



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's,

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. *Psalms 121*

The psalmist who wrote the 121st Psalm was on an arduous pilgrimage. Their feet were sore; their next resting place was uncertain; their safety was not guaranteed. Perhaps they were at a low point in the journey, geographically and spiritually. Perhaps they were alone. Perhaps they felt they were at the end of their strength. As a result, the psalm begins with a question: “from where is my help to come?”

In illness, in grief, in family ruptures, in poverty, in joblessness, in homelessness, we can feel cut off from what gives us life. Ironically, Christmas time aka “the most wonderful time of the year,” can be a time when we feel sadness and loss most keenly. At this time many of us strain our eyes in the gloom asking “from where is my help to come?”

As the psalmist faced the end of hope an answer came to them which took them back to the beginning: “My help comes from YHWH, the maker of heaven and earth.” The psalmist remembered the sacred story that teaches that the world has been created with loving intention. A spiritual frame of mind that looks for the good in the world, that expects that justice will be done, that is open to the possibility of beauty as something we all need in times of heartache and suffering. But more than this, the psalmist also recognizes that the Creator is a very present help in their trouble, a personal help! Again, we hear an echo of the creation story: YHWH said, “It is not good that the human should be alone; I will make them a helper as their partner.”

The Gospel of Christ is a response to this need. Christmas is about a God who took human form to share our burden. Christmas is about Good Friday not Black Friday, about self-giving not gift-giving, about the Last Supper not turkey supper. Christmas is about Christ. Christ who was born, yes! But also, Christ who died on a cross and rose from the dead to be alive with us forevermore. Christmas time is a time to remember the whole Gospel: God is the Maker of Heaven and Earth, God is our helper. God who names the starry host also calls each of us by name. Jesus who was born in a manger 2000 years ago, comes as a light in our darkness today.

If Christmas is a time of loneliness for you, please remember that the story of the gospel is about a God who sees and cares for the lonely. That is the Good News. So, this Christmas may the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love that we have come to know through Christ be yours in a deep and wonderful way.

Peace like a river.

Rev. David Kim-Cragg ᐱᓄᓇᔭᕐᓴᕐᓂᓪᓰ wahkohtowin; Minister at St. Matthew's United Church (he/him)

Did you miss these recent services?

- [Nov. 21: Video recording](#): Reign of Christ Sunday. Reflection on the last words of King David.
- [Nov. 28: Video recording](#): Advent 1 with message on New Shoots. Communion.
- [Dec. 05: Video recording](#): Advent 2 Reading from Malachi. Reflection on the meaning of White Gift. (Date on first graphic is incorrect; this is the service from Dec. 5th, 2021.)
- [Dec. 12: Video recording](#): Advent 3 Preaching from the book of Zephaniah and Paul's letter to the Philippians.

We received this lovely note from Viola Hodge who asked that it be shared with the Congregation!

Dear Friends!

Good afternoon! I wish to thank all concerned, and to all who keep in touch with me and keep me aware of all the goings-on at St. Matthew's and in Richmond Hill. I can't say I am totally happy here; but, I am trying to make the best of the situation. Covid has been the cause of loneliness for most of us; but, I have made great progress with completing many knitting projects and stitching courses that I have taken over the years. I had never made the time to relax when I was working the three jobs and it was wonderful to complete these courses and projects. I hope everyone is keeping well and enjoying autumn which is about to end.

All the best to everyone as we prepare for winter, the Christmas Season, and the New Year that is coming soon.

Much love,
Viola Hodge



**Our Best Wishes
to you as well Viola!**

**THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!**

From Bertha Mohl: Thanks to all those that made, or baked, items for the mini-bazaar. It was a great success. And a special thanks to everyone who came out and bought the fruit and meat pies, cookies, loaves, as well as knit goods, scrubbies, cat toys, and crafts!

