

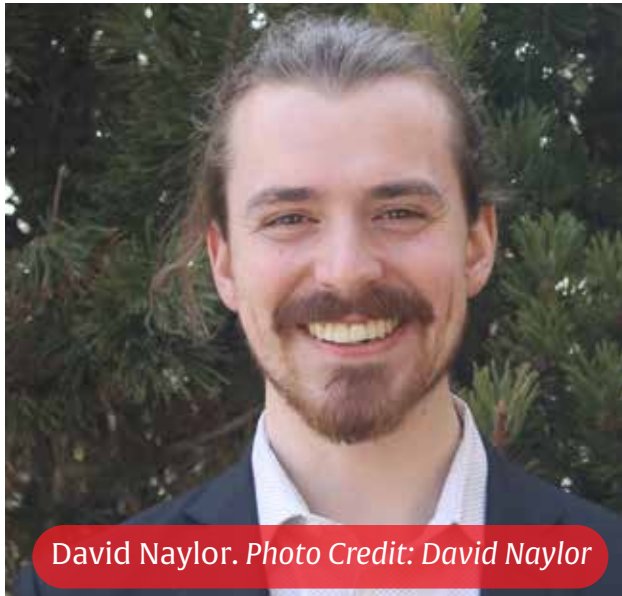
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The Mustard Seed.

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A New Music Ministry at St. Matthew's Cathedral

as written by the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore
Deacon Assistant, St. Matthew's Cathedral



David Naylor. Photo Credit: David Naylor

The changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have not meant that St. Matthew's Cathedral has fallen silent. During the period between the two complete lockdowns, musicologist Dr. Lynn Whidden provided preludes and postludes to services on the grand piano. Lynn also was chairing the Music Committee that was searching for an organist.

Most fortunately, David Naylor applied for and was awarded the position. David's playing has already been featured in the weekly services led by Bishop Cliff. Recently we conducted an email interview with David, in which he introduces himself to the St. Matthew's community.

(Editor's Note: Deacon Paul Shore is listed below as "PS", and David Naylor is listed as "DN.")

PS: Could you tell us a little about your background in music?

Do you come from a musical family?

DN: I do come from a musical family, and I am very grateful for the ways my family has formed me. My dad is a drummer who loves jazz and much of the instrumentally-oriented rock that came out of the '80s, and my mom is a singer, multi-instrumentalist, and a music teacher by training who has found a love for thoughtful and scripturally-based worship music. Throughout my life, they both have served in church ministry, which was a beautiful outlet for me and my siblings to find our musical voices. My brother is a trained jazz drummer and my sister has followed in my mom's footsteps as worship leader.

I began piano lessons at the age of 8, and, like my older brother, I studied music at Brandon University after a few years of work in the ministry field. Although I now tend toward classical and traditional music because of my recent institu-

tional training, I have had the pleasure to explore jazz, pop, and a wide variety of sacred music.

PS: Where do you consider "home"?

DN: My family relocated a number of times during my childhood to various communities across Canada so "home" can be hard to pinpoint sometimes, as it is for many. Although I spend my high school years in Brandon and did my undergraduate education there, I have always romanticized my birthplace, Abbotsford, BC, as a place of "home". I lived there on a few other occasions that were formative for me, and it is always refreshing to visit some of my family in that area before I travel north to Lillooet, BC where my parents live.

PS: You've been a student of Alexander Tselyakov, the renowned Russian pianist. What was that like?

DN: My four years studying with Alexander Tselyakov were tremendously transformative. His musical prowess exists on a plane beyond my comprehension, and he has helped me understand music and the piano in ways that I could not have imagined. In all honesty, I found him intimidating at first, but as I grew more comfortable I recognized his care for me and the music we explored. He loves all of his students, and fosters their ability to reach a more fulsome expression of their musicianship through the piano. He equipped me to hone my strengths and exhorted me to challenge my weaknesses. I am indebted to that man in how he has shaped me as collaborator and soloist.

PS: What experiences have you had with sacred music and with worship services?

My understanding of sacred music has been developed primarily by serving under the leadership of my mom as a worship leader in primarily Mennonite and Baptist settings, and I have had the pleasure of exploring my own church music leadership over the past four years. The church music of my growing-up years would be considered "blended worship", which is an approach to worship music that serves an intergenerational community with contemporary and traditional worship musics styled to connected to both groups.

