



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

25 Buchanan Street, St. John's, NL, A1C 0A4



Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

--James 5: 7-8

November 20, 2020

To the Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge,

Advent is soon upon us. Remember Advent? That season of contemplation and preparation before Christmas? Remember it? Advent is the early and late rains necessary for the celebration of Christmas, it is the remembrance of promises made by God in age after age, each building upon the other until the time of harvest, the incarnation of God in human flesh and the promise of God's reign accepting no substitutes.

The world rushes into Christmas because it has forgotten what Christmas means.

In Christmas a child is born, ultimately to die.

Sure there is other stuff to pay attention to along the way, we should be mindful that we not lose sight of the bigger picture.

In an age where all of the "extras" are taking a back seat to public health restrictions we have an opportunity to return to the fundamentals of our faith and focus on the great gift that Jesus is from God to us, the children of God.

I hope that we can all be a smidge more patient and resist the rush to Christmas so that we can appreciate the early and later rains of Advent which help us to gain greater understanding of who God has been, will be and is being for all of us.

One way to do this deliberate slowing of pace is to participate in our Advent and Lenten Challenge. You can find more about that at the following link:

<http://www.georgestunitedchurch.com/church-bulletin-4/>

The video of our daily Lenten and Christmas readings will be available on our Facebook page which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/George-Street-United-Church-280084848824579>

Following up on the last Pastoral Letter and the presentation by our Sustainment Team during the Annual Congregational Meeting of November 15, 2020 we have much to celebrate as a congregation. We have done exceptionally well meeting our financial commitments and we have found a way to continue to provide the needed assistance that the Jimmy Pratt Outreach Centre is known for offering.



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As we prepare to let Advent and Advent's promises shape us let us take a moment to remember our promises as a congregation and find ways to enable the ministry we provide together to continue.

We have much to celebrate and enough time to celebrate properly and traditionally. We also have enough time to contemplate what God long ago promised and what God actively brings to pass.

I hope that your Advent season gives you eyes to see and ears to hear so that when we gather a Christmas we will have much to praise God for.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich
(226) 208-0452
revmaich@yahoo.ca