

Advent 2 - PEACE
Sunday, December 8, 2019



Rideau Park United Church

We acknowledge, with respect the history, spirituality, and culture of the indigenous peoples of Canada, and their stewardship of the unceded Algonquin land where this church is built. Rideau Park is an Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Canada. All are invited to participate fully, with mutual respect, in the life and work of the church, including those of diverse ages, abilities, gender identities and sexual orientations, races ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

Gathering Music

Lighting the Candel Candles: 2 Samuel 22: 29 - Indeed, you are my lamp, O Lord.
God lightens my darkness.

*Call to Worship:

ONE: Our advent travels bring us closer to Bethlehem,

ALL: where God arrived with a sign of peace.

ONE: Let us worship God, who brings us a sign of peace here.

ALL: A light that shines in the darkness

ONE: A peace to end all war

ALL: A hope that renews us every day.

ONE: We gather to give thanks for this great blessing.

ALL: Thanks be to God, Amen!

***Processional Hymn: 901 VU**

Song of Zechariah

Merle's Tune

Prayer of Approach and Jesus' Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles – Advent 2 PEACE

Faure Family

One : Who do you say Jesus is?

Two: If I were a tree, Jesus is like a strong root, giving strength and support.

One: If I were a seed, Jesus is like a loving gardener, nurturing and caring into life.

Two: We wait for Jesus, the firm foundation and careful gardener, who nurtures peace.

All: We wait for Jesus. (Lights second Advent candle)

ALL SING: 6 VU – verses 1-2

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright.

A candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease;
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

A Time for all God's Children

Hymn: 221 MV

I Am Walking a Path of Peace (3 times)

(Following the hymn, the children are invited to go to their Sunday School classes.)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:5-17

Lay Reader: Shulist

Anthem:

"Coventry Carol"
Chancel Choir

SNOBC

Scripture Reading: Luke 3: 2-6

Lay Reader: Schulist

Sermon:

Raising a Saviour

Elizabeth Bryce

***Hymn: 134 MV**

There Was a Child in Galilee

Offering

Offertory Music:

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" (The Long Expected Jesus)

arr. Mark Hayes

Soloist:

Iain Macpherson

*Offertory Response: 20 VU – verse 5

**All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won.
And praise to God whom we adore,
with Holy Spirit evermore!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern

The Life and Work of the Church

Message from the Treasurer

***Hymn: 18 VU**

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension (Bancroft)

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

Rideau Park News
(613) 733-3156 rideaupark.ca



Upcoming Worship Events

Dec 11	Advent Retreat	7:15pm
Dec 15	Children's Annual Christmas Pageant	10:00am
Dec 22	Blue Christmas	3:00pm

Christmas Celebration Concert! You are invited to join us **this evening, at 7:30 p.m.** for a marvelous, festive concert featuring Rideau Park's own Chancel Choir, Touch of Brass Bells, and organist Andrew Ager. Listen to the sacred music of Christmas and join in singing your favourite carols. Freewill offering. *There will also be a reception after the concert, in the Parlour for your enjoyment, where refreshments will be served.*



December is underway and so is Christmas Cheer. 150 families have been selected but we need \$15,000 to cover the expenses related to this commitment. Thanks to the congregation, the UCW and the Bell concert we have raised \$5,880.53. You can support this fund by attending the **Christmas Choir concert** this evening where all of the proceeds will go to Christmas Cheer.

The Christmas Nativity - Week 2: As we journey through Advent together, please take time to look at our Nativity scene at the front of the church. Each week, one or more different scenes will be on display as the Advent Liturgy unfolds and we travel to Bethlehem and beyond. Our second week features one of the humblest yet most important inventions of all time - paper. Although it came to the west much later, paper was invented in China at just about the time of Jesus' birth. These five nativities are made either mainly or exclusively from paper - plain, papier mâché, veneered or quilled. Their countries of origin range from The Philippines to Bangladesh to Italy.



Christmas Shoeboxes: Thank you Rideau Park for your generosity thus far! This Christmas season we have been asked to provide 140 shoeboxes within our community. There are 7 children that still need supporting, with a shoe box for this holiday season. **Filled shoe boxes can be returned up to and including Sunday, December 15.** Please come see us during coffee hour.

