake, but the uniqueness of a light brought all the way back from Bethlehem was gone. Only much later did I come to appreciate that in the journey of faith, there are truly moments when the light of Christ must be lit anew in us.

Seasons like Epiphany invite us to reflect on how the light of Christ is lit in us and most importantly, it invites us to share that light with others. When I think of the sharing of the light of Christ, I look at all the ways in which the people of this parish are preparing themselves for ministry on the Hill. Once again, through your generosity we have fully funded another year of Transfig the Hill with \$42,500 in donations set aside. This is an incredible achievement.

The parish leadership cannot say it enough: thank you! Your pledges allows us to continue our ministries on the Hill that focus on sharing the light of Christ. And we want to share that light through Music and Movie Nights, and services such as Water’s Edge and Campfire Compline. It supports new family focused initiatives like Tots at Transfig and First Fridays. This generosity shines a way forward for our parish in 2024 and shines a way for others to see God through the power of Christ working in our midst. In communion, Michael.

Tis the season



to be merry!





2023 FOOD DRIVE

The Neighbourhood Organization



We collected four large bins of food items at the church and an additional \$940 in donations for the Advent Food Drive. Audrey, Finn, Irene and Juliet, along with Heather and Richard, went shopping with the funds and filled over three shopping carts with the essential items the food bank needed from their wish list.

Thanks to all the donors! The staff was very pleased with what we dropped off, and they mentioned it was just what the clients were hoping for this season.



The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO) provides many services to the community, including employment programs, support for newcomers, youth programs and family wellness services.

TNO established the Food Collaborative in March 2020 at the outset of the pandemic to help seniors stay safe by delivering food hampers to their homes. Due to an overwhelming response from the community, TNO opened a food bank to the public, serving residents of Thorncliffe and Flemington Park. The Food Collaborative now serves over 1,100 clients, ensuring they have access to food twice a month.

THIS...IS...

JEOPARDY!



***FIRST FRIDAY EVENT
JANUARY EDITION***

BY LINDA WRIGHT

I've attended nearly all the summer concerts and movie nights but, somehow, in the winter it's more of an effort to turn out at night. I had attended the online Jeopardy event during the pandemic, and it was so much fun that I decided to come out to the live event this year.

Everything was set up so efficiently – it must have been a lot of work. The team who planned the event put everything together very creatively and thoughtfully. Patti was a great host, and together with Juliet and Audrey they made everything so much fun.

Apart from catching up with church friends and choir mates, it was good to meet new people. But I think it was the competitive team spirit that was the main contributing factor to the camaraderie. There were people on my team whom I'd never met before. And the chatter in the kitchen during the dishwashing and drying made for even more fun.

My team won, which was the icing on the cake!



Annual Christmas Pageant!

Christmas Eve at the church



Working on the Christmas pageant at Transfiguration was wonderful! I decided to volunteer as I have production experience, and I thought this would be a great way to give to the community at Transfig. Working with Yvonne and the team was a wonderful lesson in play production.



The kids were so passionate and involved that it really made all the rehearsals and walkthroughs fun. My favourite part was setting up costumes for everyone. It was great to see the little ones excited to be angels, shepherds, and animals. Overall, I'm very happy I decided to participate. I hope to help out again this year!

- Emily Brewer





"I like helping to make the community smile and working on a team. It was fun to rehearse too, and everyone knowing their part is cool. Learning the songs was a bit hard but we did it."

-Henry



"The Christmas pageant was an inclusive and fun special event. This year was especially good with new songs and a great cast of all ages, and awesome directors. I look forward to seeing the development of the pageant in years to come."

-Audrey

"This year I was the narrator. The pageant is such a great part of the Christmas season and I enjoy the planning process, rehearsals, performance, and working with my fellow castmates to share the Christmas story. My favorite parts this year were the songs we sang as a full cast, the opportunity to accompany a song on my ukulele, and singing with the audience. I am really looking forward to next year's Pageant!"

-Irene



"It was fun, lots of energy flowing and the cast was into it. We really connected with our roles and enjoyed the performance."

