



Immortality by Wilda Gallagher

Oct. 30, 2024

### **Made for Immortality**

**Gratitude is the secret to experiencing pleasure that truly satisfies.**

**By Alice von Hildebrand**

Have you ever thought about pleasure? Usually, we think of pleasure as consisting of physical satisfaction. But let's say you eat a really delicious meal. Where is the pleasure, really? Not in your foot. Your big toe doesn't enjoy the food.

When you listen to music (and when I say music I mean classical music – I cannot tell you the joy I experience when I hear Mozart!), have you ever thought that it tickles your ear? No. Or when you see a beautiful landscape, do you feel it with your eyes? No. There is something more. These experiences involve spiritual senses.

Once you lose your sense of the meaning of life, or of the love of God, or love of your neighbor, if you lose that spiritual sense of self-giving and sharing, what is left? Physical pleasure. And you know, pleasure by itself is tragic. This is because when you have a craving, the craving gets more and more intense, and then, when you satisfy the craving all you are left with is a moment of keen satisfaction located somewhere in your body. Then it's over. And what happens? You have to start all over again. No pleasure or set of pleasures lasts forever. The essence of pleasure is that it is of short duration.

But God created us for immortality. What we long for is more than what pleasure can give. What does it mean to be made for immortality? It means there is something inside you that is going to last for ever and ever and ever.

In my apartment building there are all sorts of people; it's a little microcosm of humanity. Sometimes I feel so sorry for the people because it seems that all they are doing is making money and more money – for what? You can't take gold with you in your casket. Yet many of them only live for sheer pleasure; they forget that they are actually made for immortality.

Pleasure always comes to an end. My taste buds died a few months ago. I taste nothing. So, the pleasure in eating is gone. Now for the first time in my life I truly understand God's goodness in giving us human beings taste buds. Up to now I have taken them for granted. And now I say to myself, did I truly thank God for the pleasure of taste?

This is crucial – to experience pleasure, to truly experience pleasure, we need to thank God. We must join pleasure to gratitude. When we do this, pleasure is no longer just a physical sensation. Your experience is one of joy. Do you understand the difference? Unfortunately, what people want today is only pleasure, and consequently in all their fleshly pursuits they lack true joy. That is sad, because joy is what can truly satisfy.

I was once teaching a course on metaphysics and trying to give arguments for the immortality of the soul. My body's going to die, I argued – maybe very soon – but my soul is immortal. I proceeded to present my case. At the end, a man raised his hand and said, "If you succeed in convincing me that I have an immortal soul, then I will declare you to be my worst enemy. If I have an immortal soul, as you say, then I will be held responsible for my lifestyle." His words broke my heart.

Just think each of us will be held responsible for our lives. And this is because we are made for immortality. Our lives do not, or at least should not, consist solely of fleeting pleasures. We should be focusing on things of eternal value. Too many of us want to maximize fun and pleasure, to make it more intense and longer-lasting. We try every which way to eliminate suffering in our lives. And alleviating pain and suffering certainly has its place. But we cannot forget Christ's message, "whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matt. 16:24).

Christ's way – ultimately, his way of redemption – leads through suffering. Christ knew suffering. He knew anguish. He knew fear. Yes, even suffering has a meaning. That is why it is such a blessing to have faith, to know there is a God who has created you and loves you, and who has a plan for you beyond this temporal existence of ours. To know you have an immortal soul, and to respect it as such, is a true blessing. Respect your soul and respect the souls of those around you. Then your life will have lasting meaning.

*Alice Von Hildebrand, professor emerita at Hunter College and widow of anti-Nazi German philosopher, Dietrich von Hildebrand, was known for her outspokenness on topics from feminism to liturgy, and for unabashedly witnessing to the joy of the gospel.*

## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**



### **Time to Fall Back**

Remember to put your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday night to Eastern Standard Time. We will all gain 1 hour of sleep. Don't forget!

