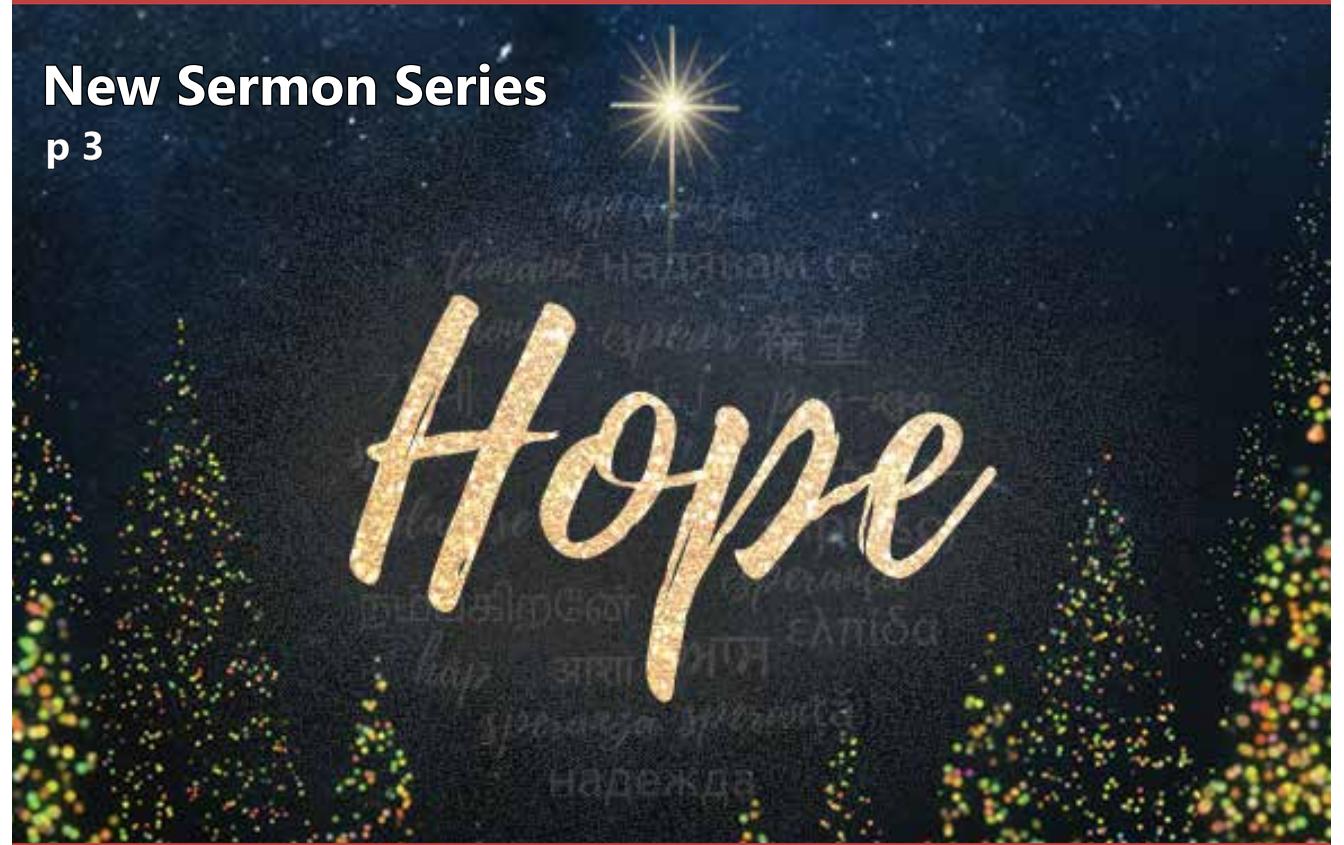


WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

St. Paul's Bloor Street

227 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1C8

Phone: 416-961-8116

Email: mail@stpaulsbloor.org

Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sanctuary Hours

Sundays: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parking

Parking is free on Sunday mornings at the Manulife building located on the north side of Bloor Street at the top of Ted Rogers Way. To gain access to Manulife's parking, press the intercom button and inform the security attendant you are attending a service at St. Paul's.