The philosophical basis for this approach is that the music of a church should serve the culture of its community, and the worship leader is responsible for leading the community in the musical language(s) of that community. Serving as one

of the music ministers at St. George's Anglican Church in Brandon allowed me to exercise this blended worship in a community of intermingled families and seniors. Additionally, I was exposed to the beauty of music as part of the rich Anglican liturgy. I spent that last two years in a non-denominational church in Brandon that favoured contemporary worship rather than blended worship, but I had the opportunity to recruit, train and build a music teams as part of this position. I look forward to being able to serve St. Matthew's Cathedral with the traditional liturgical music of this community.

PS: I understand that you have some theological training yourself. How do you see this potentially informing your service at the Cathedral?

DN: I have had some experience and training in ministry, mostly through Youth For Christ, and I have just begun some part-time studies in Canadian Mennonite University's graduate theology department. I am taking these graduate studies less for potential vocational endeavours, and more for personal formation. As I continue to study and develop my theology, I hope that my understanding of the liturgy and my partnership with the liturgy and community will increase in depth and intentionality for the glory of God and faith formation of the community.

PS: What attracted you to the post at St. Matthew's Cathedral?

After parting ways with my last church, I was attracted to the stability of St. Matthew's Cathedral and the musical legacy of that church's space. I have many fond memories of using the Cathedral for musical performances in the Brandon Festival of the Arts and as part of Brandon University's Chorale directed by Andr e Dagenais. It is a place of rich music, and the thought of participating in this legacy was exciting. Additionally, I was eager to draw upon a rich history of liturgical music in my service to the community.

PS: Once the pandemic has passed, what are your plans for music at St. Matthew's?

DN: Initially, I hope to be listening to the community's needs and desires and learning from the Cathedral's leadership about their past and hope's for the future. Beyond this, I am excited by the possibility of inviting my musician colleagues to join me in services. After such a hiatus, it will be wonderful to make music again with my peers and I appreciate that the service format at

continued on page 2...

A Word From Our Bishop



The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
Bishop of Brandon

He will wipe every tear from our eyes and mourning and crying and pain will be no more. (Revelation 21) Praise the Lord for that!

But we still have to live, pray, and love one another now, in the time before God wraps everything up into that new heaven and earth. That means that we have to live knowing the end of things and still have to be patient enough to live without the ending... because we do not know when the end is actually going to come. Just like our patient waiting for a vaccine, we have to live in the meantime, love in the interim, preach, pray and proclaim knowing that the end is in sight, but not here yet.

We spend a lot of time and money in our culture imagining what an apocalypse (zombies notwithstanding) would be like. Apocalypse is a greek word which we often think means "a disaster" but it really means an "event which reveals that which was hidden". End of the world scenarios in movies are a trope in our culture for us to look hard at what we value and what we would save in the circumstance of everything being destroyed. Whether it is a meteor from which the hero needs to save the world; this disease that has closed our doors, our homes and church buildings, or even the political upheaval and insurrection that occurred as we watched from our homes in January. We are called to live the virtues of love, compassion, patience and joy now....while we wait.

Patience is a virtue which I have had to work very hard to cultivate. I have prayed about it. I have begged God to give me patience, and then, in the way only a human being can do so, I have grumbled at God about not having received the sought for patience in time.

The pandemic is trying my patience, and I know it is for everyone. I want so much to "go back to normal" but I recognize that the hardest part of the pandemic is going to be these weeks where we have to wait to see us all vaccinated. The end is in sight and yet the end isn't here yet.

This is an excellent example of the Christian life. We know the end of this story. **SPOILER ALERT:** Death is defeated and God will gather all those whose hearts are open to his love and grace into the new heaven and earth which will descend out of heaven to earth where God will dwell among mortals.

Something has been revealed and something bigger and better is coming. We know the ending but we're not there yet. We have to wait.

Lent is around the corner. It is another exercise in knowing the end but entering the story anyway. **(SPOILER ALERT:** Jesus dies a horrible death and is abandoned by his friends, but God doesn't let it end there. Jesus is raised and lives even now to break gracefully into our lives and call us to faithfulness and discipleship) That knowledge will always inform our Lent.

