

#### A WALK ON CHRISTMAS SNIGHT

by Krishna Betai

It was that time of the year again, Lights, hollies, and ornaments Filled the streets with glee and jollity. It was the season of Christmas festivity.

We started walking through the bustling streets, Passed bakeries selling fresh Christmas treats. As cars manoeuvred through the crowded lane They seemed to move in solidarity towards the campaign.

On either side of the thoroughfare, A slew of vendors' haggles filled the air. Pine trees propped up outside every shop, Dressed with the shiniest of trinkets, till the top.

The roads were flushed with green and red, Santa's caps - the tuft of white bouncing on every head.

Chatting and laughing, the swarm of people lurched,

Probably headed towards a nearby church.

We turned at the corner, away from the crowd, Silence loomed over, dominating the loud. Here it was quite sound, Quiet; there was hardly anyone around.

There was no shuffling of feet, save the four of ours, Away from the glossy windows of the sky-scraping towers.

Flickering streetlights lit the walkway,

Forming a criss-cross
of shadows and ligh

of shadows and light rays.

An old church was our first stop,
Strings of lights flowed like a cascade
from the top.

The purple tint of the light was pleasing to see,

Threw itself on the church walls, breaking the green-red monotony.

We made our way towards an empty street Flanked by houses of brick and concrete. The abodes were ages old, But tonight, sprawling fairy lights turned them into gold.

A star-spangled window caught our eyes, The owner of would be a mother of two, with a warm, welcoming smile, we surmised.

The lights hanging from the otherwise eerie trees,

Complemented the Christmas lights, swaying with the gentle breeze.

As if Christmas was over, there were no lights to be seen, The cars silently parked stared at us nothing short of mean.

There came a narrow strip of road, lit by lanterns hung from ropes.

Reinforcing that Christmas was a festival of hope.

We walked along the lantern road, Something beautiful was sure to follow. We heard voices in the distance, Presumed it to be the choir parlance.

The trees had never looked so green at night,

We gazed in awe, taking everything in our sight.

Ornaments hung from the boughs above, Joy and merriment surrounded us, as we stood in Christmas' natural glove

The Christmas tree outside glowed green and gold,

Behind it, the church stood in all its glory, strong and bold.

Walked up the stairs;
beneath the Holy Cross,
we lighted the candles

Against the backdrop of harmonious carols. We walked to the seashore,

Listened to the waves crashing;
dug our feet on the sand floor,

Reminiscing everything we'd taken in our sight,

Reminiscing the walk on Christmas night.



## Donway Covenant United Church



#### **Our Mission**

"To follow Jesus by sharing God's unconditional love as the Spirit empowers us."

#### **Our Vision**

We will follow Jesus...

- By being a local Christian church within the United Church of Canada; a community anchor for spiritual exploration and growth where life, worship, knowledge, service and song all contribute to our larger story.
- By welcoming and involving people of diverse faith, ethnicities, abilities, ages and stages of life, economic situations, sexual orientation and gender identities.
- By caring for all members with compassion, empathy and joy.
- By acts of service, reaching out to engage and support our community, the country and the world.
- By building bridges within our community, as a congregation recognizing the variety of religions and spiritualities in the most diverse city in the world.
- By using our facilities for religious, social, cultural, educational, or other programs that reflect our values.

## We are an AFFIRMING Congregation



Christmas Time Historic Properties
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Part I begins with Isaiah's message of comfort to God's people and what would become John the Baptist's cry, quoting Isaiah, to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3, cited in Mark 1:3). He is coming, but his people and his path must be prepared. This leads directly into the Old Testament prophecies of God's coming as Immanuel to comfort and be with his people - but also to judge, purge, and refine them. These prophecies are then fulfilled in Luke's narrative of Jesus's birth and the praise of the angelic chorus, followed by more Isaianic prophecies that tell of Jesus's earthly ministry - of His healing miracles, His works of deliverance, His preaching "peace to the heathen," and His offering rest for the heavy laden.

#### Comfort Ye, Isaiah 40: 1~3

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=MVil1QfjEt4&list=PLBgagen1f2\_ -C-unltn0a6sPY4AP0O79O&index=2

#### Every Valley, Isaiah 40:4

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=mllkx5SaLfQ&list=PLBgagen1f2\_ -C-unltn0a6sPY4AP0079O&index=3

#### And the Glory of the Lord,

Isaiah 40: 5

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=w6gw5Zph8lc&list=PLBgagen1f2\_ -C-unltn0a6sPY4AP0O79O&index=4

#### Behold, A Virgin, Isaiah 7: 14

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIKThI4dUSg&list=PLBgagen1f2\_-C-unltn0a6sPY4AP0O79O&index=8

#### O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings,

Isaiah 40:9

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=Ng3kdfrS3lw&list=PLBgagen1f2\_ -C-unltn0a6sPY4AP0O79O&index=9

John Eliot Gardiner



The second advent candle, also known as "The Bethlehem Candle" represents Peace.

