

# Experience God at St. John's through

✝ *Worship*

✝ *Hospitality*

✝ *Spiritual Growth*

✝ *Social Justice*

✝ *Diversity*

St. John's Presbyterian Church  
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**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

## **You are welcome here as a child of God.**

We celebrate you as a gift from God and welcome you to a diverse community of believers united in our faith.

## **You are welcome here to accept Christ's love**

We invite you to bring your disappointments and pain and your joys and blessings.

## **You are welcome to a community of friends and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

We share with you God's call to serve our neighbour, expressing our mission through worship, hospitality, social justice and spiritual growth for all God's diverse people.

**“Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” – Romans 15:7**

At St. John's we have identified five priorities that bring our mission statement alive: **worship, hospitality, spiritual growth, social justice and diversity.**

Each one of the five priorities overlaps with the others. Please read more about our five priorities through the pages of this little booklet.

Experience God at St. John's!

*St. John's Mission: St. John's is a place where everyone has the opportunity to experience God through Jesus Christ. Christian faith is the foundation which gives life to our nurturing and caring. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to reach out into the community and beyond, as we seek to live out God's love.*

## WORSHIP

**Worship is at the centre of our life together as community. It helps us to deepen our relationship with God and brings us closer to one another. Biblical preaching relevant to today's world, prayer and beautiful music are important parts of our worship.**

**In worship we are comforted, challenged, uplifted and refreshed.**

**Worship helps us to deepen our enjoyment of God and to recognize God's presence in everyday life.**

**Worship focuses on God who is the source of grace in our lives and in the world.**

**God meets us in worship.**

### Services

Sunday worship service begins at 11:00 am year round. Church School takes place at the same time.

On the last Thursday of every month we hold a Prayer for Healing Service on Zoom from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm. This is based on an Iona Community liturgy. Please email [stjohntoronto@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntoronto@gmail.com)

### Music

The choir of St. John's has a dedicated group of singers and soloists who practice in the sanctuary each Sunday at 9:45 am before worship, from September to June. Our organist and choir director Grace Han and the choir enthusiastically lead the praise of the people during the worship service. Choral repertoire encompasses ancient, classical and contemporary music. The sanctuary has a three-manual Keates pipe organ and a Heintzman grand piano.

### Communion Dates

We celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on the second Sunday in January, March, June, September, December and the first Sunday on October, which is World Communion Sunday.

### Offering Envelopes

If you are new to St. John's, at your request, the Envelopes Secretary will assign you a number and give you a box of envelopes. You will receive a tax receipt at the beginning of the new year to get your tax credit.

### Volunteer Opportunities for You

- **Make Music**

If you like to sing or play a musical instrument please join us. Contact Grace Han, [singagain@gmail.com](mailto:singagain@gmail.com)

- **Greeters**

Offer a warm welcome and hand out the bulletins to all worshippers from 10:30 am to 11:15 am

- **Read Scripture**

- **Take up the Offering**

- **Communion Set up**

## Hospitality

**Hospitality is showing others the welcoming character of Jesus – opening up ourselves and our church to others. We wish to say to everyone – you are welcome here!**

**We want people to feel at home at St. John's so that they may feel at home with God and experience the presence of God here. When we make room for others we make room for God to be with us.**

**Our hope is that no one walks away from St. John's without feeling the love of God extended directly and personally to them.**

**Hospitality includes the care we offer to each other: listening, encouraging, supporting each other in life, when we have joys and concerns, when we are ill, in hospital or homebound.**

### Fellowship Hour

Every Sunday we get together for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after worship. This is a time to catch up on each other's news and to meet new people and visitors.

### Community Lunches

Once a month we get together for lunch after worship. There is always enough food for all visitors. Our table expands. No reservations required!

### Special Events

When we are able we invite the community to our June BBQ, our December Christmas party on the lawn, concerts, yard sales, book studies and Bible studies.

### Community Outreach

We wish to build relationships with people outside the church, reach out to people who may think the church has forgotten them, break down barriers for people who may be intimidated by church, serve our community, and help people to know the good news of a loving, forgiving, renewing, justice seeking God.

### Our Building

We believe that our building is a community resource. Hospitality is extended to the community by welcoming into the building a Vietnamese congregation, and other community groups.

### **Volunteer Opportunities for you**

#### **After Worship Refreshments**

Make the coffee and tea and cold drinks and set out the day's treats. Serve the coffee and tea – and yes – wash and dry the dishes. Detailed instructions and training provided.

#### **Bake**

Be on the list of those willing to be called upon to bake or make sandwiches for funerals, anniversaries, bake sales, community lunches.

#### **Be a Visitor**

With another person, go and have a cup of tea and a chat with someone confined to their home.

