



spring garden church
Spirituality Grace Community

Delve

March 2024

Quick Calendar



WEEKLY

Sun	10am Sunday Worship in person or watch Online	pg 21
Tue	10am-12pm Pastoral Team Meeting	pg 21
Thur	10am Moms' Meet Up	pg 21
1st & 3rd		pg 21
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See more at www.springgardenchurch.ca/events

April 2024 Delve submissions are due Mar. 25th. Delve submissions are due on the MONDAY before the LAST Sunday of each month but due to the holidays we are giving it another week. To submit for the next issue of Delve, e-mail: delve@springgardenchurch.ca



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www.springgardenchurch.ca

Features

Digging a little deeper into Spring Garden



"What's with this art?" Illuminating the meaning behind our Lent image

Greg Kay

More than most images we create for our worship series, we have had many people ask us wondering what it is about. Below are three different answers: a quick and easy one, a slightly more detailed one, and a longer more complex one. You have the autonomy to choose which one(s) you want to read (how very Baptist of me)

Quick and Easy:

Jesus (see the cross?) is fully God (see the heavens?) and fully human (see the earth and sky?)

Slightly more detailed:

The bible tells us that Jesus who was fully God “emptied himself taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness” (Philippians 2:7a). The cross, representing Jesus, stands outside of and other-than creation (represented by circles, clouds, etc.) while simultaneously standing within the created order as a human (represented by sun, moon, stars, trees, lakes, etc.). In other words, Jesus is fully divine and fully human.

More complex version:

One aspect of my job that I really love is working with the Creative Team to imagine how to create visual and physical manifestations of the abstract concepts of a worship series. What would it look like to draw a picture of God’s grace? Or design a space to reflect the main message of the book of Hebrews or 1 John?

Or, as in our current worship series in the season of Lent - the 40 days leading up to Easter weekend - creating a physical set up that gives image to the fullness of God being emptied out and taking on human flesh as found in Philippians 2:7; Jesus pouring himself out for the sake of humanity, the world, and the cosmos. To give image to this emptying out, which can also be thought of as pouring out, on the platform we have a jar pouring out water into a basin. The jar symbolizes Jesus and the water symbolizes Jesus being poured out. The jar and water have a secondary meaning as they also represent Jesus’ act of servanthood when he takes the role of a slave and washes the disciples’ feet, telling them to do likewise.



For music to accompany our focus ([listen to in now at https://youtu.be/E1Se52LnvI](https://youtu.be/E1Se52LnvI)), we wanted something that gave sound to Jesus’ self-emptying in this season of Lent; something that expressed a mixture of mournfulness, contemplativeness, and hope. In an effort to do this, Brandon Quek (electric guitar, programming and producing), Mike Penner (upright bass) and I recorded a song called “Emptied”. We used ‘organic’ sounding instruments such as accordion, acoustic guitar, strings, upright bass, and raw sounding electric guitar to give an earthiness to the sound. To musically portray the ‘downwards mobility’ of Jesus and the “first shall be last, the last shall be first” nature of his self-emptying we made two instrument choices. First, the song features a tin-can ukulele, an instrument made out of old tin cans. It was made by a man who was living on the streets and who started making instruments out of garbage that he found in order to make money for food and housing. Secondly, the melody of the verses is played on the bass, an instrument which, though foundational to any band, is often a hidden member of the band and is rarely given the melody.

To go along with this, we also had the fun challenge of creating an image that reflects the beautiful mystery that in this self-

emptying/pouring out, Jesus is fully God and fully human, an idea that is often referred to as the “dual natures of Christ”; designing an image which reflects how we cannot contemplate these ‘two natures’ as two separate and opposing natures that simply co-exist at the same time, but that they together are one expression of who God the Son is. As German theologian Jurgen Moltmann writes in his book *The Crucified God*, as we contemplate the work of Jesus on the cross, “we must begin from the totality of the person of Christ,” who is simultaneously and indivisibly both transcendent (beyond material existence and surpassing all comprehension) and immanent (right here with us, wearing the very dust of creation like the rest of us, closer to us than we even are to ourselves). In other words, to reflect on the “dual natures’ of Christ”, we have to contemplate them as a unified whole - Jesus in his totality—not as independent traits.

Additionally, as Moltmann argues, not only is it impossible to contemplate the dual natures of Christ independently, it is also impossible to truly contemplate who Jesus is separate from the cross, or to contemplate God the Father and the Spirit separate from the death of the Son (Jesus). In this way it could be said that through the self-emptying of Jesus, fully divine and fully human, at the cross we see the Son, Father and Spirit.