Charitable Number
119194942RR0001

www.stpaulsbloor.org

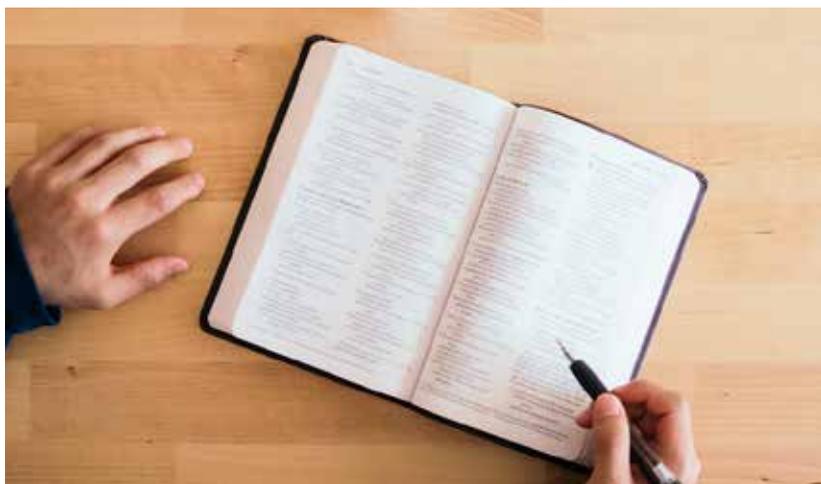
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Today: Learn How to Read the Old Testament

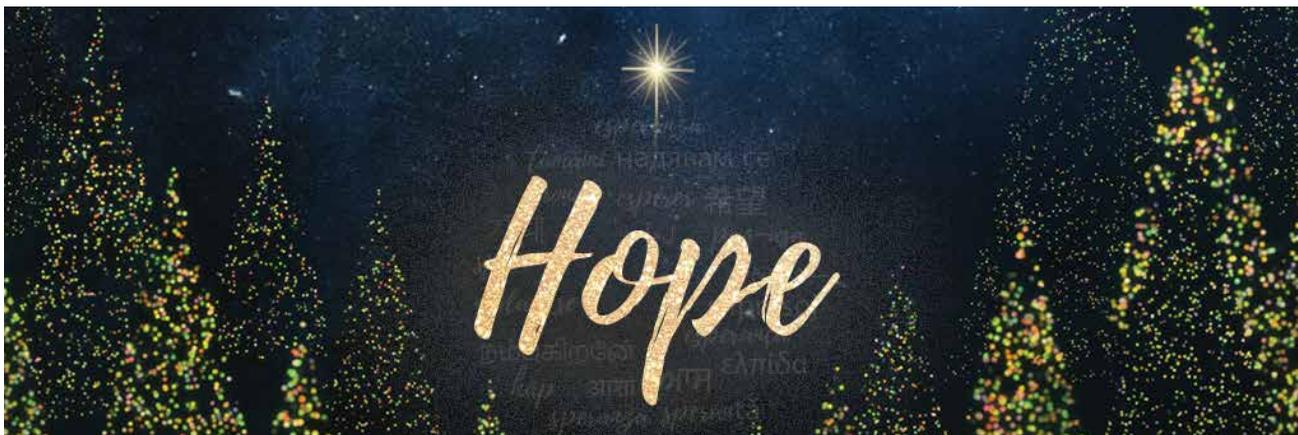


What's the point of reading the Jewish Bible (also known as the Old Testament)? One simple answer is – it was Jesus' Bible. He read it, so we should read it too. But how do we read it and understand it? We'll look at how the New Testament contains guides for reading the Old Testament and helps us understand the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in their Jewish context. Join us **Today at 10:45 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.** in Cody Hall.