### **Remembering Tree Service**

This is a reminder that this Sunday we will be naming all of our dear departed parishioners in what has been a most moving part of our worship service. If you know of someone whose loved one is on our Remembering Tree, please tell them about this service so that, if they wish, they can attend.



Boris was officially welcomed to the Graceview family last Sunday with a lovely cake. In the 2 weeks that Boris has been with us, he has certainly livened things up and brought a breath of fresh air to our choir. Welcome, Boris.

### Soup by Dave Luncheon

We had another wonderful luncheon last Thursday which was enjoyed by approximately 40 people. Chef Dave Taylor prepared a delicious minestrone soup and provided a lively commentary for his audience. Special thanks to his daughter, Ashley, for providing us with 3 types of very tasty cakes from Niche Bakers. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, we were able to raise \$660 which will be donated to the St James Food Basket.

### A Taste of Spain Dinner

Outreach is pleased to be hosting a dinner on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6 PM in the downstairs hall. It will feature a Spanish themed meal and will be prepared for us by award winning Chef Keith Hoare, head of the culinary program at Thistleton Collegiate, and his students. Ticket prices are \$30 and all proceeds from this dinner will go to the Thistleton Euro Trip which will take place during March Break. Chef Keith will be taking some of his Grade 11 students on a trip to Spain where they will gain more knowledge about foreign cuisine to add to their culinary experience. This is Chef Keith's last year at Thistleton, and he will be talking to us about his culinary program and some of the charitable work that his program is doing. He is an amazing teacher who teaches his students the art of cooking as well as providing them with valuable life lessons in helping others. Ticket sales have already begun and approximately 45 have been purchased or spoken for to date. The maximum number that we can accommodate is 100 people so please get your tickets soon. They will be on sale after church for the next two Sundays. As well, people can contact members of Outreach to inquire about tickets. Individuals can call directly Janet Ottewell at 416-200-2077 ([janet.l.ottewell@gmail.com](mailto:janet.l.ottewell@gmail.com)) or Kathy Twynam at 416-986-2114([kmtwynam@rogers.com](mailto:kmtwynam@rogers.com)).

If people are interested in supporting the students' Euro Trip directly, they can make charitable donations to our Outreach account (cash, e-transfer, or cheque) and we will send a cheque to the Toronto District School Board marked for the Thistleton Euro Trip. Charitable receipts will be issued for individuals not from our church for any donations of \$20 or more.

### A Fall Devotional Update: UPDATE!!!

A **new** edition of **These Days** (October/November/December), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (September/October/November) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.



Pastor Eric has a spare bike (the one with the brown handles) which he would like to give away to a member of the congregation who may want it, or who may know of someone who could use it. Let Pastor Eric know if you are interested.

### Coffee/Tea Sign - Up is Here Again



The sign-up sheet for coffee/tea service after worship is on the bulletin board opposite the kitchen downstairs. Please sign yourselves up or sign up your committee so that our Fellowship time after church can continue.

October – Outreach Team

Nov. – WE NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP

### Fall Bible Study

Our fall Bible Study takes place on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM and will run until Nov. 12. Our topic will be the series The Chosen - Season 4 which will take us up to the ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This season is awesome, as I have already seen all 8 episodes and each one is better than the last. Come one come all. You will not be disappointed.

### PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

\* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.

\* **Shelia Thomas'** grandson, Carter, was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Although his prognosis is good, it will be a very long journey for Carter and his family. Prayers for his full recovery will be gratefully appreciated.

\* **Shirley Pollack** is going to be having surgery on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

\* Please keep in your prayers the following: Ed L., Bob N., Lenore C., Charlotte Prentice, Joan and Peter K., Margaret M's brother, Simon, the Jarvis family, Olive S., Roman P., Jean Fox's son, Ryan, Anna C. and family and Gordon F. Please keep these folks, and indeed everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

**Note from your editor: Could you please advise us from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.**

## Sing! Etobicoke, Encore, 2024 Fall Schedule

Date	Start Time	Location	Workshop Theme	Registration Lin
04-Nov-24	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Lean on Me	F24SE4
11-Nov-24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Remembrance	F24SE5