[as a side note, if that all sounds confusing and hard to understand, don’t worry! Part of the point is portraying how hard and ‘ungraspable’ it all is]

To contemplate giving image to the cross existing simultaneously in material creation and ethereal (heavenly, celestial) divinity, it seemed apparent that it would be very difficult to do something with realism (art where what you create looks like it appears in real life). Looking for a concept that included symbolic representation of the heavens, images of the way ancient astronomy depicted the cosmos with circles came to mind. If you do an internet image search for “celestial spheres”, you’ll



see what I mean. A complex description is the mathematical model of the cosmos called the Ptolemaic system. As a more accessible description, though an oversimplification, “celestial spheres” is the understanding that the cosmos is a series of spheres or orbs, one inside the other, with the earth at the centre. Picture a giant



‘jawbreaker’ candy where a gum ball at the centre is surrounded by layer after layer of candy coating.

Looking into these images, we came across an image called the “Flammarion engraving”. It is a wood engraving by an unknown artist first referenced by French astronomer Camille Flammarion in 1888. Flammarion writes about the Middle Ages understanding

that if you could reach the horizon, where the elliptic arch of the sky meets the earth, you would find the place where the earth and heavens meet. He writes that one Middle Ages voyager claims to have discovered a point in the horizon where the earth and heavens were not joined together, and so crouching down he was able to pass between heaven and earth. This is what the “Flammarion engraving” is depicting.

Like the mythical voyageur in the Flammarion engraving, Jesus passed between the barrier of heaven and earth when he ‘crouched down’, emptying himself and taking on human form, and died on the cross.

This is why in our image, based on the Flammarion engraving, the cross which represents Jesus is simultaneously on earth within creation and in the heavens within eternity.

Utilizing celestial spheres, clouds and lines to represent the heavens, and trees, lakes, stars and buildings to represent creation, Dale created this image in an art style based on the Flammarion engraving and Middle Ages artistic renderings of cosmology, digitally drawing it almost entirely by hand.

Amazing work Dale! And amazing work Creative Team (Clem Lee, Chloe Kay, Ben Kielstra) and Brandon Quek and Mike Penner for creating art that helps draw us into the mystery of Jesus’ self-emptying.



The arrival party! Alice Ng Bouwma, Abd, Rahaf Risou, Soleman, Rama Nesren, Carrie Wright, Dawod, Sam Lee, Tarik and Ayman Risou

Love Those who are Foreigners Among You

By: Carrie Wright

After so many months (years!) of waiting, watching processing times, and praying for protection for the Raso family, it was hard to believe that Soleman, Nesren, Dawod, Abd and Rama had received an approval notice. Shortly after, the email to us, as the sponsor, came through, further confirming that it was finally real. It was happening, and soon!

There were so many preparations to make, none of which could have been started without knowledge of when they would arrive. Once they were approved, we were told to expect their travel to be booked in 7-12 weeks. That seemed like a quick turnaround until a few days later, we received notice of their actual arrival date - in about 5 weeks. Despite having been sitting on our heels for months on end, we suddenly needed to sprint!

Our motivation went beyond simple legal obligations as the sponsor of the family. Deuteronomy 10:17-19 says:

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

If we were to truly reflect God's character in this situation, we needed to do our utmost to show them His love in practical ways. And so, we put out the call to you all, the congregation, letting

you know how we could show practical love to this wonderful family on whom we had been waiting for so long. And you stepped up in unbelievable ways! Within only a couple of weeks, our huge list of pantry and household items was filled with names of people willing to contribute, and we watched with joy as all the items were delivered to the church. When new big-ticket items popped up, there always seemed to be someone who was able to fill the need.

Once the apartment was secured on Thursday, February 1 and we were actually able to get inside, there were many volunteers who also gave of their time to make sure everything was ready for the Raso family's arrival. I was amazed at how seamlessly things seemed to flow. After Tarik, Soleman's brother living in Canada, obtained the keys, he and some friends moved the furniture that had been donated out of storage and into the apartment.



On Saturday, February 3, a smaller group of us attended the apartment with Tarik, to build some new furniture, arrange the rooms, and make a game plan for the next day, when all the smaller items would be delivered from the church.

On Sunday, February 4, everyone got to work without much prompting, loading up cars with all the donated pantry and household items. We filled at least 3 cars! Once we arrived, everything was taken up to the apartment, and people set to work wherever they saw a need - there was no prompting or instruction required. If there was an item sitting out, a bed that needed to be made, or dishes that needed to be washed and put away, it was attended to quickly and thoughtfully. It didn't matter how well we knew each other or how long we had been attending Spring Garden, we were united by a joint desire to truly make a home for a family that we had come to care about but never met. And within a mere couple of hours, the rooms had been converted into a home. Not a perfect one, as there were still a few little holes to fill, but still a welcoming one.

And just in time too! On Tuesday, February 6, Sam and I drove out to Pearson International Airport for the moment for which we had

all been waiting and praying. Thanks to an accident on the 401, there was some concern about making it to the airport in time, but thankfully, all those who were going to be in attendance were there and waiting. In addition to Sam and I, Alice was also in attendance, as was Tarik and two of his children, Rahaf and Ayman.

We knew the flight had landed and was at the gate, and we knew that there were customs and certainly immigration protocols to complete, but we just had no idea when they would finally exit those doors. After all this time, we found ourselves waiting again! I also had no idea what their arrival would be like. Would there be tears as a family was reunited permanently? Would they be too tired from their long journey? Would it be overwhelming for us to be there in addition to Tarik and his family? I just didn't know how to picture it!