FINAL Pageant DRESS REHEARSAL Today: All participants are asked to meet in Brackenridge Hall for a full run-through at **11:15 a.m. today.** Our youngest actors/actresses (animals, angels, shepherd chorus, wise counsellor chorus) will rehearse **FIRST.** Older participants will finish at 1:30 p.m. today.

Pageant Dress Rehearsal on SATURDAY! *All participants are reminded of the dress rehearsal this coming Saturday morning (December 14). Please meet in Brackenridge Hall at 9:30 so that we can start the rehearsal at 10:00 sharp. Our youngest actors/actresses will stay for the first run-through (about 1 hour). Everyone else will finish around noon.*

HELP!!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! - Stage Set-up and Take-Down: The Christmas Pageant stage will be set up on Friday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. We are in need of volunteers to help with **both the set-up on Friday evening and with the take-down immediately following the service on December 15. If you can help, please e-mail Marc Laliberté at marcandrea@rogers.com or please phone him at 613-248-1283. Thank you!**

In the midst of all the December busyness, set aside some time for our series of Advent retreats. On **Wednesday evening, December 11**, take some time to pause and reflect in this season of preparation: **from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. Advent Retreat** will be held in the Parlour. All are welcome.

Shopping for someone who has everything? The United Church of Canada offers “Gifts with Vision”, a catalogue of donations you can make in someone’s name, supporting the Mission and Service Fund. We have hard copy catalogues on the counter in the upper hallway or check out www.giftswithvision.ca. We also have gift subscription cards for Broadview magazine: spirituality, justice and ethical living.

Do you have story from a Christmas past, a memorable Christmas event to share? A tradition from the past to recall. On **Sunday, December 22, Advent 4** we would invite those with a story to tell to share their memory in the Sunday service. If you have something to share, please let us know.

Blue Christmas: Please join us at **3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22**, for the gentle Blue Christmas service. A quiet, contemplative service; an alternative to traditional services. Maybe your year has been hard – for whatever reason (bereavement, illness, estrangement, loss of income, loneliness or worry)– and Christmas seems to highlight the difficulties. Or maybe in an over busy life, you just want space to reflect, recall, regroup.

Christmas Eve 2019 at Rideau Park:

6:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols led by the children and youth, featuring Cherubs, Joyful Noise, Xtreme Teen Choir, Noteable Sound Chimes and Grace Notes.

8:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion, featuring music by our Chancel Choir and the celebration of **communion**.

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion, featuring Touch of Brass bell choir and our Chancel Choir and the celebration of **communion**.

Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. the service will be led by Sharon Sanderson.



A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our Roast Beef dinner so successful! We couldn't do it without you!



Help us keep our building clean during the winter months. Please remove your boots when entering the church so that salt does not get tracked past the entranceways. Bring a pair of shoes, slippers, or warm socks for your feet. Please remember, no boots upstairs either. Thanks for your co-operation. If everyone would do this it would save so much work!



Christmas Pageant 20th Anniversary Slide Show!!! To help us celebrate **20 years of Christmas Pageants**, everyone is invited to submit their favourite Pageant photos. We will be creating a slide show that will be viewed leading up to the Pageant and during the offertory during the Pageant itself. Digital images can be sent to Andrea directly at your name and contact info on the back so Andrea can return it to you. marcandrea@rogers.com. If you would like to submit a physical photo to Andrea, please note your name and contact info on the back so Andrea can return it to you.

Did you know? Each Sunday morning as the collection plate is passed around, while it may look bare, 184 members/families (approximately 83% of those making pledges) are actually contributing through an automatic bank withdrawal (PAR) close to \$7,430 of the \$12,750 per week required to operate our 3 major funds (M&P, M&S and PR). So when that plate goes by take time to reflect on what it takes to run our church and how your generosity can help make a difference. Thank you.

