



A Christmas Greeting

for the people of the Anglican Parish of Six Saints.

“Be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

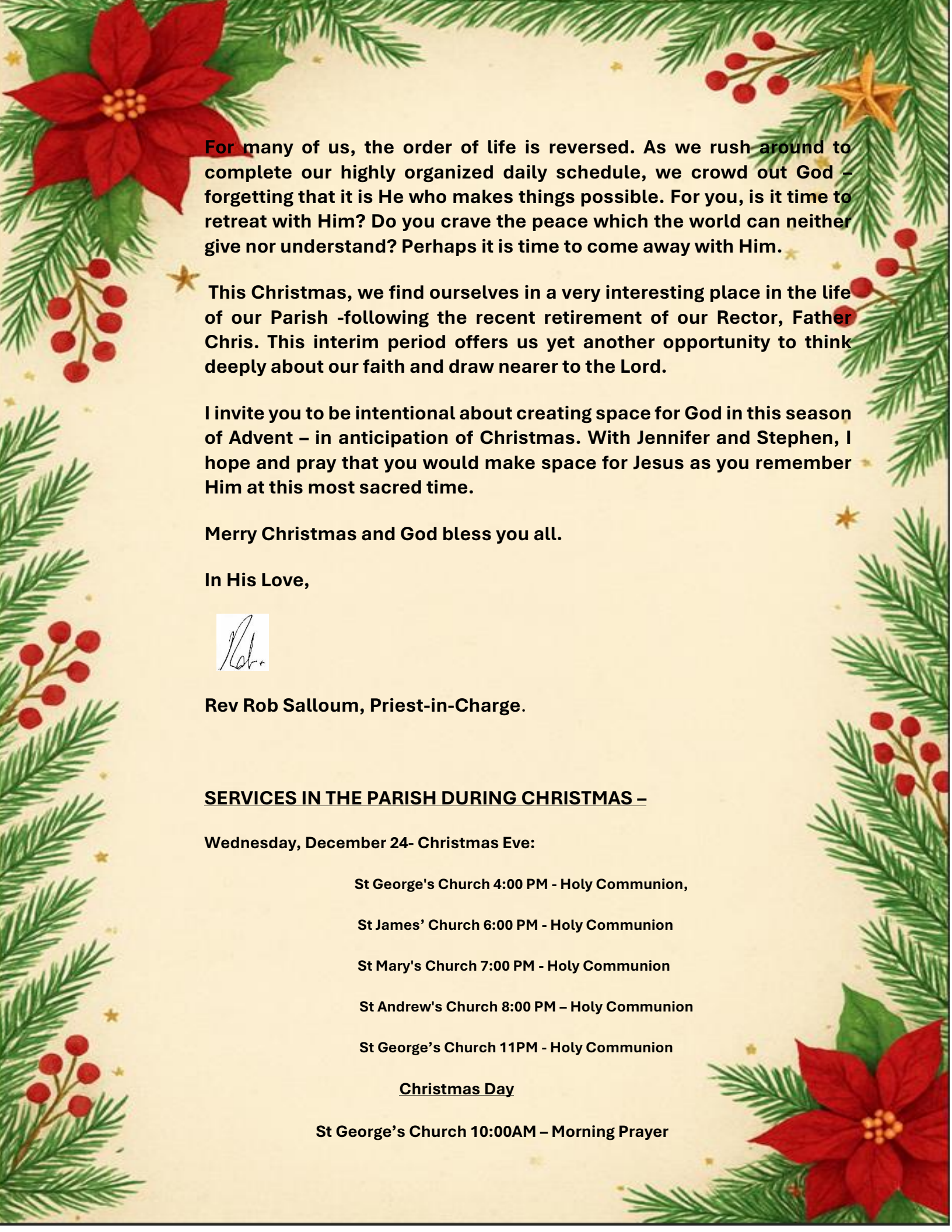
The season of Advent has begun. The Calendar has turned to December. What does your schedule look like? T'is the season to be busy! Isn't it ironic that a season that should be characterized by contemplation, pausing, noticing and the Lord, our lives are frenetic, busy, overwhelmed and even panicked.

The above being true, action is needed! In this season of Advent, it is crucial for us to develop the practice of solitude. “Solitude is the creation of an open, empty space in our lives by purposely abstaining from interaction with other human beings, so that, freed from competing loyalties, we can be found by God” (Life with God Bible, p. 531).

Solitude is about spending quality time with God and we are refreshed. In solitude we hear God and witness His work. 2000 years ago, a young woman named Mary pondered the thought of being the mother of Jesus -the Messiah. At the same time, God encouraged a man named Joseph, to take Mary as his wife. The Lord drew Mary and Joseph together- directing their path and shaping their future.

So, what does it take to enter a place of solitude? It takes discipline, time and commitment. The psalmist draws us to place of solitude. Psalm 62 says: “My soul finds rest in God alone.” Augustine, reflecting his refreshment said: “Our souls are restless until they find rest in You.” Psalm 46:10 says, " Be still and know that I am God." and Habakkuk 2:20 says: The Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silent before Him."

Wouldn't it change our days if, we could learn the practice of solitude? It is possible. Author Dallas Willard, in his book *The Spirit of the Disciplines* writes: In stark aloneness it is possible to have silence...to be still, and to know that Jehovah indeed is God (Psalm 46:10), to set the Lord before our minds with sufficient intensity and duration that we stay centered upon him – our hearts fixed, established in trust (Psalm 112:7-8) – even when back in the office, shop, or home (Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, p. 162).



For many of us, the order of life is reversed. As we rush around to complete our highly organized daily schedule, we crowd out God – forgetting that it is He who makes things possible. For you, is it time to retreat with Him? Do you crave the peace which the world can neither give nor understand? Perhaps it is time to come away with Him.

This Christmas, we find ourselves in a very interesting place in the life of our Parish -following the recent retirement of our Rector, Father Chris. This interim period offers us yet another opportunity to think deeply about our faith and draw nearer to the Lord.

I invite you to be intentional about creating space for God in this season of Advent – in anticipation of Christmas. With Jennifer and Stephen, I hope and pray that you would make space for Jesus as you remember Him at this most sacred time.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all.

In His Love,



Rev Rob Salloum, Priest-in-Charge.

SERVICES IN THE PARISH DURING CHRISTMAS –

Wednesday, December 24- Christmas Eve:

St George's Church 4:00 PM - Holy Communion,

St James' Church 6:00 PM - Holy Communion

St Mary's Church 7:00 PM - Holy Communion

St Andrew's Church 8:00 PM – Holy Communion

St George's Church 11PM - Holy Communion

Christmas Day

St George's Church 10:00AM – Morning Prayer