But finally, Tarik's phone rang, and it was Soleman, trying to locate us. Then we spotted them on the other side of the gate doors, and waved so they would see us! Dawod came running our direction, and the family followed shortly after, waving back and



Lt to Rt: The smiles say it all!! Rama, Nesren, Abd, and Soleman. Dawod had run ahead.

beaming with excitement! There are so very few instances in my life that I have witnessed such a pure joy, and I felt so privileged to be witnessing this one. As they came down the ramp and around to where we were waiting, and as Tarik proudly introduced each one of them to us, the feeling was just electric! After the introductions, we took some photos to commemorate the moment and to share with those of the Refugee Action Group who were not able to be there (and with you all, of course!).

And just like that, it was over. Tarik took them home for some much-needed food and rest. And yet, as I reminded myself on the drive home, it wasn't over. It is actually only the beginning! We had been justifiably focused on their approval and arrival up

to this point. But it was important to remember that our year as a sponsor has just begun, and we want to do whatever we can to support the Raso family throughout the next year, financially and practically. Again, our call goes beyond meeting our basic legal obligations, but to continue to reflect God's character and his love in a meaningful and practical way.

If you would like to get involved, there is definitely still time! If you can help us support the Raso family financially, please consider donating to the refugee fund. As of the end of January, we still needed to raise about 20% of the funds required to support them for the full year based on our budget. If you would like to donate your time, being available to assist with various needs that the Raso family may have throughout the year, such as driving them to appointments, offering ESL support, socialising and connecting, tutoring, or other roles, please fill out our volunteer form, found at tiny.cc/rasovolunteer.

Finally, I want to personally thank all of you who have participated in big and small ways in this initiative up to this point. Whether you volunteered your time, offered to purchase or donate items, gave financially, or prayed over this family and their application, please know that your contribution is not overlooked - not by us in the Refugee Action Group, or by the Raso family. You can read in their own words the Raso family's message on the next page!





Lt to Rt: Abd, Dawod, Tarik, Ayman(front), Rahaf, Soleman, Rama, Nesren

Thank you that we are safely in Canada!!

The Suleiman family thanks all the sponsors for

their welcome and interest. Thank you for helping them reach safety safely in Canada. This is the first time they feel safe after the war in Syria and being displaced to Lebanon. In Lebanon, they always felt the danger of deportation from Lebanon, and the bad economic and medical conditions. The children had little education in Lebanon. For Suleiman and Nesren, the other thing that they love very much is your warm welcome and kind treatment, and the good people they have met so far. They are looking forward to meeting you all.

The children loved seeing the snow and playing with it, as well as nature, trees, and the beautiful, tidy gardens. The other thing they loved: gifts and a new house. It provides electricity, hot and cold water which they missed in Lebanon. And let's not forget their first time going to Tim Hortons and McDonald's. They loved coffee very much there, especially Nesren. Big challenge. English. It is an issue and the difficult not knowing the English language. Another challenge is the cold weather, they are not accustomed to it in Lebanon.

They were happy. By meeting new friends. Meeting them via Zoom and shopping with Carol and Lois. You are truly wonderful people. We also thank Carrie & James, Jeff & Phyllis, Deb, Jen, and Emily. Also, Alice and her son Noah for their visits to us at home. We also thank the entire Spring Garden Church, one by one, for their care of us.

Thank you from:

Tariq, Suleiman, Nesren, David, Abdul and Rama



Property Stewardship Team Update

Hello Spring Garden!

Our spaces at the corner of Spring Garden Avenue and Kenneth are where we as a church meet together to worship of God, for fellowship, youth events, newcomers' teas, Light of the World, and all the many parts of the life of our community. As stewards of these spaces, we are responsible to care for them.

The Property Stewardship Team has noted some large expenses that will need to be cared for in the near future: The East Lounge roof is in need of being replaced. The two air conditioning units on the East Lounge roof that cool the sanctuary and the boilers that heat the entire building are reaching end of life.

Given that the replacement of each of these improvements will be costly and that they will be 20 to 30 year investments in the property, we have been gathering information about the best and most efficient ways to replace the aging equipment.

The Property Stewardship Team is also seeking to make choices with our heating and cooling equipment that can reduce our carbon footprint, while also efficiently heating and cooling our spaces. To do so, we are seeking to establish where heat loss occurs in the building so we have a better idea of what capacity of heating and cooling is needed. Following that assessment, we will be creating a plan for replacing our boilers and air conditioners in a way that seeks to reduce carbon emissions and increases our energy efficiency. There are so many options and new technologies these days!

We wanted to inform the congregation about these forthcoming projects because the funding for these improvements falls outside of our annual church budget. That means we will need to raise the funding for these projects separate from regular giving to Spring Garden Church. Please pray for us and with us as we seek to make wise decisions about these improvements to our building. Our spaces are important places where we live our life together as the family of God in our part of the world and the city.