**Peace** is a central theme of the Advent season but the main focus of the second week of Advent. One of the prophecies about Jesus calls him "the Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6-7). When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they ended their message by saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests" (Luke 2:14). When Simeon saw baby Jesus in the temple, he thanked God that he could now die in peace for he had seen the Messiah (Luke 2:29-33). On a broader level, the Bible talks in various places about a spiritual war going on between goodness and evil (or "powers and principalities" (Ephesians 6:12). The combination of Satan fighting against goodness and humans fighting against God has made the earth a battleground in an ongoing fight.

Much has been said about how the Israelites were expecting the Messiah to be a saviour who rescued them from the Romans. If that were the case, the Messiah would bring peace by ending the reign of oppression and the string of failed rebellions. He would return Israel to its former national glory.

Jesus talked about peace on several occasions. During the Sermon on the Mount, he taught that peacemakers are blessed and will be called God's sons (Matthew 5:9). At the same time, he warned his disciples that he had not come to bring peace to the world, that in fact, he would divide people (Matthew 10:34-36). Then, at the Last Supper, as he told his disciples that he would leave them soon, Jesus comforted them by saying, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27). Clearly, the peace that Jesus offered was not typical. **Bible Study Tools** 

#### JOIN US THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah chapter 11: verses 1 to 10 Matthew chapter 3: verses 1 ~ 12

### "A Time For Re-Centring"

In this week's reading, wild-eyed John the Baptist stands on the edge of the wilderness and calls the people to attention. He warns them about the pull of their own times - the temptation to believe they can enjoy the riches of Caesar's kingdoms and the glittering pleasures of the empire while still claiming to live as God's faithful. John won't let them settle for that illusion. He protests with a fierce honesty, naming them a brood of vipers who are trying to escape the hard but necessary work of preparing the world for God's arrival.



"Repent!" he cries, urging them to turn around, to set their lives to a different rhythm. Follow a different drummer, he insists - follow him into the wilderness path, and follow the One who is coming, the One who will gather, refine, and renew.

John reminds us, as he does every Advent, that getting to Christmas is not as simple as lighting candles and counting days. It's a journey of real change, real courage, and real preparation for the Holy One who draws near.

**Rev Lorrie Daly-Price** 

#### WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE?

Follow us and Like us on Facebook

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Donway Covenant United Church



#### A Warm WELCOME

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members. This week, we are delighted to welcome new members into our church family. We give thanks for the unique gifts, stories, and hopes each of you brings, and we rejoice that our journeys now weave together in faith and community. May you feel at home here - supported, encouraged, and surrounded by God's love as we continue to grow and

serve together.

Welcome!

Lorrie





#### My Door Is Always Open

Drop by anytime during the day, Monday to Thursday

You should be able to catch me every morning and some afternoons. Call ahead to ensure I am at the church.

Lorrie Daly-Price

#### The Church Office

(regular hours)

is open four days a week

#### Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Closed Fridays** 

If you plan on visiting it is best to 'phone ahead so Emily knows you are coming. If you leave a voice message Emily will get back to you as soon

as she is free.

(416) 444 - 8444



Want to know what's going on? What's coming up? Go to our web site and find out!!!

https://www.donwaycovenant.com/



Dec 7 10:30 am

Second Sunday of Advent "A Time of Re-Centring" New Members Sunday

Dec 14 10:30 am Third Sunday of Advent "Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary"

Dec 18 4:00 pm

Blue Christmas Service

Dec 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 am

Special Presentation of Music "Child of Hope" by Mark Hayes

Dec 24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion "Love Came Down at Christmas"



#### oin us for Worship in our Sanctuary

The Worship Committee

#### JOIN US for CAKE at COFFEE TIME

after Worship (December 7)

We will be gathering at Coffee Time for a piece of "Celebration Cake", as we celebrate all



the birthdays. anniversaries, voyages and other special occasions that will be taking place in December

Fellowship Committee



## FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA & MORE! FOR SALE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14th AT COFFEE TIME!!

#### **NEXT WEEK**

COFFEE: \$15.00 per 12 oz bag



#### **DECAF**

A perky medium roast Swiss Water Process certified decaf



#### TEA:

\$5.00 per box 20 tea bags per box



#### **REGULAR**

Roasted with an extended 'sugar browning' to bring out the smooth sweetness of Colombian coffee.

