

St Matthias Musings

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

Across the Rector's Desk

"...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts..." *Romans 5:3-5*

The dictionary defines hope as "the desire and expectation of good". I always think of hope as the confident expectation of a God outcome. After all as God is ultimate good anything from God will be good. However the outcome may not be 'good' from a human perspective.

Advent is a season of hope. Traditionally the colour of Advent has been purple and the mood penitential just as it is in Lent. More recently the Church has been looking through a different lens and emphasizing the hopefulness of the season before Christmas. Many churches now follow the Scandinavian practice of using blue, the colour of hope.

The expectation of a baby is hopeful as parents imagine just what this child will be like, how will she grow up, what will he look like. In each proclamation of the angels, to Mary, to Joseph, to the Shepherds, hope is promised: the Messiah is coming, the one who will redeem Israel is coming. What this Messiah will be like is not known and what eventually happens is not immediately seen as good but "hope does not disappoint us".

Advent is a time of waiting with expectation for a new experience of Christ at Christmas. This is not necessarily a flashy event or conversion experience. Sometimes just rising

above the commercialism of the secular season or our own sadness, which may be present as family and friends are missed, is enough to let us know that God is with us and "hope does not disappoint us".

The third aspect of hopefulness is the waiting for Christ to come again. However we may understand this: whether in Glory at the end of time or at the time of our own death, we are promised that Christ will come again and "hope does not disappoint us".

As we look at the Church today, whether around the contentious issues the Anglican Church faces or concerns for our own Parish church, Advent comes to assure us of Christ's presence in time, in our present, and in the future...and that "hope does not disappoint us".



God's Cake

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter is telling her Mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake"

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers. "Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"
"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?" "Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful!

God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

From *Rumours*,
the e-zine for Christians with a sense
of humour

Coming attractions

December 2

"Shower" for Youth Without Shelter and Ingles House.

Potluck lunch following the 10:00am service.

November 28, December 5, 12, 19 at

10:00am

Advent Study

"Proclaim the Wondrous Birth"

December 16 10:00am

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 28 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Open House at the Rectory

January 23 1:30pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Sharing worship and refreshments

with our neighbours - Humbervale United

January 25 10:00am

Book Club

"Sweetness in the Belly"

O Those Anglicans (or Lutherans)

How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? Change! My grandmother donated that light bulb.

How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? Change?

How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb? 4. 1 to change it. and 3 to stand around talking about how much they'll miss the old one.



Up-Coming Services

December 2 Advent 1

10:00am Choral Eucharist

December 9 Advent 2

10:00am Choral Eucharist

December 16 Advent 3

10:00am Festival of Nine
Carols and Lessons

December 23 Advent 4

10:00am Choral Eucharist

December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00pm

Pageant

Choral Eucharist



January 6 Feast of the Epiphany

10:00am Choral
Eucharist

January 13 The Baptism of Christ

10:00am Choral Eucharist

January 20 Epiphany 2

10:00am Choral Eucharist

January 23

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

1:30 pm Combined Service with neighbouring churches

January 27 Epiphany 3

10:00am Choral Eucharist

February 3 Epiphany 4

10:00am Choral Eucharist

February 10 Epiphany 5

10:00am Choral Eucharist



*Remember
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.*

February 13

Ash Wednesday

10am & 7pm

Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Eucharist

February 17 Lent 1

10:00am Choral Eucharist

February 24 Lent 2

10:00am Choral Eucharist

Note:

Vestry will be February 24, 2012 following the 10:00 service.

Office Hours are Tuesday – Thursday

9:30am – 12:30pm

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