



December 2022

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...., And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have seen his glory as of the Father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1&14

Religion, as normally understood, is a human system that organizes itself around trying to "reach" God. But we humans are destined to flounder when we attempt to make our own way to Him. Christianity is not essentially about a religion at all but about a relationship with God through His only Son Jesus Christ. This living relationship calls us to a journey not rooted in human attempts to seek God, but in God's seeking of us. Jesus came, that first Christmas, to fulfill God's promise that He would visit and redeem His people and establish a new and living way. The gulf between humanity and God therefore is bridged not by us but by God, the divine carpenter who spans our distance right from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross and beyond.

God came to us, so that we can go to Him. Jesus knows the way of that journey because He is the way. Because of this new and living way, we are invited on an exciting journey of discovery called the life of faith. Christian faith is not a self-initiated or self-directed "trip" but rather a journey that seeks to listen and be responsive to the invitational leadings of the Holy Spirit.

The Incarnation, God with us, is the greatest of all Christian doctrines. Christ came not to found a religion but to usher in a new kind of Kingdom, a relational reign of grace, truth and love. The building block of this new kingdom is the human heart accepting and sharing God's love and mercy offered through Jesus Christ.

The implication of "God with us" proclaims our Lord's passionate interest in you and me and all the world. In his best-selling novel and inspirational film *The Shack*, William P. Young describes God as one who is "especially fond" of individuals, not in a selective sense (I am fond of her, but not him) but in the intensely personal sense as a parent would be especially fond of each child in different ways and yet to the same degree. The wonderful truth of God's intimate and passionate knowledge of each one of us has implications for us personally but not individualistically.

I am so grateful that this past year, our community has been marked with increased signs of God's living way with peace, joy, strength, courage and love in service to God and others. We have seen new shoots of growth among us; increased attendance, giving and participation and, while we still have a way to go, God is doing a new thing among us, with us and through us.

This Christmas, may the gift of God's only Son fill you with all faith and hope in believing. May each of you find the grace to accept this simple and yet profound love. May Jesus enable us all to love as He has loved ~ simply, courageously and sacrificially. Together may we at Christ Church always strive to be a community that seeks to follow Jesus in His incarnational love, wherever He leads, whether across the street or around the world, this Christmas and always.

With every prayer that your Christmas and New Year be filled with peace, joy, strength, courage and love,

Byron+



Scenes from Advent 2022 | More photos at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events





December 2022

While our Christmas traditions remain and adapt, and new traditions emerge, we are honoured that you include Christ Church in your Christmas celebrations. We have been busy planning for the most wondrous time of the year and are excited to bring the glory of Christmas either In-Person or Online. In new ways, we are able to celebrate the beauty of the season and to shine a light into the darkness around us. Please join us as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.

In-Person

- 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 18) Lessons & Carols at 10:00 am
- Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm
- Christmas Day at 10:00 am

Online

- 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 18) Lessons & Carols at 4:00 pm
- Christmas Day at 10:00 am

Any changes to our service schedule are immediately posted on our website.

Online services can be watched at any time once they have been premiered. Our Christmas Services will be available on YouTube and everything you need will be available on our website at www.christchurchbrampton.ca

We hope you'll join us—whether you are near or far, online or in-person, seeking a quiet moment of holiday solitude or safely gathering with your family or friends.

All are invited | All are welcome | No experience required

Appointment announced | 1st Sunday of Advent (Nov. 27, 2022)

Welcome The Rev. Nelson Charles



Some months ago we started the process of recruiting for an Associate Priest. This would be on a part-time basis for the period of 1 year. As with many things, God's timing is not the same as ours and we have reminded ourselves to be patient throughout the process. So here, on this 1st Sunday of Advent, we are delighted to announce the appointment of The Rev. Nelson Charles to the position of Associate Priest. What a marvelous and awesome way to start the new church year!

Many of you will be familiar with Nelson as he has been a guest preacher and presider on many occasions but there is much more to know. Nelson was priested in 2005 in the Diocese of Raiwind in the Church of Pakistan. The Church of Pakistan is in full communion with the Church of England which means he is able to fully function as a priest within the Anglican Church of Canada. There is definitely a blessing to belonging to a world-wide communion of churches. While Nelson lives in Hamilton, he is very familiar with Brampton having formerly served as an Honorary Assistant for a number of years at our neighbouring parish, St. James the Apostle and as Pastor with Brampton's Prayer Stone People's Church ~ a role he will continue in. This is not a conflict as they meet in



the afternoons. We welcome those from Prayer Stone who are here today. It is a pleasure and privilege to have your worship with us.

Nelson brings a depth of experience in pastoring in a variety of settings and speaks Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and English ~ a wonderful asset in a community as diverse as ours. Nelson is married to Ivy and together they have 4 grown children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and 3 grandchildren.

Nelson will be with us until next November. Certainly we will keep him busy over the Seasons of Advent and Christmas ~ it will be excellent training ground for how we do things at Christ Church but more importantly an excellent opportunity for him to get to know us and us to know him. This time will be an opportunity to discern how Nelson's gifts can best be applied to what God has in store for us at Christ Church.

We give thanks for God who has called Nelson to serve with us at Christ Church, Brampton. We pray that the gifts that You have entrusted to him will be fully used in the service of Christ here among us.

Resource Management

Financial Giving

Because the life and vitality of our Church is important to us, we are each called to make a financial commitment to ensure that the ministry of our church continues to flourish now and for the years to come. We are so grateful for the intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts that enable us to invite, welcome and connect all of us together with Him who abides with us in all times and circumstances. We have a number of ways to give:

1. **Envelope Sets** are available by contacting the parish office.
2. **Pre-Authorized Remittance ("PAR")** is a monthly amount withdrawn from your bank account.
3. **E-Transfers** via the Interac system. Email address is: christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca If you are new to us and/or have moved, kindly include contact details in the notes for accurate receipting.
4. You can donate electronically via **CanadaHelps** using your credit card through the Christ Church Brampton website.
5. You can **drop off** your church envelope in the mail slot at the church.
6. You arrange for a **pick-up** by calling Martha at: Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765
7. **More information** is available at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/how-to-give>

Contact Us

Address: 4 Elizabeth Street North, Brampton, ON L6X 1A2

Email us at: christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca | **Call us at:** 905-451-6649

Check out our Website:

www.christchurchbrampton.ca