Let us make our striving and cultivation of the virtues of love and patience be at the very top of our needs this year. Whatever has happened is no match for what's coming. Even in the short term, God will empty our graves and raise us up to share with his Son the inheritance of heaven. Death may yet be in our future. That's why we will wear ashes. **SPOILER ALERT:** the grave doesn't keep us.

The Mustard Seed

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Deadline for submissions: the first of the month. **Please note:** All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page! Search "The Diocese of Brandon" on Facebook, or go to <http://www.facebook.com/brandonanglicans>

You can find an electronic copy of the Mustard Seed there each month, as well as photos from recent events in the diocese.

A New Music Ministry at St. Matthew's Cathedral

...continued from page 1

St. Matthew's allows space for some of these collaborations, especially with classical music.

PS: You gave us a an intriguing version of "O Come All Ye Faithful" in a recent YouTube video. What's the background on that piece?

Bishop William Cliff graciously invited me to play a prelude and postlude for their Christmas service, and Father Matt Koovisk suggested that Christmas was not complete without David Willcocks' arrangement of "O Come All Ye Faithful".

After looking at the harmony in Willcocks' arrangement, I saw that Father Matt was not hyperbolizing his praise of Willcocks' work, and I took a couple days to develop an arrangement of this hymn that paid tribute to Willcocks' work.

PS: How would you describe your philosophy of sacred music? What other genres of music do you play and enjoy?

I believe that sacred music is a worship medium that engages in divine praise and thanksgiving, and is useful for the edification and unification of a

spiritual community. Worship, in my view, occurs when a person or community recognizes their relational connection with God, others, themselves, and creation, and engages in active harmonic union with these sacred components.

Sacred music is a beautiful medium of worship composed of intermingling voices and spirits. The community is being formed by God as they collectively enter into the mysterious beauty of music conjoined with theologically rich text.

As a music director, all of my activity seeks to erase the boundaries between beautiful theology, rich music, and community language to facilitate a holistic, powerful, and genuine worship space for the union of the community with God.

Beyond sacred music, I enjoy playing classical music, jazz, blues, and pop on my own or especially with friends.

PS: What else would you like us to know about you?

I am very excited to serve the community at St. Matthew's Cathedral, and it is an honour to be selected for this position.

News from the Pews

CHRIST CHURCH, THE PAS *photos and text submitted by the Rev'd Jann Brooks*

While Covid-19 has been making its way through our community, church doors have been locked to the public. However, that doesn't mean that our churches are silent! Many of our churches have been turning to online worship during this time.

When Christ Church in The Pas decided to go online, Archbishop Murray Chatlain and Fr. Jim Fiori of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Keewatin-

Le Pas stepped up as good neighbours. Loaning the Roman Catholic diocesan Youth Worker and technology wunderkind, Jims Alackel to Christ Church means the 170 year old Anglican church will be able to provide a live-stream Christmas Eve Service to our tri-community.

Christ Church thanks the Roman Catholic archdiocese for their tremendous help and generosity.



Jims Alackel and Bob Dawson pose for a photo with the computer used for live streaming.



Jims Alackel and Bob Dawson work on the computer.

CHRIST CHURCH, THE PAS *photo submitted by Dr. Wm. Brooks (with text by the Editor)*

On November 11th, the Bishop ordained the Rev'd Jann Brooks to the priesthood in a very small service at the Cathedral. One of the things that is incredibly important to a newly ordained priest is to celebrate their first Eucharist on their own.

Below is a photo of the Rev'd Jann Brooks celebrating the Eucharist for the first time on her own on Christmas Eve!



ST. MARY'S, VIRDEN *submitted by the Editor (aka: the Rector)*

Christmas 2021 was celebrated a little differently than it normally would be, due to the pandemic. However, this year, we celebrated Christmas Eve on Zoom, while the Rector presided from the church that was only lit via candle light.

Many people commented after the service that it was a beautiful setting, and while they missed being in the building, this was a nice replacement. Below is a photo taken after the service (with the church still lit only by candle light.)