-Juliet

VINO ET VELLUM

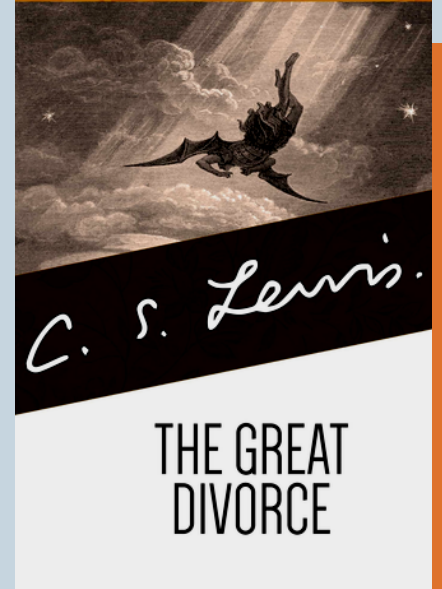
THE GREAT DIVORCE BY C.S. LEWIS

BY KILEEN SPROCK

After many months of personal curiosity about book club, what finally inspired me to get up off the couch and into the frigid January night was the group's choice to read C.S. Lewis. *The Great Divorce* is a wonderful exploration of the afterlife, as only C.S. Lewis can tell it. It helped me contemplate the afterlife, which is something that I adamantly refused to do since my father's passing last December.

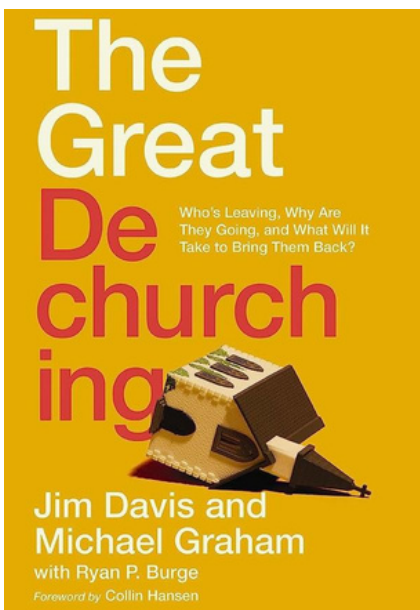
The January 16th meeting was my first time joining the group, and it was so good! We started with snacks, tea, wine, and "straight out of the oven" spice cake made by Hannah. After about 20 minutes of chit-chat, we turned our focus to the book. The conversation flowed easily in a casual, open-minded space, whether you had read the book many times or hadn't read the book at all. Everyone shared and had interesting, thoughtful insights.

I enjoyed the evening immensely and am very grateful to Hannah, Yvonne and Jenn for creating such a warm and welcoming atmosphere to help me find my place in the community, in our church and with God.



"Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is Heavenly. For all that can be shaken will be shaken and only the unshakeable remains."

-The Great Divorce



COMING UP NEXT:

THE GREAT DE-CHURCHING

FEBRUARY 27, 7-9PM

Who's Leaving, Why Are They Going, and What Will It Take to Bring Them Back?

In *The Great Dechurching*, Jim Davis and Michael Graham along with renowned sociologist Dr. Ryan Burge examine the largest and most comprehensive study of dechurching--the largest and fastest religious shift in US history--to drill down to exactly why people are dechurching with respect to beliefs, behavior, and belonging.

AND BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE BOOK-A-MONTH CLUB

1 & 2 PETER

"Like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow..."
(1 Peter 2:2)



BY DAN AIKEN

I was pleased to spend more time at the Church of the Transfiguration on a beautiful winter morning in January. After a lovely Sunday morning worship service, we had coffee and snacks and retreated to another room. I was happy to hear Michael Perry's lecture about Simon Peter. After 15 minutes the floor was open for questions. I had several questions, which were all answered.

We had pizza! I enjoyed eating with the community. There was more discussion. We were reminded of the Holy Spirit keeping us healthy and free and in God's good graces. There were other questions. The theme of the reading and lesson seemed to be Christian living. How we support and encourage each other to live the Christian life by attending church and these events like Book a Month club. We were given additional commentary to read and take home.