Upcoming Services & Activities:

- **December Mitten Tree:** Please donate children's and adults' mitts, scarves, hats, heavy socks, personal-sized toiletries, and gently used coats. The children's items will be given to the Food Bank before Christmas. The coats and some socks will go to the "Out of the Cold" program; the rest to the Krasman House.
- **Wednesday Coffee Hour** at 10am using [this link](#). Or join by phone using this information: PH: 647 558 0588, Meeting ID: 824 2541 1605; Passcode: 490241
- **December 19 Advent 4. Carol Service** and dedication of bell in memory of Joanne Gray's mother.
- **Friday, December 24. Christmas Eve Service** at 7:00 pm with Communion.
- **Saturday, Dec. 25. Empty Nesters' Christmas dinner and get-together.** If you are interested in spending part of your Christmas day with others, join the group for conversation at 3pm followed by a full turkey dinner. Phone Jayne & Glen to reserve your spot. 905-884-4269.
- **Sunday, December 26.** Service at 10:30am.
- **Jan. 2.** Lay speaker.
- **Jan. 9 Recycling** after service. Meet Bertha Mohl at her van with your recyclables.
- **Foot Clinic: Jan. 12** from 9 to 1. Contact Vicki White to schedule an appointment.



Financial Update for Period Ending Nov. 30

From Rick Knight, St. Matt's Treasurer



INCOME	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	DIFFERENCE
Total Income	\$164,045	\$141,274	\$22,771
Total Expense	\$151,297	\$124,563	\$26,734
NET Income (Loss)	\$12,748	\$16,711	-\$3,963

OUTREACH GIVINGS	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	DIFFERENCE
Mission & Service	\$13,971	\$12,733	\$ 1,238
Health Ministry	\$11,309	\$6,869	\$4,440
Health Ministry Covid Wage	\$1,902	\$1,993	-\$91
Food Bank	\$3,780	\$3,775	\$5.00

Proof of Vaccination now needed as a QR code on a cell phone or paper. Need help to get yours?

Email the church office as we are going to offer assistance in getting your QR code onto your phone or, if need be, onto a piece of paper if you don't have a cell phone. Likely Wednesdays after Christmas for 2 weeks.

Appointment required. Email Val & Doreen at st.matthewsuc.rh@gmail.com.



Merry Christmas. Enjoy the Word Search

St. Matthew's Christmas Word Search

C Z B K M D P J W T L W D O K Y D V J O Y Q C B Z
S T A R A X W S L R N Y W G N W U R O H Q K O E I
H Z P H N W K N T V X R V N F B V S H T Z U O L X
X S M M G S G S G Y M G Y N C D T H G X M D K L U
C K L E E M I N I B A Z A A R D F E W Z F W I C Y
U E X A R K N E K I L U D K Y I K P I R D N E H V
H J K T S O K S C U T C C H O P E H O I E L S O U
C M V P O I V K H E S U S Y D F J E X H P A P I K
C V O I J T I S U J N S R M L V Y R E E F K T R E
Y Y B E F W R H R Q K Y N K N V M D W C L R R H U
Q F Q S J L G O C N L J C O E Y K S W A T Y I T B
U L G Z C D I L H J D D U X W Y X A C R Q V R O M
W O L X V M N I B S D Z H Z T M D P Q O T D X B Q
S Z E B M S M D B A E B S A K F A I J L I U Z O V
A F M P F B A A J J B R U C E K M N N S N Y M G K
U D H S I T R Y K D B Y U I H N I M P N S H S G W
L B Q N K T Y S J C T N J K T R G A D V E N T A E
L J K O K H M V D C V P S E B O I W H H L R E N P
O Y E W J N L M P U P D I R S C V S R C G V X J K
V W X B T F C O M M U N I O N U I L T L B Q I T R
E C D A W H H O C K E Y J G K A S H R M Q O R S C
W X O L F Q C C B P L I M O Q V G V U S A B L W Y
R S U L F R E L A X A T I O N A H P I G T S P Z O
V K A S D N K Z D T H Z E S T G C F G P E A C E C
Z F S X G V S Z I E D R L M F Q D D O X M H K H H

TURKEY DINNER	MINI BAZAAR	VIRGIN MARY	RELAXATION
CHRISTMAS	BABY JESUS	SNOWBALLS	BELL CHOIR
COMMUNION	SHEPHERDS	MEAT PIES	TOBOGGAN
HOLIDAYS	COOKIES	TINSEL	CHURCH
SNOWMAN	WREATH	ADVENT	HOCKEY
STAR	HOPE	PEACE	JOY
CAROLS	MANGER	LOVE	