



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's:

^{14b} "Let the children come to me: do not stop them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ The truth is, whoever doesn't welcome the kingdom of God as a little child won't enter it." ¹⁶ And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. **Mark 10:14b-16**

On Wednesday October 6, our Jewish sisters and brothers celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The celebrations last for two days. The dates vary from year to year as the Jewish calendar follows lunar cycles. But the calendar adjusts to the solar cycles as well, so the Jewish New Year always takes place in autumn.

Like the secular New Year, Rosh Hashanah can be a time of introspection. People will ask themselves questions like: What is the most important thing in my life? What are the most meaningful and important things I have achieved in the last year? What do I hope to achieve over the coming year?

One of the traditions of Rosh Hashanah is to blow a big horn called a *Shofar*. One hundred notes are blown to mark the beginning of the 10-day period called the Days of Awe, leading up to another very important Jewish festival called Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur is the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar. It means Day of Atonement and people don't eat or drink for 25 hours. It's a day to reflect on the past year and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. So we are currently in the Days of Awe period, between Rosh Hashanah (New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), the holiest time in the Jewish calendar.

As Christians we bear a close affinity to our Jewish siblings. We share scriptures to which we both turn for inspiration and guidance. Jesus was a Jew, and the first Christians regarded themselves as Jews. The destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD marked a point of divergence for the two traditions. Jews developed a rabbinic tradition which centred on the study of the Torah rather than the sacrifice at the Temple which was now destroyed. Christians, compelled by the experience of the risen

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Christ which resonated so strongly with Jew and non-Jew alike, developed a new set of scriptures that we call the New Testament and went beyond what the followers of the rabbinic tradition regarded as acceptably Jewish. The split was painful. The trauma of that divergence has haunted both traditions through the millennia up to this very day. That trauma is recorded in Christian scriptures which have been used by Christians for millennia to justify the persecution of Jews.

As Christians observe the frenzy of violence and hatred currently consuming the Holy Land, the trauma of the initial split and the guilt of our own history is mixed in to the many complicated feelings we are having about the situation. I am sorry to say that today the United Church position and the position of many (but not all) of our Jewish neighbours in Canada seem to be very much at odds over the justice of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, and the appropriateness of Israel's response to the despicable attacks of Oct 7. Many (perhaps most) Jews in Canada can see the injustice of Israel's occupation of Palestine, but justify the heavy hand of the Israeli Defense Forces and the violence of the West Bank settlers, as the only means to obtain security for themselves and for Jews the world over.

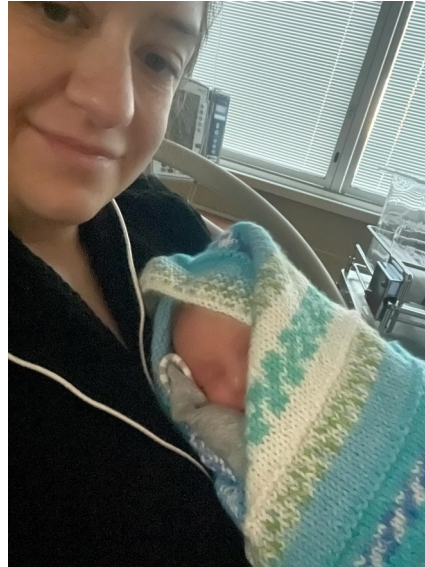
They point to the fraught situation in the middle east and the historical and ever-present threat of antisemitism that led to the Holocaust and still lingers today. The General Council of the United Church, on the other hand, though not oblivious to the history of antisemitism in Canada and the historical complicity of the church in it has found the complaints of Palestinians more compelling and judged that the injustices against Palestinians a more immediate threat to human life and peace which requires the state of Israel to take more responsibility. It is a difference of opinion that has been steadily intensifying over the past decade or more.