Blessings, Scott Moore and Ben Reynolds for the Property Stewardship Team - Martin Bouma, Wes Chapman, Brenda Forder, Clem Lee, Peggy Moore, Chad Tranter, James Wright



Memories in, (and) Seasons of, Change - My Last Delve!

by Jeremy Ranasinghe

Since sharing my resignation letter a few Sundays ago, Kaitlyn, James and I have been met by a wave of love from many people. It has been wonderfully overwhelming.

Many have shared their experiences or thoughts on transitions similar to ours, and a few have inquired about our next steps. I thought I would share here that I don't have anything lined up next, and I'm feeling a strong peace about that. And I really mean it!

As I've been finishing up my role as one of your/our church's Pastors, I've also experienced a different kind of wave, made from all the memories I've accumulated in almost a decade of life as a part of this community.

These memories hold significant value for me and, for the most part, bring a sense of comfort and nostalgia as I remember them. Especially when I'm reminded of moments that I (and hopefully some of you) value and can remember fondly.

Like our paint pouring from the retreat last spring, or when we built the community garden a few years back. Or the loud and

obnoxious singing in our car rides to and from places with the youth (Bohemian Rhapsody still being my favourite!). All these and other moments have been where my head and my heart have been. There is so much sadness in the midst of these thoughts, but I think it's a good sad because it just means I love our church and everyone I've encountered here.

Honestly, it's a strange feeling to be writing any of this because looking back, I also remember who I was and how I used to be, and how between then and now, it feels like everything has changed. I've shared this a few times, but I never wanted to become a pastor, and it has been something I've struggled with and still struggle with to some degree.

Let me be clear and say, I love my job, and making the choice to resign has been one of the hardest things I've ever done because I love being part of this church and as one of your pastors!

My struggle in wanting to be in this role came from all the insecurities I had and about what I thought that actually meant, "to be a Pastor".

I remember when I began to take my faith seriously when I was 17, at my church's fall youth retreat. I was with my youth leader, and he was helping me understand choosing to follow Jesus and having a relationship with God. There were a lot of feelings I was having from what he said, but I ultimately responded, saying "I'd do it, but only if I didn't have to be a pastor". My youth leader told me the truth and said I didn't have to, so I said awesome!

After high school, I set my "career aspirations" on being a police officer and enrolled in a program at Sheridan College, commuting while living with my parents. I wanted this because it made the most sense to me - a cop's job is to help people + God probably wants me to help people = the right choice 👍 (the money was also a factor).

In my last year there, I got into an intensive part of the program that was focused on more in-depth training and establishing relationships with different police services for faster recruiting. I was even offered a job straight out through connections I made, so things were all lining up.

But then, I felt a pull in a different direction (similar to what has led me to resign). One I thought I made an agreement with God about in choosing to follow Jesus and not having to be a Pastor, so it was frustrating that was a path to follow. It took me a bit, but I

made a switch and went to Tyndale and had very little support in doing so from my family, making this one of the hardest choices and times I've ever experienced, until now. It took a bit more time, but I eventually accepted my choices and followed what I felt from God, though begrudgingly.

The thing is, I've always been reluctant about Pastoral ministry, but that feeling has shifted, especially since I joined here as an intern.

When I first joined Spring Garden Church, I was in my early twenties and finishing my undergrad at Tyndale. I wanted to be a pastor in ministry at this point but only to work with kids and youth. The obvious (and my biased) reason being kids and youth are more fun.

But over the years of being here with you and discerning God's will together, I've grown in some of the best ways possible. I've also worked with and gotten to know our other pastors who have helped reshape, define, and somewhat heal my understanding of what it means for me to be in ministry.

So it's still true that I don't have to be a Pastor, but God's shown me why I want to be through being one in this community. The thing is, I'm feeling God moving me to something different than youth and kids, and I'm not sure what that is yet (and would appreciate your prayers)!

But this peace I feel in leaving isn't just from blind faith and relying on God (though there is so much of that). It's also from having come this far in my journey and remembering how God was faithful to me the last time and brought me here and gave me the opportunity to discover the deeper parts of myself by being challenged by and living life with you.

These memories are reminders of what I would not have had or got to experience if I made different choices from the fear I had, instead of what I felt from God. If I went the police route, I would never have had my family, or experienced any of my time with anyone here, and missed out on the privilege of having these memories and friendships in the first place. I'd be another version of myself, and probably a lot less happy (present circumstances excluded).

I really believe our memories are important. They're not just the passing of our time or simple recollections of our past; in so many ways, memories are part of our individual and collective story as

we continue to learn and discover our identities as people made in God's image. Because we're all called and invited to be members of the Church, and we help each other know what that looks like in our journeying with each other.

In my time here with you, I really hope I've been someone who's helped you in your journey, because you've certainly helped me in mine.

In a lot of ways, I feel like I'm leaving home again after growing up, but this time I feel more confident not knowing where that'll be or what it'll look like. Because I trust God with whatever happens next, and have the love and support from this community, which has only helped me know that more.