### SPECIAL FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!







CHOCOLATE BARS: \$6.00 each

When they're gone, they're GONE!

#### Ladies' Fellowship

Our *Ladies' Fellowship* will meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 am on ZOOM under the leadership of Maureen Smith.

Our December meeting will be on Thursday, December 11th - then we will all take a break to enjoy Christmas!

You are certainly welcome to attend. Ask Emily (church office) for the **Zoom** link.

## LOVE SINGING? JOIN OUR CHOIR?

Have you always wanted to try it out but never got around to it? Well now's a great time to give it a go:

The choir rehearses Wednesday mornings at the **Donway Covenant UC** from 10:30 to 11:30 am, but if you can't make that time don't fret! We meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings as well to give us ample time for reviewing hymns and anthems.

If you'd like to sing with the choir, please send me a quick email at

scottpietrangelo@gmail.com

letting me know you're interested and inquiring about next steps. Looking forward to making harmony together! Scott Pietrangelo Music Director

#### Join Us for Lunch with Lorrie

Thursday, January 22nd from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm IN THE NEW YEAR!!!

Lorrie and I are looking forward to starting our Lunch with Lorrie gathering on Thursday, January 22nd. We will gather at 11am in the Church living room.

More information to follow. Anyone is welcome to join us (men included) for a relaxed and friendly time. Please advise Emily if you are planning on attending.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact one of us.

Lorrie and Marian



#### **ADVENT PROJECT 2025**

#### **Outreach Committee**

"GREEN INGLU" is a Canadian organization that supplies growing domes for Indigenous communities living in remote areas, including the Arctic.

Every *Advent*, the *Outreach Committee* chooses an *Advent Project* for our congregation. Through the years, we have partnered with many organizations through our *Advent Projects*.

This year, the *Outreach Committee* decided on a year long focus on Indigenous communities, their challenges and their successes. This fall, our focus is on *Food Insecurity* among Indigenous peoples. Recently we showed a film called "A Right To Eat". We learned that in remote areas where Indigenous peoples live, fresh food has to be flown in at great cost. The lack of affordable, fresh fruit and vegetables is contributing to health problems, including heart disease and a very high rate of diabetes.

**GREEN IGLU** is an organization helping to address this problem, by providing "growing domes" in which vegetables and herbs will grow

beyond the short growing season of the northern climate. And the produce is grown vertically to produce a larger harvest.

We are excited to be a part of the solution to *Food Insecurity* of Indigenous communities. Let's make a difference and support this creative solution. Cheques should be made out to **The Donway United Covenant Church**, with **ADVENT PROJECT** marked on the envelope and your envelope number (if you have one), placed on the Offering plate or dropped off to the office, until the end of Decemeber.

Please check out this link for more info. https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/1.5387339

Also more information will be shared during announcements over the next few weeks.

Thank you for your generosity as we share God's Light and Love in this holy Advent/Christmas season.

Vivian Yarwood, Chair of Outreach

Two 42 Growing Domes Naujaat Nunavut Canada



Our Annual Cookie Day Is Fast Approaching.

Hello good friends.

Christmas is just around the corner and the time is coming soon for our *Annual Christmas Cookie Day*. This is a time honoured tradition. We are hopefully requesting home baked Christmas cookies for our cookie tins.

On Tuesday morning December 9, 2025 we will gather in the Church living room to pack the cookie tins and prepare them for deliveries to our members and friends.

We are a "caring" congregation who willingly care and share our hospitality.

If you are willing and able to bake your favourite Christmas cookies, please take them to Emily's office on Monday, December 8 before 4 pm or please deliver them to the Church living room by 10am on Tuesday, December 9.

We also would really appreciate some folks who could deliver cookies and have a short visit with our recipients. Please consider this act of kindness during our Christmas season.

"Let's care and share".

October 1, 2025



The Donway Covenant United Church 230 The Donway West,
North York, ON M3B 2V8

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of all of Covenant House Toronto, for your generous in-kind donation for the young people we serve.

Because of you, youth experiencing homelsessness and sex trafficking have access to the care and respect we believe everyone deserves. Your kind generosity shows youth that you believe in their ability to create a brighter future for themselves.

Thanks to you, youth who arrive at Covenant House experience much more than just a safe place to stay. Each young person is supported and ensured that they have access to the necessities that will comfort them day to day, such as the items you've donated.

The Pastoral Care team.

The clothing, winter wear, boots and games you've donated will go a long way in making young people feel comfort, love and support from the community. With their basic needs being met, these young people can begin looking forward and mapping out a future for themselves beyond wondering where they will be the next day.