Anglican Foundation seeks children and youth for podcast on generosity

“Nurturing generous-hearted living may be one of the greatest things we can do for young people,” says Judy Rois, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada. After launching AFC’s Generosity podcast in 2020, Canon Rois is deepening this theme in 2021, with her latest children’s book, *Generous People are Everywhere*.

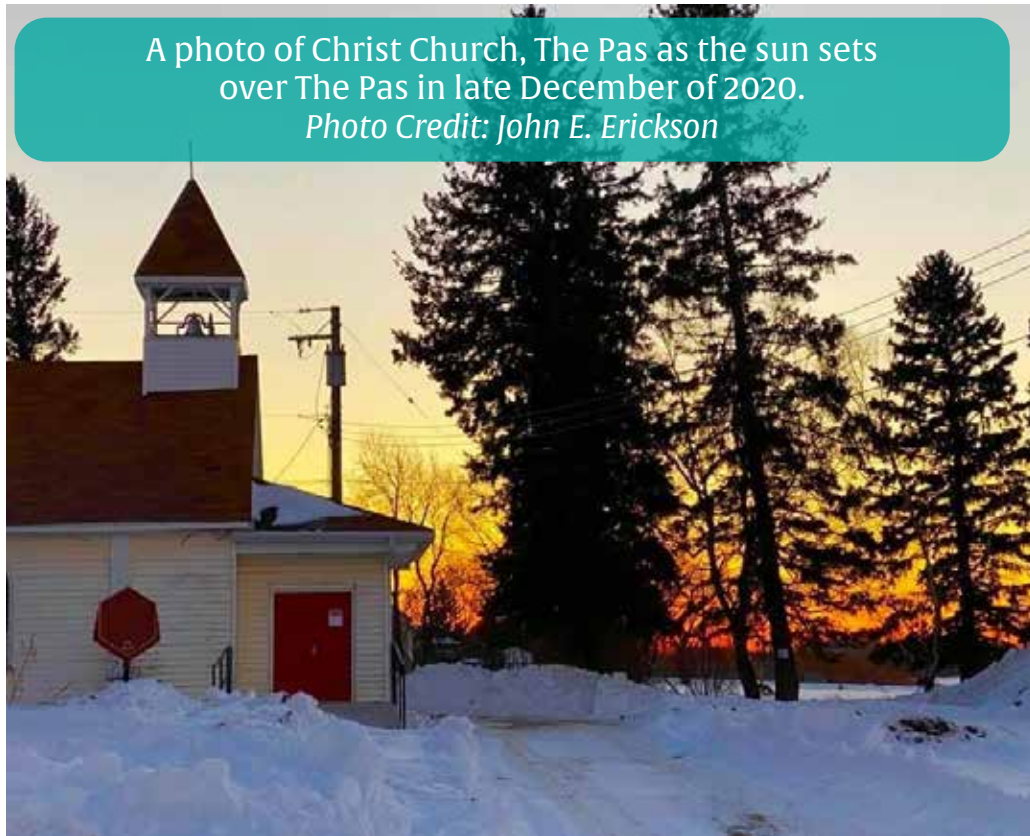
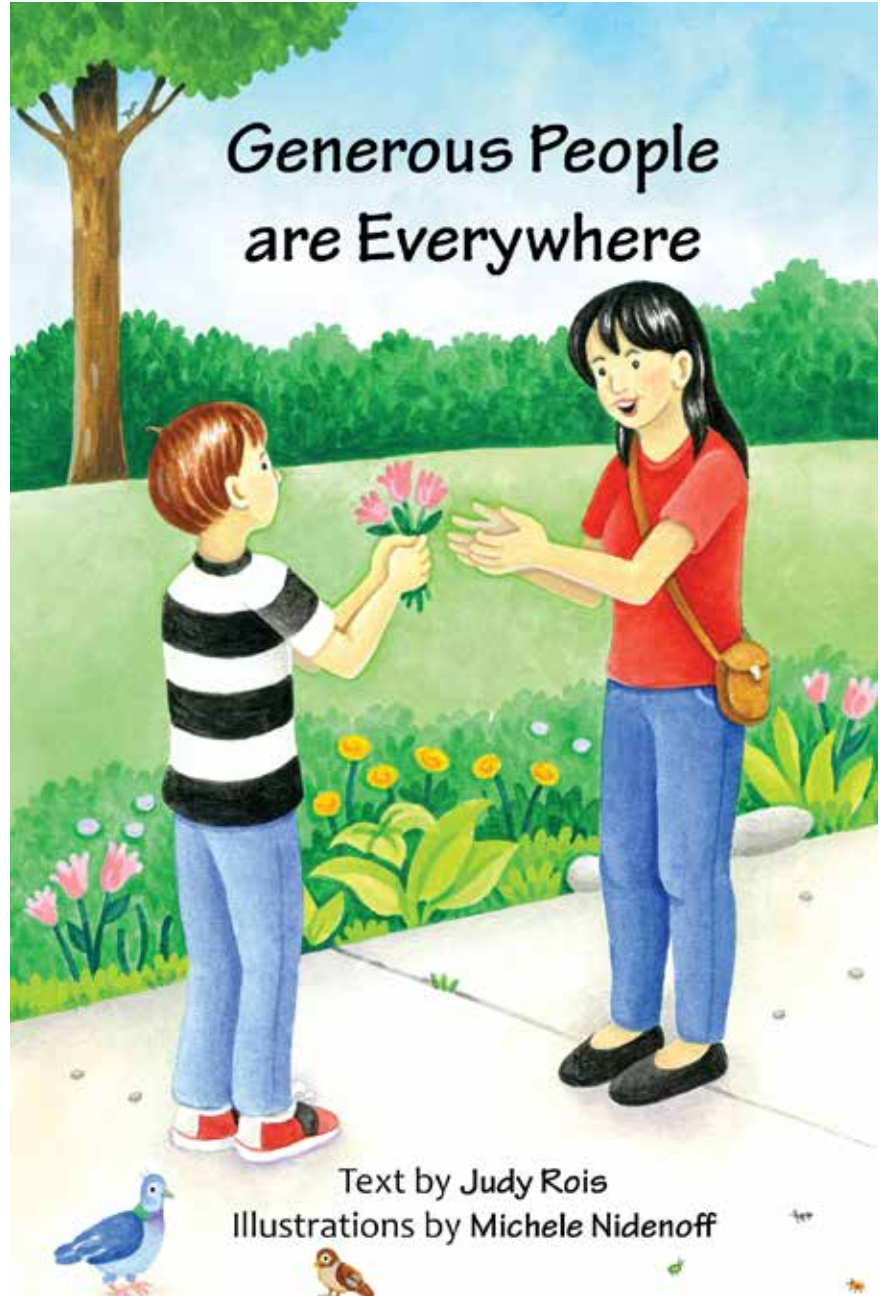
“This book asks simple but pointed questions such as: What is generosity? What does generosity look like? Are generous people happier?” says Rois. “These questions are really meant to be a starting point for a broader discussion. We want young people to think about generosity as a way of life: how the spirit of giving flows in them and through them to the wider world.”