So thank you SGC, for everything!

Do you want to share something God is doing in your life or that you see God working around you? Something that could be a positive influence for the readers? A poem, story, art, photos...? We want to hear from you!

NEXT MONTH'S THEME WILL BE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPRING GARDEN CHURCH.

Email delve@springgardenchurch.ca if interested.



SGC Gym Nights

March 2, April 6, May 4, June 8 from 7 pm - 9 pm

A night of sports including but not limited to Volleyball, Basketball, etc. at 1000 New

Westminster Dr, Thornhill, ON L4J 8G3. The cost will be \$5 per person, per event.

Sign up at: tiny.cc/sgcgymnights



Spring Clothing Swap

Join us at 11:30 am (after worship) on Sunday, April 7th for a springtime Clothing Swap. Starting on March 3rd, we will begin collecting

children's, men's and women's clothing still in good condition. Please drop off these items at the church's West Lounge either on a weekday between 9am and 3pm or on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help with sorting the clothing prior to the swap or if you have any questions about the swap, please contact Manuela at stephensmanuela@gmail.com.



Volunteering with Seniors

March 14 & 28

Are you interested in connecting and supporting with seniors in our community? If so, Willowdale Manor and NeighbourLink North

York are inviting us to participate in two events at 175 Cummer Avenue:

- Iranian Dance Class on Thursday, March 14th from 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Chinese Dance Performance on Thursday, March 28th from 7-9pm

They are looking for volunteers to connect with and offer support to the seniors who will be coming out to these events. If you are interested in receiving more information or you are available to volunteer at the events, contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.



ESL Bible Study

Sundays at 11:45 am

All are welcome to come and practice your English. No need to sign up!

Come to learn more about Jesus and to practice conversational English. We will go through new words each week, do a short lesson from the gospel of John and have plenty of time to practice conversational English.

We meet Sundays from 11:45am-1:00pm in the East lounge.

If you have any questions, please email Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca

Home Groups As people who worship a triune God, we believe we are called to embrace spiritual growth as a collective, not simply as individuals. We also believe that we are all made in the image of God and are therefore created to belong in community. Home Groups are designed for us to pursue spiritual growth together and experience a deeper sense of belonging by creating opportunities to strengthen relationships with one another, engage in spiritual disciplines together, and participate in mission as a community. We have a number of Home Groups:



Wednesdays from 7:30 pm to 9 pm
At Spring Garden Church (in person)



Wednesdays from 8 pm to 9:30 pm
Online (Zoom)



Every second Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm
At Spring Garden Church (in person)

If you are interested in joining a Home Group or you would like more information about Home Groups, please contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca



Maundy Thursday Communion & Prayer Join us on Thursday before Good Friday (March 28th) from 7:30-8:30pm for a time of reflection and prayer focused on the Last Supper when Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

Since it will be an online gathering, please email Emily Kielstra at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca for the zoom link. Additionally, we will receive Communion and so, if you would like to join us in Communion, please prepare yourselves something to eat and drink

Good Friday Worship Gathering On March 28 at 10 am, we will gather for a Good Friday Worship Gathering with Communion. Children's program available for JK-Grade 5 in the multi-purpose room; the nursery/toddler room will be open.

Easter Sunrise Liturgy & Communion Come on March 31 at 6:45 am to the church (in-person only) for liturgy and communion.

Easter Sunday Worship Gathering Join us for our Easter Sunday Worship Gathering, starting at 10am. Online and in-person. Our regular Children's program available for JK-Grade 5, youth will stay upstairs.

Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshments Join us after our Easter Sunday worship (around 11:30 am) for an egg hunt on the lawn just outside the church building (pending weather). If you would like more information or you are interested in helping with set up, clean up, or during the egg hunt itself, please email Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca



We are excited to announce that we are planning to have three weeks of day-camp this year for children aged 4 (must be potty trained) to 10. The dates for camp include, July 15th - July 19th, July 22nd - July 26th,

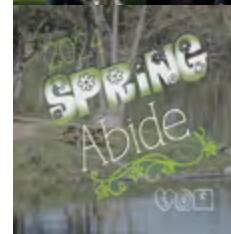
and July 29th - August 2nd. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Emily at: emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca.

To register your child(ren) for camp: springgardenchurch.ca/daycamp.

We are also looking to hire two Co-Camp Directors and a team of Camp Counsellors to help organize and run our day-camp. For more information, please check out our website: springgardenchurch.ca/hiring.

We will be running an LIT program this summer for any Jr. and Sr. High youth who are interested in volunteering at our day camp. To register, please fill out this form: <http://tiny.cc/SGCLIT2024>.

Please note that spaces are



limited.