These paths forward are possible due to the support of donors like you. The impact they make is life changing.

Together, we can be there for youth - offering unwavering support during a crucial time in their lives. Thank you once again for your generous commitment.

> Sincerely Mark Aston Executive Director

#### A Very Merry Christmas

Christmas is coming and we, fans of our favourite Flute player, are really looking forward to attending Vivian Yarwood's Christmas concert on Sunday afternoon, December 14, 2025 - "A Canadian Winter Celebration" with the East York Concert Band, will be held at 2 pm at St. Clement of Ohrid Cathedral, 76 Overlea Blvd. in Thorncliffe Park.

Following the concert many of us gather for a friendly dinner at Sorento Italian Kitchen, 900 Don M

SORENTO ITALIAN 900 Don Mills Road

Italian Kitchen, 900 Don Mills Road.

Please consider attending Vivian's concert and joining us for dinner afterwards.

Please contact Norm and Marian Childerhose if you wish to have dinner with Vivian's Fan Club.

Enjoy the upcoming Christmas season.

Norm & Marian

Vivian Yarwood



Tickets can be bought "at the door"

Northlea
United Church
125 Brentcliffe Rd
East York, ON

Caroling in the Pines

Saturday, December 13

7:00 PM

Fun for the whole family
Hot Chocolate
& Carols

with the Metropolitan Silver Band

and a visit from a special surprise guest!

Donations in support of Youth Without Shelter

# Light Up the Tree November 28, 2025











photos by Victoria Martinez







#### IT IS WELL WITH **MY SOUL**

You may know Hugh Bonneville as the Earl of Gratham in the acclaimed Downton Abbey

series. Here he reads at a Christmas concert.

accompanied by the Mormon Tabernacle choir and orchestra. the story "It is Well With My Soul" - the heartbreaking story of tragedy and of faith, of Horatio Spafford and his family.

**CLICK HERE** and be inspired.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ReApJymYSiw&feature=youtu.be

#### **DCUC Knitting Group**

Our meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 2:30 ~ 3:30 pm in our Living Room. This season we are knitting scarves, mitts and hats for the unhoused or, you are welcome to bring any project you are working on.



Beginners or accomplished knitters, we would love to have you join us!

**Andrea Sloan** 

Our next meeting is Monday, December 8th



## DCUC Knitting Group CHRISTMAS TREE









photos by Victoria Martinez and Anneke Allan

## IN OUR NARTHEX



### CHRISTMAS DAY in the MORNING

This adaptation of the Pearl S. Buck's "Christmas Day in the Morning" was part of the 2019 Christmas Concert, narrated by

actor Richard Thomas, with music by The Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square. Music is by Mack Wilberg, including the African-American spiritual "Oh, Watch the Stars."

**CLICK HERE** and be inspired.

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=-jOnXgcl\_lc&list=RD-jOnXgcl\_lc&start\_radio=1



#### **Minutes for Mission**

### GIFTS WITH JOY, GIFTS WITH HOPE, GIFTS WITH VISION





**Credit: The United Church of Canada** 

December always seems to arrive in a blink, doesn't it? Some are already checking off shopping lists, and others are thinking about starting. Wherever you fall, *Gifts with Vision* can make your Christmas giving simple and meaningful.

With *Gifts with Vision*, there's no wrapping, no shipping deadlines, and no frantic mall searches. Instead, you can choose a gift that truly matters. Every gift supports communities across Canada and

around the world - addressing poverty and hunger, strengthening education, supporting healing and reconciliation, and more. There's something thoughtful for everyone on your list.

Each *Gift with Vision* connects directly to a **Mission and Service** project that relies on the generosity of people like you. Your gift becomes part of real change and real hope for people who need it.

As you settle into the season, whether you're a planner or a last-minute shopper, consider a gift that gives back. *Gifts with Vision* is just a click away.

https://giftswithvision.ca/

From the United Church of Canada website

https://united-church.ca/stories/
gifts-joy-gifts-hope-gifts-vision



Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 12 to 2 pm

**Lunch (noon) & Entertainment** 

**\$20** 

### "Joy of Christmas Music"

with singer, keyboardist



**Bruce Tournay** 

Bring Your Friends
& Enjoy!