I seem to be connecting with people at Transfig. The community is friendly and the social events are fun and well attended. There is a seriousness to the tone of lessons taught but there is also a happiness that comes out as we gather and study the word of the Lord. As we get to know one another we can relax and feel the stresses of the day disappear. It was a beautiful day with sunshine beaming in through the windows. I'm glad I went to this event and I would encourage others to attend more events at Transfig.



LET'S TALK ROMANS WITH DR. COLLEEN SHANTZ FEBRUARY 18, 12:15-1:30PM

Dr. Colleen Shantz has held a teaching position in the Faculty of Theology at Regis St. Michael's since 2003 and is cross-listed to the Department for the Study of Religion in the University of Toronto. Her research explores the general category of experience as an important element in the texts of the New Testament, and in early Christianity and Mediterranean antiquity more generally.

A MOMENT FROM THE ARCHIVES

CANDLEMAS SERVICE
FEBRUARY 4



On the Feast of Candlemas, we had a special liturgy to dedicate a picture frame of the burning of the mortgage. In going through our archives, Russell Smith identified a picture which we decided to re-frame and mount on the Narthex wall. The picture captures an important moment of Transfig history.

On February 6th of 1949, the original mortgage was burned after the \$80,000 was paid off. In the Anglican tradition, a church cannot be dedicated by a bishop until its debts are paid off. When this happens there is a Feast of the Dedication during which a bishop dedicates the church building. I guess that we can imagine it as a really long soft opening for the first 18 years of the parish before the grand opening!

Many thanks to Steve and Kath who took care of framing the photo with a newspaper clipping and the back of the original frame, as well as pulling together some other photos from the archives. Take a look in the Narthex next time you are in church to see other historical photos.



A Joyful Noise

BY DEVIN LUNDRIGAN

A few weeks before the new year, while I was sitting at home doing my daily journaling, this phrase floated through my mind: *Harvest Year*. What would a harvest year look like, I wondered. Certainly, it looks different for each person, but for me I knew the phrase was connected to this new opportunity to join the staff team at Transfig.

As Creative Worship Coordinator, I have already had a basketful of experiences with this community. For instance, I love the spontaneity of the Children's Chapel – I never know who or what to expect. Each child brings something new to the songs, as when we found ourselves singing once, "He's got firetrucks and hovercrafts in His hands, He's got the whole world in His hands..."

I have also enjoyed the intimacy of the Water's Edge service, sitting in a circle and facing each other as we pray, listen and sing. I've even had the chance to be initiated into a Water's Edge Big Cook Day, spending a morning in the kitchen chopping and peeling and simmering sauces with a dozen talented cooks.

One of my favourite parts of being a worship leader is listening to scripture and to the Spirit in order to select songs that will bring praise bubbling up in our hearts. I get excited when I hit upon the "perfect" song, and then disappointed when I realize it's too complicated for me to play on the guitar well. In this role, I have become well-acquainted with my limitations. And there is joy in this, too. And so I keep hunting, remembering, and discovering until I uncover another tune to bring along on the journey.

I read this verse in Isaiah 9 recently:

***They will be glad in Your presence
As with the gladness of harvest,
As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.***

There is an item that I found in the children's chapel that perfectly symbolizes my gladness in God's harvest and my eagerness to share the bounty of God's presence. It is a beautiful wicker basket filled with colourful percussion instruments. You may have seen me with the basket, handing out egg shakers, maracas, bells and drumsticks. For me, these instruments are the spoils of joy! And when I pass them around and the congregation joins me in shaking and tapping and singing together, it's like sitting down at a table to enjoy a great feast.





UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 14

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

7:00PM-8:00PM

FEB 17

BIBLE BOOK-A-MONTH CLUB

12:15PM-1:30PM

FEB 25

VESTRY MEETING

12:30PM-2:00PM

FEB 27

VINO ET VELLUM: The Great Dechurching

7:00PM-9:00PM

MAR 1

FIRST FRIDAYS: Sourdough Workshop

5:30PM-9:30PM

MAR 10

WATER'S EDGE SERVICE

4:00PM-6:00PM



Church of the
Transfiguration