2024 Church Wide Retreat
May 31 - June 2, 2024



We believe in a communal God who invites us into community. This year, our theme is abiding in Christ through prayer. One great way of doing this is to come to a retreat to unplug, get away from the city, and to enjoy God's creation in community. Come join us for a time of rest and renewal as we spend time together at Fair Havens! **EARLY BIRD PRICING EXTENDED TO THE 8th.**

Register at: <http://tiny.cc/springabide>



Hey Everyone!

Here's what's happening for March!



There are many Easter events, including an Easter Egg hunt and Refreshments on the last weekend of March. Please see page 19 for more information.

C&Y Registration Forms 2024: For us to provide our ministry to the children of our church, we require new registration forms to be filled by their families every year

as part of our policy to protect.

If you have not already completed this out since Sept 2023, please fill out our form through this link <http://tiny.cc/SGCFamilyRegistration> or QR code:



Sunday Morning Registration:

You can register children for worship on Sunday mornings at the child and youth check-in area. If you require assistance with this, either Emily or Sam can help!

We will have sticker name tags printed out for our children to wear along with a security label displaying the unique code also printed on your child(ren)'s name tag.

Please keep your security labels each Sunday for pick-up to help our new volunteers get to know and be familiar with you.

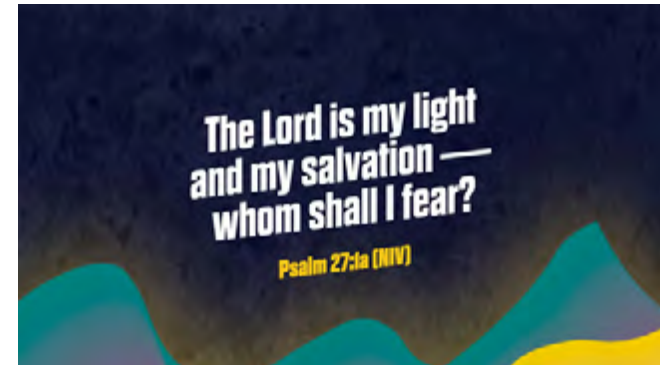
Sunday Morning Kids' Worship

Here is what we will be talking about on Sundays!



Glow In The Dark! | A 5-Week Series On Easter:

In the dark, a world of neon colours comes to life. Whether it's the soft green of glow-in-the-dark stars or the bright colours of bioluminescent creatures, light can break through the darkness. When the world needed some light, God sent Jesus because he glows in the dark, and he can teach us how to shine with God's light, too! In this five-week series through the Gospels, we'll follow Jesus' life leading up to Easter to see some of the ways he can shine brightly in our lives. As we explore, we'll see Jesus is the light in the darkness. We'll also learn how we can choose Jesus and know God hears our cries while celebrating how Jesus died and rose again.



Online Resources For Home

To help serve your family better, we have uploaded all our SGC Kids' curricula online. The following link can be used to access our curriculum and use it at home, as well as find info pamphlets for following up with kids on what was discussed during their worship on Sunday mornings.



SGC Kids Curriculum Link: <http://tiny.cc/OnlineCurriculum>



Sunday Morning Worship Gatherings:

March 3rd, 10th, and 31st: We will have regular worship gatherings for youth in grades 6-12. Following the children and youth's blessing, the youth will move to our lounge to continue in worship.

On the following Sundays, we encourage youth to participate in and/or to serve in another area of the church's ministry:

- **Mar 17th:** We will not have youth worship this Sunday and instead will meet on March 31st, in place.
- **Mar 24th:** We encourage youth to join our intergenerational worship this Sunday.

For any youth interested in serving regularly, please speak with Jeremy or Sam and fill out the following form

<http://tiny.cc/YouthLIT-Fall> or QR code:



Youth Home Groups:

Sr High Home Groups: March 1st - Our Sr High home group is meeting in our youth lounge. We will gather in our youth lounge to have dinner and talk about life as we're growing up and how Jesus can play a part of that. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy (along with any allergy/food restriction info) to let us know!

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5 (Dinner Included)

Jr High Home Groups: Our Jr High's next Home Group meeting will be - ****April 2024****

Friday Youth Gatherings:

March 8th - Games Night - We will meet at our building to play some of our favourite games and enjoy each other's company and friendly competition. To ensure enough food is prepared, please email Jeremy to **reserve space by 12:00 pm the Thursday** before along with any allergies or dietary concerns we need to know!

Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm

****Please note this will be Kaitlyn, James and Jeremy's last youth gathering so we encourage all our youth to join!****

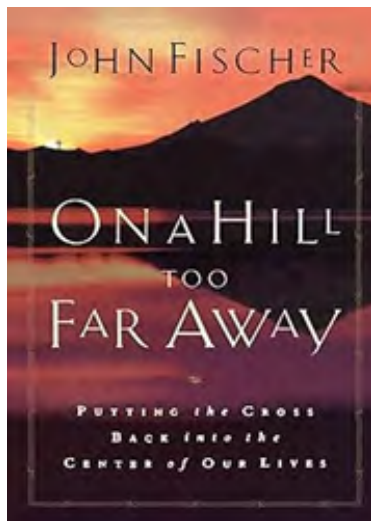
March 22nd: Artisan DIY Night We will meet at our building to work on personal crafts and art projects together. To ensure enough food is prepared, **please email Sam by 12:00 pm the Thursday** before along with any allergies or dietary concerns we need to know!