Reservations requested by noon Tuesday, December 9th<sup>th</sup> Email cafe65connections@gmail.com or call 416 - 444 - 8881

A Community Outreach Program of
Church of the Ascension
33 Overland Drive, Don Mills, ON, M3C 2C3
Wheelchair Access

#### Annual DCUC Fellowship Christmas Potluck Luncheon













\$235.- RAISED FOR OUR 2025
ADVENT PROJECT



















**OVER 60 ATTENDED**photos by Victoria Martinez



## Delmanor Wynford Foliam Warket

Friday December 5, 2025 10am to 3pm

Join us for our annual holiday market
Be inspired and get a head start
on your holiday shopping
Visit our wonderful collection of vendors
offering creative and unique gifts

Light seasonal refreshments & Live entertainment

No RSVP required

187 WYNFORD DRIVE, TORONTO (near Eglinton & DVP)

"THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS IS TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE HAVE
THE POWER TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, ONE SMALL ACT OF
KINDNESS AT A TIME"
unknown

### YOU'RE WELCOME TO

### Please let us know if you are coming.

Entertainment: Michael Buble Christmas classics performed by Jay Davis

Monday December 8th at 2:15 pm (In-person event

Join us for a wonderful Christmas performance featuring Jay Davis! Enjoy the warm, festive sounds of Michael Bublé's timeless Christmas classics, and all your holiday favourite music. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season - full of music, cheer, and Christmas magic.

#### **RSVP** REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

These events are *FREE*. Space is limited!

## Presentation: Christmas Traditions with Paul Dias

Tuesday December 9th at 2:15 pm (In-person event

Dive into the rich traditions that make the season magical! Learn about the ancient roots of Christmas trees, uncover the origins of Santa, and enjoy the stories behind the popular carols. Presented by Paul Dias - a former journalist dedicated to promoting philosophy, history, literature, drama, and art. Join us for this engaging gathering full of holiday cheer!

#### Concert: Holiday Favourites by The Yorkminstrels Show Choir

Wednesday December 10th at 7:15 pm (In-person event

Celebrate the season with a lively, costumed onehour holiday performance filled with Christmas classics, seasonal favourites, and spirited choreography. The Yorkminstrels Show Choir - an energetic mixed-voice ensemble entertaining North York and the greater Toronto area since 1974- invites you to share in the joy.



#### Programs you might find of interest!





#### **Little Black Dress Holiday Concert**

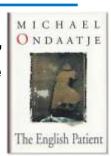
Friday December 5th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Swing into the season with the sophisticated saxophonists of Little Black Dress! The ladies will perform our favourite festive tunes to celebrate the holiday season.



#### **December's Book** "The English Patient" by Michael Ondaatie

Tuesday, December 16th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm Thursday, December 18th from 2:00 to 3:00 pm





#### **Holiday Concert** with SideCar78

Wednesday December 10th from 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Swing into the holiday season with **sidecar78**. Enjoy an evening of live festive saxophone peppered with jazz and swing tunes to set your holiday mood.

sidecar78 is Norman Miller (soprano), Mike Lewis (alto), Jeff Densham (tenor) and Graziano Brescacin (baritone).



#### Tea & Movies: "It's A Wonderful Life" 1946

Friday December 12th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Celebrated for its timeless themes of self-sacrifice and community spirit. James Stewart's portrayal of George

Bailey is highly praised for conveying deep emotional struggles and triumphs. The film's ability to evoke tears and inspire reflection is frequently noted, along with its moral and philosophical messages. Despite its age, the storytelling, cinematography, and music are lauded for their quality and relevance. It remains a classic that continues to inspire and move viewers.

Please call 416-395-5710 for further details and to reserve your spot!



#### Wednesday Night Movie "Ordinary Angels" 2024

Wednesday January 7th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm

A struggling hairdresser finds a renewed sense of purpose when she meets a widowed father working hard to care for his two daughters.

With his youngest critically ill and waiting for a liver transplant, the fierce woman single-handedly rallies an entire community to help.



#### **Build & Brand Your Online Shop: WordPress Essentials-Women Entrepreneurs Edition**

**Starting Wednesday** January 21st from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

This beginner-friendly workshop is designed for women entrepreneurs starting or growing their small businesses. Learn the essentials of building and branding a WordPress website, from setup and design basics to practical strategies for building trust and connecting with your audience. Registration begins January 2, 2026.



#### **Tech Help Every Monday** from 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Need help setting up your library eBooks? Have questions about your tablet, phone, laptop, email or eBooks? A librarian will be available to help you with your technical questions.



# The Donway Covenant United Church



#### Need pastoral care?

Call the church office and Emily will direct your call.

Minister: Rev. Lorrie Daly-Price

Music Director

Scott Pietrangelo

Church

**Emily McLean** 

**Administrator:** 

Custodian: Kim Morgan

## Celebrating 11 years of being an Affirming Congregation



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' phone (416) 444 - 8444 e-mail: donwaycovenant@msn.com website: www.donwaycovenant.com