18-Nov-24	9:30 AM	GV	In the Twilight	F24SE6
25-Nov-24	9:30 AM	Fellowship	Guest Day (Chihiro?)	F24SE7
02-Dec-24	9:30 AM	GV	Looking Forward	F24SE8
09-Dec-24	9:30 AM	NPCC	Holiday Guest Day (Men Aloud)	F24SE9
16-Dec-24	9:30 AM	GV	Holiday	F24SE10

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- \* Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- \* Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- \* Tuesday, Nov. 5 @ 11:00 AM Bible Study “The Chosen”- Season 4 – Episode 7
- \* Monday, Nov. 4 @ 9:30 AM – Sing! Etobicoke @ Fellowship
- \* Sunday, Nov. 3 @ 10:30 AM - Remembering Tree Service
- \* Sunday, Nov. 3 @ 12:00 PM – Music and Worship meeting
- \* Sunday, Nov. 10 @ 10:30 – Remembrance Day Service
- \* Friday, Nov. 15 @ 6:00 PM – Chef Keith Hoare and his students at TCI will be serving dinner at Graceview.
- \* Friday, Nov. 29 – Deck the Halls
- \* Monday, Dec. 2 @ 12:30 – Advent lunches begin. (There will be a sign up for this)

\*Our services are now live streamed. Go to the church’s website ([www.graceview.ca](http://www.graceview.ca)) to click the link for the most recent worship services on YouTube.

\* We also have our own Facebook page. (Graceview Presbyterian Church). This site shows the world all that we are and what we have to offer as a church. Check it out and be sure to “follow.”

#### **Prayer Roster**

Nov. 3 Susan Chopp  
Nov. 10 Eric Lee  
Nov. 17 Nancy McPherson  
Nov. 24 Kathy Twynam  
Dec. 1 Eric Lee  
Dec. 8 Chris Parr  
Dec. 15 Margaret Munene  
Dec. 22 Eric Lee  
Dec. 29 Bob Twynam

#### **Lay Readers**

Nancy Green  
Harry Learoyd  
Chris Parr  
Susan Chopp  
Bob Twynam  
Jean Fox  
Maureen Screen  
Margaret Munene  
Georgena Engineer

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

Lynne Bishop  
Susan Chopp  
Kathy Twynam  
Bob Twynam  
Nancy McPherson  
Susan Chopp  
Lynne Bishop  
Bob Twynam  
Kathy Twynam

## WEEKLY GIGGLE

### A Little Political Humour



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Do you have any news or prayer requests that you would like to share? Drop me a line and I will be happy to include it in the Weekly Email. Have a blessed week, everyone.

Susan [choppertini@hotmail.com](mailto:choppertini@hotmail.com)

Contact information for Pastor Eric Lee: 778-791-1741; [leefyeric@gmail.com](mailto:leefyeric@gmail.com)

NB: If the phone number for Pastor Eric does not connect you immediately (technical issues?) call the church (416-621-0888) and press #1 for Pastor Eric.

Email for Iris: [ericirishk@gmail.com](mailto:ericirishk@gmail.com)

\* Message from **Pastor Eric**: "FYI the Graceview website page below has been revamped, so as to keep people updated of our activities and events. Visit us and enjoy all that is good about Graceview".

<https://graceview.ca/calendar-events>

# November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> Remembering Tree Service M&W Meeting	<b>4</b> Sing Etobicoke @Fellowship	<b>5</b> Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Remembrance Day Service	<b>11</b> Sing Etobicoke @NPCC	<b>12</b> Walking Group 10:00 *Bible Study 11 *Craft Club 11	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	<b>15</b> Taste of Spain 6:00 PM	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Sing Etobicoke @Graceview	<b>19</b> Walking Group 11:00 *Session 6:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Sing Etobicoke @Fellowship	<b>26</b> Walking Group 11:00	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Service @ CPP 2:00 PM Choir practice 6:30 PM	<b>29</b> Deck the Halls	<b>30</b>

\*CPP = Centennial Park Place