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Cost: \$5 per youth (Dinner included)

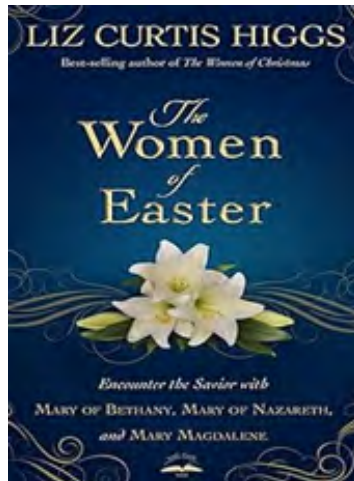
Staying Updated: To stay up to date on what is happening for your youth, please visit our google calendar which has all our planned events.

<http://tiny.cc/YouthCal>



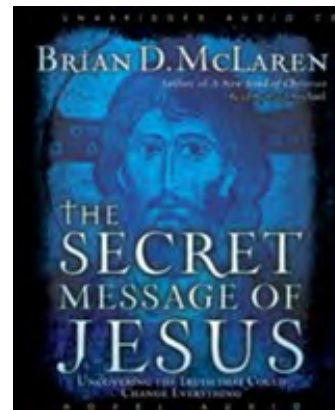
On a hill too far away: putting the cross back into the center of our live, by John Fischer 232.9 FIS

The Cross is More Than a Symbol. John Fischer believes Christians are in danger of forgetting the power and passion of the gospel. Using the powerful image of a 5-foot cross bolted in front of the platform of a small Connecticut church, Fischer explores the centrality of the cross to a Christian's faith for all time, as well as the tragedy of the cross's apparent absence in contemporary Christianity.



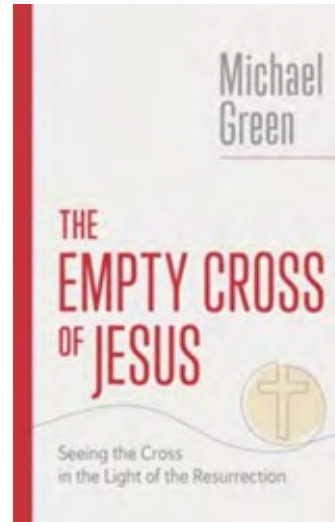
The women of Easter: encounter the saviour with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene, by Liz Curtis Higgs 232.9 HIG

The Challenge of Jesus poses a double-edged challenge: to grow in our understanding of the historical Jesus within the Palestinian world of the first century, and to follow Jesus more faithfully into the postmodern world of the twenty-first century.



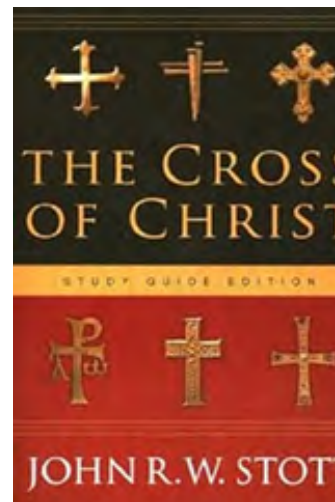
The secret message of Jesus: uncovering the truth that could change everything, by Brian McLaren 232.9 MCL

In *The Secret Message of Jesus* McLaren invites you to discover the fresh and enlightening message of Jesus, a message that dispels deception for hope. This is an epic story that holds good news for everyone regardless of gender, race, class, politics or religion.



The empty cross of Jesus: seeing the cross in the light of the resurrection, by Michael Green 232.5 GRE

Why did Jesus have to die? How could a loving God allow his son to suffer? And what role does the resurrection play in this divine drama? Rooting his discussion in Scripture, Green opens up the meaning of Easter in an easy, nontechnical style. The empty cross of Jesus liberates the theologian, inspires the preacher, comforts the counselor, and fortifies every disciple for a life of self-sacrifice.



The cross of Christ, by John Stott 232.3 STO

Examining the apparent and underlying reasons for Christ's death, Stott defends the substitutionary view of the atonement and explores Christ's achievement through his crucifixion. He also discusses the implications of the cross for Christian worship, self-understanding, life, and hope.

Leadership Directory



PASTORAL TEAM (alphabetical order by last names)

(Abby Davidson is on parental leave)

Dale Forder Ext. 221
Office & Communications Administrator
daleforder@springgardenchurch.ca

Emily Kielstra Ext. 226
Interim Pastor of Missional Discipleship
emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca

Greg Kay
Co-Lead Pastor
gregkay@springgardenchurch.ca

Sam Lee Ext. 227
Co-Lead Pastor
samlee@springgardenchurch.ca

Jeremy Ranasinghe Ext. 223
Pastor of Students
(last day March 10th)
jeremy@springgardenchurch.ca

Spring Garden Church

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www.springgardenchurch.ca Tel 416.223.4593
office@springgardenchurch.ca Fax 416.223.6126
Prayer Line 416.223.4038

Giving is one of the ways in which we can respond to a generous God. We give because it is a part of our discipleship and an act of worship. Please give as you feel led. For more information please go to our website at: <https://www.springgardenchurch.ca/give>.