Take your Family Christmas Photo Next Sunday



On **December 9, following all three services**, have your photo taken with friends and family at our photo booth. Photos will be shared on our Facebook and Flickr account.



Days are shorter and colder as winter nears. Combine the dark and cold, with unsettling international and local news and the world begins to feel smaller, even dangerous. Our natural fight, flight and freeze responses kick in – leading us to resist, run away or avoid the darkness. Yet, such uncertain times are not new. Political instability has spanned generations. Yearly, our sky follows the same patterns of lengthening nights. While we know that the warmth of sun will return, when we are living in the moment light is hard to see. We need hope. Hope, which is the confidence in an unseen sure reality. Where do we turn to find such assurance?

As Christians, we look for hope in the Bible – times when light overcame darkness in surprising and unexpected ways. Advent, the season before Christmas, is our time to prepare for the coming of the divine in human form. This year, we will follow the storyteller Luke's description of the unusual happenings that sparked the dawn of hope. Amid the lines of the well-known story, we will hear again about the hope for redemption, salvation, peace and new life found in a manger.

Know someone who could use some Hope this Christmas? Invite them to a Christmas Service!

Lessons and Carols | December 16 at *9:30 & 11 a.m.*

Christmas Eve Services | December 24

12 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

4 p.m. - Service for Families & Children

7 & 10 p.m. - Christmas Music

7:30 & 10:30 p.m. - Classic Christmas Service

Christmas Day Service | December 25 at *11 a.m.*



Take a Christmas Ornament Invite and share it with someone else. Our ornaments list all of our Christmas services and is a great way to invite someone to St. Paul's this Christmas.

Advent Ask: Give Locally, Give Globally

This Christmas season we are challenging everyone to participate in our Advent Ask in one of two ways – give locally or give globally.



Give Locally:

Give back using our Reverse Advent Calendar. We partner with local outreach ministries to provide much-needed necessities, as well as prayers and acts of kindness during Advent.

Calendars can be picked up in the Atrium or you can download a Reverse Advent Calendar at stpaulsbloor.org/adventask

Give Globally:

We are partnering with PWRDF to support sustainable farming, food security and nutrition programs with the Anglican Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania. It will improve the livelihood of farmers and mitigate climate change with agricultural education.

To learn more about the work PWRDF is doing in Tanzania, visit

pwrdf.org/our-work/tanzania

Help us reach our goal of \$30,000. Donate online at stpaulsbloor.org or through our app, text "**stpaulsbloor**" to **77977**, or pick up an Advent Ask offering envelope in the Atrium.

Christmas Pageant is Next Week



Share in the joy of Christmas at our annual Christmas Pageant and Family Dinner. Make this a holiday tradition for your family. If you have children, encourage them to invite a friend, or invite another family to see and hear the true meaning of Christmas from children.

The Pageant will take place on **Sunday, December 9 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** The cost for the dinner is \$12 per adult and \$5 per child. To sign up for the dinner, RSVP to Janet Earle at ext. 241 or children@stpaulsbloor.org

Celebrate Christmas with your family by listening to our Christmas Playlists on Spotify!
Find us on Spotify at [@stpaulsbloor](https://www.spotify.com/@stpaulsbloor)



Classic & Contemporary Playlist



Children's Playlist

Christmas Bake & Knitted Goods Sale

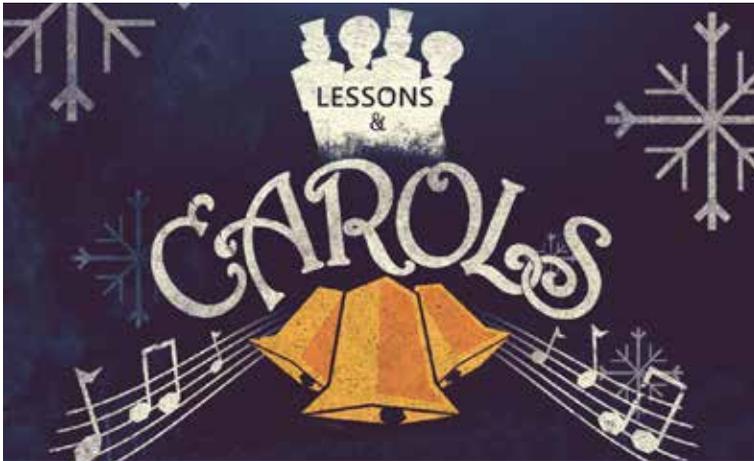


The annual Christmas Bake and Knitted Goods Sale will take place after each service on **Sunday, December 16** in Cody Hall.

