

Dear Friends,

While we desire to show the love of Christ throughout the entire year, I can't think of a better season than Advent and Christmas to fully display God's love for humanity! Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These are the prayers for our world we pray together in this holy season of Advent. Each Sunday, we come together to worship. To praise God. To pray. To remember God's promises. To look forward in faith.

As we remember God's promises we have to have faith that he will lead us through the uncertainties in life and in our parish. Rev. Matt concluded his ministry with us in late summer after being with us for a year and a half. We are thankful that Rev. Rob Duncan led us in worship until the end of October and visited a number of our parishioners. Then Canon Ian Chadwick took over our services and will be with us until the end of January. At the beginning of February, we expect another priest to take over, but we have no details at the moment. Archdeacon Terry DeForest is our priest in charge while Rev. Richard Moorse is on call for urgent pastoral care. Our Sunday service time has changed back to 10 am. We are fortunate to have Dan Hall and Cindy Huitema playing the organ for us on a part time basis. At other times we sing acapella or more recently to tunes on Ian's cell phone.

The rectory was returned to the parish's care as of November 1st. Once we have a better idea of how things will proceed in the new year, we can look at our options for the rectory.

We had a successful return of the pancake supper and cooked up hot dogs for the Mudcat Festival. We enjoy fellowship at coffee hour, luncheons and men's breakfasts at Christ Church, Wainfleet. Our two foster children are supported through muffin sales. Thanks for all the help for putting on these events and keep the church running.

Our journey as a church continues.

We have faith in God who comes to us as a tiny vulnerable human baby and brings with him hope, peace, joy, and love.

We have faith in God who plants seeds of hope, peace, joy, and love into each and every situation; each and every life.

This is our gift. This is our Christmas.

*Warm Greetings for a blessed Christmas
from your Wardens,
Nicky & Larry*



Sunday, December 22—10 A.M.

Lessons and Carols
w/ Dan Hall (organist)

Christmas Eve

w/ Ross Stretton (organist)
December 24—5 P.M.

Christmas Day

December 25—10 A.M.

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 29—10 A.M.



Christmas is an invitation to come closer; Christmas is a gift to share and Christmas is an opportunity to make merry..... to step out of our shell, to reach out to others and to lean-in to laughter. We can thank God for the birth of Mary's child Jesus, but we can thank the Church for the chance to prepare, for giving us these few weeks of Advent to get ready: For it does take a few weeks to prepare for Christmas, both emotionally and spiritually.

My wife, Trish, secretly shops all year for Christmas but will not put up any decorations until Advent. She's careful, very intentional and disciplined. In comparison, I'm slow, clumsy and leave-it-to-the-last-minute, but one way or another we both find our separate ways to arrive at the same time and at the same place at Christmas.

This Christmas, I'll be in Dunnville on Christmas morning and Trish will be at work in the United Mennonite Home in Vineland; dressed up, not in a nurse's uniform but in something seasonally bright. But, of course, we'll both be in the same place, knowingly in the presence of Christ in worship and giving thanks to God.

Also, I want to thank you, for the invitation to spend time with you at St. Paul's and for the gift of the keys to your church and for your trust in allowing me to be with you for these sacred Sundays; and for the opportunity to consider again, in preparing a series of Sunday sermons, what it is that Jesus the Christ means to all of us. Please, don't stand back and simply watch Christmas come and go, step into the celebration, spend time with friends and family and take or make the time to come to St. Paul's..... especially on Christmas Day at 10.00 a.m. when afterwards there will be Trish's home-made, Canadian mince pies with French cognac to wash them down.

Don't forget that the Christmas season lasts 12 days until January 6th, till the Epiphany. It might be cold and dark outside, but the light of Christ will brighten those days and warm your heart. And, please, if you know anyone who is shut-in, who would like a visit or have Holy Communion brought to them during the Christmas season, just let me know by calling (905)988-7873.

Thank you, Ian C.