DEACONS (alphabetical order)

Darlene Boyd
Worship
darlene.boyd@gmail.com

Krysten Cameron
Chair
krystencameron@hotmail.com

Garry Lam
Secretary & Property
garry.lam@sgbc.ca

Jeff McGee
Finance
jeff.mcgee@sympatico.ca

Scott Moore
Vice Chair,
scottgmoore@mac.com

Esther Penner
Adult Discipleship & Membership
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Kishanth Seevaratnam
Missions
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Debbie Tempelmeyer
Children & Youth Discipleship
tempelmeyerdeb@gmail.com

ELDERS (alphabetical order)

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Barrie Porter
barriep91@gmail.com

Marcy Scott
marcyscott@rogers.com

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

What's Happening

Life in Spring Garden

Weekly

All Throughout the Week	HOME GROUPS Connect for Community Together through bible study, prayer and sharing, we meet online and in-person. Please email emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca for more information or if you are interested in joining a Home Group. See more on page 6.	
Sundays	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP Join us Sunday mornings as we go through different series' (read more). Join us at: www.springgardenchurch.ca/live or come in-person.	10 am
Tuesdays	PASTORAL TEAM MEETING We generally meet on Tuesday. Please pray for us, for wisdom and inspiration.	10 am - 12 pm
Thursdays	MOMS' MEET UP Moms and moms-to-be are invited to join us along with their little ones every Thursday morning for a time of conversation and play. We meet in the Toddler Room located in the church building's basement. Contact Emily at emilykielstra@springgardenchurch.ca	10 am - 12 pm
1st and 3rd Thursdays	LUNCH-PRAYER-SHARE Call Faith: 416 805-7529 or Email: faith.holwyn@gmail.com EVERYONE IS WELCOME.	12 pm

Upcoming

Date	Event	Page
March 1	YOUTH: Sr High Home Group	23
March 2	SGC Gym Night	17
March 8	YOUTH: Games Night	24
March 10	Blessing & Farewell for Jeremy, Kaitlyn & James	
March 14	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor	17
March 22	YOUTH: Artisan Night	24
March 28	Volunteering at Willowdale Manor	17
March 28	Maundy Thursday Communion & Prayer	19
March 29	Good Friday Worship Gathering	19
March 31	Easter Sunrise Liturgy & Communion	19
March 31	Easter Sunday Worship Gathering	19
March 31	Easter Egg Hunt and Refreshment	19
April 6	Gym Night	17
April 7	Clothing Swap	17
May 31 - June 2 2024	Church Wide Retreat	20

Keep your eye on our Events page at:

www.springgardenchurch.ca/events.

If you would like to receive a weekly e-mail update on what's happening in Spring Garden, please visit the SGC website (www.springgardenchurch.ca) and add your email address at the bottom of our home page (scroll down).

Our Values

We believe in a humble God who came not to be served, but to serve. Therefore we engage in sacrificial and active service to those around us. We strive to be good stewards of God's gifts and talents by serving one another in humility. We aspire to regard others as higher than ourselves, which liberates us to creatively take risks in serving others for God's glory.

We believe in a God of grace who came to save the world, not to condemn it. Therefore, as we are continuously receiving the gift of God's grace, we seek to grow in that grace and extend it to others. We strive to define ourselves by what we are for, not what we are against.

We believe in a God who knows us, and who desires to be known. Therefore we embrace a journey of faith that requires us to constantly strive for a personal, intimate and transformative knowledge of God. We strive to be led by God's Spirit in supporting and encouraging one another in working out our faith.

We believe in a creative God. Therefore we are open to expressing our faith in new and creative ways that reflect the beauty and complexity of our creator. We are called to use our creative gifts in worship and service as we engage with our world. We take joy in the diversity of gifts that allow us to delight God and participate in His ongoing story.

We believe in a triune, relational God who calls us to come together as a diverse community of believers. Therefore, we want to walk together, supporting one another physically, emotionally and spiritually. We strive to be a welcoming, inclusive family that goes through the joys and the trials of life together, acknowledging that God uses this community to deepen and mature our faith.

We believe in a God who loves this broken world and wants to reconcile us to Himself. Therefore we are commissioned by Christ to go out into the world, meeting the holistic needs of the local and global community. God calls us to participate in a redemptive work that he has already initiated; in humility, we will partner with others to work alongside and chase after Him.

We believe in a God who is our centre. Therefore where we are on the journey is less important than that we are moving towards a deeper relationship with Christ. We believe and participate in God's redemptive work in all people, which gives us the freedom to come as we are, and to accept others as they are. We each are on a unique journey to become who God has created us to be.