You can help by purchasing but also by donating baked goods. All proceeds go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the Pikangikum First Nations Water Initiative. Please wrap and label all baked goods so they are ready for sale. They can be dropped off on:

- **Friday, Dec. 14** at the office from 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, Dec. 15** in Cody Hall from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 16** in Cody Hall before any of the services.

Who Will You Invite to Lessons & Carols?



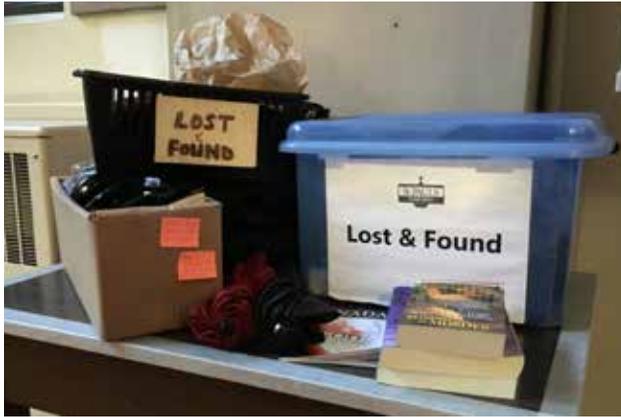
If you've been looking for an opportunity to invite a friend to a service at St. Paul's, why not invite them to Lessons & Carols on **December 16?**

Lessons & Carols is a lively retelling of the Christmas story through short Bible readings and well-known Christmas carols. It's a joyful experience that people of all spiritual backgrounds can enjoy.

9:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service of Lessons & Carols

11 a.m. - Classic Service of Lessons & Carols (featuring the St. Paul's Choir)

Find our Lessons & Carols event on Facebook, click on "Going" and invite your Facebook friends to join you.



Lost and Found

If you have lost or misplaced a personal belonging in the past few months, please stop by our Lost and Found at the north-east corner of the Sanctuary, before next Sunday, December 9. After December 9, we will donate anything left in our Lost and Found to charity.

Christmas Tribute Flowers



Paying tribute to or remembering someone with a donation is a wonderful way to share in decorating the church for Christmas. If you would like to contribute, complete the information on the memorial flower envelope in the pew or at St. Paul's Central.

Place it on the offering plate, or in the office mailbox.

Donations can also be completed through our app or online at stpaulsbloor.org. Simply click on the "Donate" button at the top right corner. Be sure to include the names you wish to pay tribute to or remember. Tributes begin at \$20 per entry and must be submitted no later than **December 16.**

New Beginnings for Orvin Lao



Orvin Lao has been with us on and off since 2014 in various roles as he completed his theological studies. Almost two years ago, he came on staff part time as a Lay Pastoral Associate to help with small group leadership, teach the Pilgrim Course, and provide pastoral leadership at St. George by the Grange.

He will continue his preparation for ordained ministry by serving at Little Trinity Church starting in January. As the Community Connections Pastor he will help integrate newcomers and families into the parish life, give pastoral support, have oversight over the lay ministry leaders and the Cluster Group communities, and take the lead on their Sunday evening service. We are sad to see Orvin go, but are grateful for all he has done during his time at St. Paul's. We wish him well on this next step of his journey.

Ways to Give

For more information, visit
stpaulsbloor.org/give



In Person



Pre-Authorized Giving



Online



Through our App



Next Sunday's Preaching Passage

Luke 1:68-79

Theme:
"Hope for a Dawn of Peace"