



Anglican Church of Canada

Diocese of Ontario

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Dear family in Christ,

'Be it at this Christmas time, our care and delight, the hear again the message of the angels, of the birth of our lord and saviour, Jesus Christ..'

We hear familiar words and sentiments, platitudes, our story, the story of Jesus, of the mystery of the word becoming flesh, the miraculous birth of a baby, with nowhere to go, but, who dwells amongst us, full of grace and truth.

And in that moment, God gave to us something beyond mystery....'our care and delight', that our eyes may be opened to the greater need and truth of a broken and troubled world. From the little things that halt our progress, our indifferences, and our lack of hospitality, to our being faced with the situation of our neighbours in need, which require our generosity and response.... our good Samaritan action to bring help and healing to another.

In these last weeks, a family in our neighbourhood we don't know, who now feel the warmth and love of Christ in our generous response to their need. An itinerant family in military service who responded to God's love and brought their little one to be baptized, strangers, who in a moment became our kinsfolk as the sacrament of baptism was administered in our sight. Our visiting people in their homes and living places, and gifting them the love of Christ by our presence in a simple visit.

We sing the familiar songs and hymns. Gather for divine worship and with ancient prayers, familiar across generations, immerse ourselves in the gift of a deeper spirituality passed down by our forebears, offering us substance and sustenance for our continued journey and the deepening of our faith and wisdom.

We tell each other our stories and come to know one another in community, showing us something of the bigness of the giftedness of God, that reminds us that we are one with him and he is one in us, and that in our stories, our vulnerability and fragility, our hopes and dreams for the world are invoked by the love God gives to us in that moment Jesus is laid in a manger. Full circle, gives us pause that we still have hope in the restoration of our brokenness in to the light of his redemption. That our unfriendliness becomes friendliness, that our welcome becomes unconditional, and that we seek to truly

find Christ in those we meet, and acknowledge something of the image and presence of Christ in ourselves for the sake of the kingdom.

Above all, we are reminded of the love that is so manifest in God becoming one of us. A light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of his people Israel. Pray for peace, know that God is with us, even in our darkest times, and for one another, give thanks for the community, the family, the communion to which we all belong.

We wish you a joyous Christmas and, in the time, to come, continued blessings along the way.

*With love,
Fr. Jeff and team
And from our house to your house.*