Differences of opinion, especially in situations where lives hang in the balance, are not easy to live with. At the heart of the matter, however, is a family relationship, a deeply shared love of God and a deeply shared wound, not to mention a common hope for redemption. Much of this we share with our Muslim kin as well, and other religions. The bottom line is that God wants peace and justice, safety and happiness for all people living our "Holy Land" and throughout the world. And that is our prayer today.

The teaching of Jesus about little children was a lesson about many things, but fundamentally it was about the protection of the vulnerable. It is a teaching that is so simple and yet so profound. Like a good story, we never get bored hearing it. It always feels good and right to be reminded that children are welcome, that the most vulnerable have a high place in God's eyes, that our adult pretensions of importance should be given a time out once in a while. And yes we need a heart of a

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Baby Coyne has arrived. Hudson Anthony Ken Coyne was born on Oct. 4th at 3:21 pm weighing in at 6 lbs, 12 oz. and about 19.4 inches long! What a bundle of joy for this first-time grandma! Proud parents, Robyn and Aaron, are radiating with love for their first born. Hudson likes to tuck his right hand around his ear and pushes against your hand if placed under his feet. Within a few hours after visiting with him, I miss him even more!



Missed a recent service? Watch it on YouTube.

Recent services at St. Matthew's.

- Sept. 29. [Video recording](#). The sermon was on Air and Truth & Reconciliation.
- Oct. 06. [Video recording](#). The sermon spoke to Jesus' words that tell us that we need a heart of a child, but that we also need to take responsibility for the most vulnerable.
- Oct. 13. [Video recording](#). The sermon was on the concept of nature as a sentient equal to humans and spoke about recognizing that love is at work in the world. It is not hard to see it at work in other humans, in other creatures and even in the natural environment. As Christians, it makes sense, not only to express our gratitude to God from whom all blessings flow, but to the people in our lives, the animals, the forests, the mountains and to the rivers that also flow with blessings.



Upcoming Services & Activities

- Oct. 19. Get your tickets for this Saturday's Beef and Salmon dinner. Rick Knight and members of the Finance team are selling the tickets.
- Oct. 26. 11am. The Celebration of Life for Tim Wright will be held at our church. A luncheon will follow. The service will be conducted jointly with the L'Arche Daybreak community.
- Oct. 27. Anniversary Sunday. There will be a potluck luncheon after the service. Please bring your favourite finger foods to share.
- Oct 27. A Truth & Reconciliation Circle is offered after service. A light luncheon will be available. All are welcomed to join this group.
- Nov. 02. 10am to 1pm. Annual Bazaar. For sale: frozen fruit pies, bake table, knitting and homemade crafts. The Brunch Nook will start with breakfast and move to lunch, \$15.00 each.
- Nov. 10th. Remembrance Day Service.
- Now until Nov.15th. The Fill A Purse for a Sister Campaign is in full swing. The campaign has been extended to include backpacks for youth. All donated items are distributed to women and youth in crisis. Important items to include are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrush, toothpaste, personal hygiene products and deodorant. Other suggested items include hairbrush, comb, tissues, hat, scarf, gloves, and gift cards. We currently have some purses you can fill if you prefer to just purchase personal necessities. Thank you for your donations.
- **Nov. 20th. Last day to order your Sipology teas.** Outreach (CEO) is offering teas and teaware made by Sipology. Check the flyer on page 6 and then use the form on the last page to write up your order. Then give your order to Doreen Coyne (by email, at church, or drop them at my house) by Nov. 20th. Doreen is pledging \$5 per item ordered to the church's Outreach committee to help them pay for our sponsored child in Kenya as well as some local charity work.
- Nov. 24. A Truth & Reconciliation Circle is offered after service. A light luncheon will be available. All are welcomed to join this group..
- Dec. 01. Advent 1 - Communion.
- Dec. 08. Advent 2 – White Gifts will be received in the grocery cart. They do not need to be wrapped.
- Dec. 14. Join us for our Christmas Dinner starting at 5:30 pm. Bill Hurdman and friends will have tickets starting later in November.
- Dec. 15. Advent 3 - Vocal and Bell Choirs will provide a Carol Service at the 10:30 am service. All are welcomed to attend. Please note. There is no evening carol service. We are once again offering our music service on this December 15 service being held at our regular service hours.
- Dec. 22. Advent 4.
- Dec. 24. Christmas Eve – We've booked this but plans and start time are tbd.
- Dec. 25. Christmas morning. At this time there is no Christmas morning service scheduled. We will let you know if that changes.
- Dec. 29. A Truth & Reconciliation Circle is offered after service. A light luncheon will be available. All are welcomed to join!