## **Spiritual Growth**

**Activities to help us deepen our faith are important. We desire to grow in our intimacy with God and in our compassion for all creation.**

**At St. John's we provide many varied opportunities for spiritual growth for people of all ages.**

Because of Covid, our Sunday School program is presented through Zoom and in person. The following represents our normal program:

Please email [stjohnstoronto@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnstoronto@gmail.com) to connect with us.

### Active Church School Program for ages 3-15

Ages 3-Grade 2: Our church school runs during the worship service. The Children's Worship Centre is the home of a Montessori style program where trained, volunteer story tellers tell the Bible stories through the use of wooden figures and other materials. The children are given time to respond to the stories through songs and art. Parents are welcome any time to observe.

Grades 3-5: The class starts in the Children's Worship Centre and then moves to an adjoining room to explore an expanded Children in Worship program.

Grades 5-8: The class learns more about the Bible and deals with current social issues in their lives.

### Adult Programs

Throughout the year are scheduled book studies and Bible studies.

## Lending Library

We have a bookmobile filled with books to be borrowed. Browse through the books each week and see what's there to inspire you, make you think, help you to pray. Just sign out the book and keep it as long as you need it.

## Volunteer Opportunities for you

- **Help with Sunday School**

If you would like to be one of the leaders in the Young Children in Worship program, we have a great bunch of volunteers who will help you learn the stories and the routine. We have a yearly schedule so you can sign up for just a few weeks a year – or - you could be a "shepherd" – an essential person who roams amongst the classes to be of assistance where needed.

- **Lead some evenings of an adult study**

When we have our book studies, every evening needs a facilitator – someone to guide the discussion. Sign up to lead the discussion for one week!

## **Social Justice**

**We are called by God to love our neighbours as ourselves. We are called to engage in the life of the world, make peace and act justly. We are called to challenge, in the name of God, those things that oppress people and degrade people. At St. John's, we commit ourselves to take action on issues of social justice.**

### Evangel Hall

Once a year we prepare a delicious meal for about 100 people and serve it to the people who come to Evangel Hall which runs a community drop-in in downtown Toronto. After dinner we lead the Sunday evening worship service in the Evangel Hall chapel.

### Fundraising

We fundraise for wells in Africa, AIDS research, African Seed Banks, hunger elimination, disaster and emergency relief efforts through Presbyterian World Service and Development, and local Presbyterian missions such as Portland Place.

### Justice Awareness

Our Mission and Outreach Team lead us in justice awareness workshops and special worship services. Committed individuals within the congregation bring justice issues and petitions to our attention for action.

## **Volunteer Opportunities for you**

### **Provide a Meal**

For the Evangel Hall dinner, be a shopper, cook a roast, make a salad or be a waiter for the evening.

## **Fundraiser**

Get to know people as you help with the yard sale, Christmas tree sale, concert organizing, soup and bread lunches, talent night – or propose your own idea to raise dollars for justice issues.

## **Diversity**

**At St. John's we are an interesting mix of people and we embrace the richness this brings.**

**We know that God has the whole world in his hands. His spirit is at work here drawing together a diverse group of people and we celebrate this.**

**We are made up of people of different ages, ethnic origins, economic resources and lifestyles.**

**We come from many different theological backgrounds and we welcome people wherever they are on their spiritual journey. Seekers, doubters, and long time people of faith are all nourished and challenged together.**

### **How will you see our diversity?**

The "Tree of Life" painting inside our front door includes the flags of 19 different nations of origin – and we are still counting!

Our young people participate in worship regularly as well as lead worship services.

We are reflecting our ethnic diversity in our choice of worship music. We invite you to bring an influence from another country.

Our new outreach program "Monday Night in Canada" is bringing more diversity and international influences into our community.

## **A Note from the Session of St. John's**

You are welcome here. We pray you find a word of hope and new life in Jesus here.

St. John's Presbyterian Church has occupied the corner of Broadview and Simpson since 1908 and has been celebrating the good news of Jesus Christ since 1888. While the neighbourhood around us has completely changed, the heart of our message has stayed the same.

Every person is created in God's image. Everyone has gifts, given to them by God, to be shared with others on this earthly journey. Each one of us is loved by God just as we are. We receive God's grace and love through no effort of our own. We do nothing to earn it and it comes to us regardless of our failings or failures.

God sent Jesus to show us a way of peace, reconciliation, forgiveness, generosity, regardless of sins committed. Jesus died and was raised from the dead, offering life and hope to ordinary people like us.

God calls us to live, not in isolation, but in community with one another. The Holy Spirit gives us strength each and every day to meet life's challenges.

May God's love pour through your life creating a joy, strength and courage the likes of which you've never known!