TREASURER’S NOTE

Below are the year-to-date revenues and expenses for the period ending November 30, 2019 for the “Rideau Park Ministries and Program” (M&P) Fund, along with comparatives to the current budget for the period and the previous years’ actual:

FINANCIAL RESULTS AS AT Nov 30:

	2019 Actual	YTD Budget	2018 Actual
M & P Revenues	\$ 454,663	\$ 464,250	\$ 463,239
M & P Expenses	<u>\$ 517,257</u>	<u>\$ 530,122</u>	<u>\$ 512,537</u>
Shortfall	<u>\$ (62,594)</u>	<u>\$ (65,872)</u>	<u>\$ (49,298)</u>

The M&P Fund is our operating fund out of which we pay salaries and other operating expenses during the year. It is not unusual for this fund to be in a deficit position at the end of November. However, as noted above, the M&P Fund is behind last year at this time, primarily due to a decline in envelope givings. We had already planned for a budget shortfall of \$25,000. We are in danger of surpassing this shortfall and therefore, need strong Congregational support over the next month so that we can keep the shortfall to less than or equal to plan in order to maintain our limited reserves.

Bob Roden, Treasurer

The church office will closed from 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24, and open again at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 2.

There will be service as usual on Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Please note: Debi Brown, the Administrator, will be in the church on Tuesday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. to accept last minute donations for 2019.



A Christmas Colouring Page for You!



Activities Calendar: Dec 8 – 14

Sunday:

Meditation	9:10am	B-9
Advent 2	10:00am	Sanctuary
Pageant Rehearsal	11:15am	Brackenridge
Drums Alive!	11:30am	Sanctuary
Christmas Concert	7:30pm	Sanctuary
Concert Reception	8:30pm	Parlour

Monday:

Knitting	12:30pm	Beecroft
M&P Meeting	1:00pm	Parlour

Tues:

UCW Unit 7	1:30pm	Parlour
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Wednesday:

Tai Chi	4:00pm	B-12
Gentle Yoga	5:30pm	B-12
Advent Retreat	7:15pm	Sanctuary

Thursday:

50+ Fitness	9:00am	Beecroft
Quilters	9:30am	Parlour
Euchre	1:00pm	Beecroft
Healing Pathway	1:00pm	B-9
Xpression	6:15pm	B-12
NoteAble Sound Chimes	6:45pm	Sanctuary
Cherubs	6:45pm	B-12
Joyful Noise	6:45pm	B-12
Grace Notes	6:45pm	Sanctuary
Chancel Choir	7:30pm	Sanctuary

Friday:

Morning Yoga	9:30am	Parlour
Chair Yoga	11:00am	Parlour
Pageant Stage setup	7:00pm	Sanctuary/Brack.

Saturday:

Pageant Dress Rehearsal	9:00am	Brackenridge
Pageant Dress Rehearsal	9:00am	Sanctuary

Sunday:

Christmas Pageant!	10:00am	Sanctuary
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Coffee Hour Volunteer

Dec 8	Susan & Colin Townsend Ken & Dipty, Mikayla, Billy Tong
Dec 15	Christy Harris Mary & Keith Harris Elaine & Doug Robertson
Dec 22	Pat & Gavin Currie Heather & Wayne Bennett
Dec 29	Joanne Rodgers Ron MacPherson Nancy McPherson

Sunday Duty Officers

Dec 8	Kate Whitridge
Dec 22	Judy Paré
Dec 29	Sandra Graham

Counting Volunteers

Dec 9	John Scollick, John Durkee
Dec 16	Gary Lindberg
Dec 23	TBC

Main Office is open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm
 Visit our website: rideaupark.ca
 Prayer Chain: Ext 227 or prayerchain@rideaupark.ca

Church Staff: 613-733-3156

Elizabeth Bryce - Minister	Mon-Thurs	ext. 224	ebryce@rideaupark.ca
Steve Clifton - Minister	Tues-Fri	ext. 225	sclifton@rideaupark.ca
Georgina Fitzgerald - Minister	Tues-Thurs	ext. 226	gfitzgerald@rideaupark.ca
Andrew Ager - Organist	Thurs-Fri	ext. 223	organist@rideaupark.ca
Iain Macpherson - Music Ministry Coordinator	Wed-Thurs	ext. 301	choirdirector@rideaupark.ca
Debi Brown - Administrator	Mon, Wed-Fri	ext. 228	administrator@rideaupark.ca
Debby Gerro - Administrative Assistant	Tues-Fri	ext. 229	adminassist@rideaupark.ca
Geoff Scollick - Custodian	Mon-Fri	ext. 229	custodian@rideaupark.ca