A New Fundraiser from Your Outreach Committee.

Sipology, an Ontario company, specializes in teas and teaware. Take a look at what they offer below, then use the form on the next page (or one from the nar-thex) to write up your order and give it to me by Nov. 20th. I am running this with another Not-for-Profit's effort so to raise money, I will pledge \$5 per item purchased using my forms for the church. DUE DATE FOR ORDERS IS NOV. 20!



SIPOLOGY
Fundraising

Each item is only **\$15**

Taxes may apply

St. Matthew's:
For every item you order,
Doreen Coyne will pledge
\$5 to the church for
Outreach efforts such as
our sponsored child.

PREMIUM QUALITY SIPOLOGY PRODUCTS

 <p>MAGICAL FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Apple pieces, Pineapple pieces (pineapple pieces, cane sugar, citric acid), Mango pieces (mango, cane sugar, citric acid, sulphites), Papaya pieces (papaya, cane sugar, citric acid), Butterfly blue pea flowers, Spearmint leaves, Raspberry pieces, Natural flavors. Contains Sulphites. ☹</small></p>	 <p>BUBBLY CHERRY BOMB BUBBLY TEA, 2.12 oz (60 g) <small>Ingredients: Pineapple pieces (pineapple, cane sugar, citric acid), Blueberries (blueberries, sugar, sunflower oil), Basil seeds, Lucuma powder, Organic banana (banana powder, silica), Cherries, Hibiscus powder, Natural flavors.</small></p>	 <p>NATURALLY SWEET PEACH BLACK TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Black tea, Stevia leaf, Peach pieces, Calendula petals, Natural flavor. ☹</small></p>	 <p>CINNAMON BUN ROOBOS TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Roobos tea, Cinnamon, Cardamom, Black pepper, Ginger, Cloves, Calendula petals, Natural flavors.</small></p>
 <p>RASPBERRY CREAM SODA FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Mango pieces (mango, cane sugar, citric acid, sulphites), Pineapple pieces (pineapple, cane sugar, citric acid), Blueberries (blueberries, sugar, sunflower oil), Hibiscus, Raspberry pieces, Calendula petals, Natural flavors. Contains Sulphites. ☹</small></p>	 <p>EARL GREY DE LA CRÈME BLACK TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Black tea, Cornflower petals, Natural flavors. ☹</small></p>	 <p>BERRY MANIA FRUIT TEA, 1.76 oz (50 g) <small>Ingredients: Elderberries, Currants (currants, sunflower oil), Hibiscus, Beetroot bits, Natural flavour.</small></p>	 <p>REAL DEAL HOT CHOCOLATE HOT CHOCOLATE, 3.53 oz (100 g) <small>Ingredients: Cocoa powder, Sugar (organic cane sugar), Salt, Xanthan Gum, Organic stevia extract, Natural flavors. ☹</small></p>

☹ Naturally Contains Caffeine | ☹ Contains Sulphites

TEAWARE



Steeping Sacks
(100 Sacks)



1 Cup of Steeped Tea Spoon

Quick and simple loose leaf brewing!



Perfect Cup Infuser
Electric Purple



Pair of Straws (Straw + Spoon) for Bubbly Teas

Please email your orders to COYNEDWC@GMAIL.COM
To get details on products available, see them at <https://bit.ly/4dFslIB> but order using our church order form.