To get the conversation started, Rois is inviting children, families, and youth ministry leaders to consider the book as a small group or home-based study. Rois says the illustrations and text, geared to ages 8–14, make this an excellent choice for Lent. “I can imagine this book being used by families, at meals or other gathering times, to stimulate a conversation about an important spiritual topic that has the potential to be transformational in a child’s life.”

In addition to encouraging children and youth to read the book, AFC wants to include their voices in recorded interviews to be featured in *Foundation Forward*, a podcast inviting Canadians to talk about generosity. AFC is offering a free copy of the book to the first 20 young people who are willing to make their voices heard. Recorded submissions are required by April 12, 2021.

Generous People are Everywhere is Canon Rois’ third collaboration with illustrator and artist Michele Nidenoff. It follows on the heels of *Children’s Prayers with Hope Bear* and *Dear God: Prayers for Young Children*.

To order *Generous People are Everywhere*, visit the AFC Store. Those wishing to participate in *Foundation Forward* are encouraged to contact foundation@anglicanfoundation.org.



A photo of Christ Church, The Pas as the sun sets over The Pas in late December of 2020.
Photo Credit: John E. Erickson



A photo of St. George's, Brandon the morning after an evening frost in January 2021.
Photo Credit: Facebook/St. George's Anglican Church Brandon

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