

Symbols of Christmas



Welcoming and announcements

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of reconciliation.

Interlude: “Chorale on Humility” (Archer)

Call to Worship (in Unison) (Gathering used with permission)

The wrappings are torn and tossed aside.

The turkey’s been unstuffed and we are full.

We’re a bit weary now, now that the hustle and bustle is over

**And so, we come together knowing we need this quiet time,
this holy time to just be, recognising God with us.**

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**Lo, within a stable lies God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.**

Refrain-

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?**

Refrain-

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;

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sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.

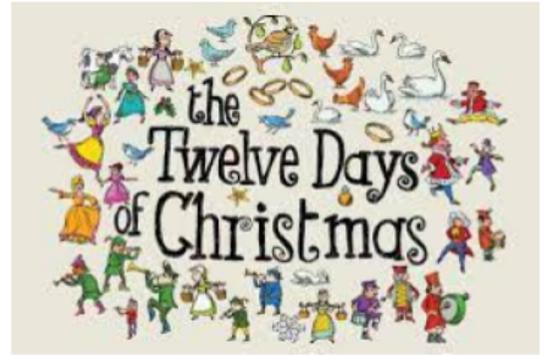
**“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of a Saviour's birth.”**

Refrain-

***Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

**Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!**

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Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Young and Young at Heart

12 Days of Christmas Activities

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Western Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day).

12 Days of Christmas Paper Chain

During the season of Christmas, you are invited to pause and reflect on the non-material gifts you can give to others in your family and your

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Meditation: “Wexford Carol”

Reflection: Symbols of Christmas

Star, gifts, evergreen, wreath, donkey, manger, candles and Christmas lights, bells, candy canes, angels.

During the Christmas season, see if you can find these symbols and traditions of Christmas in your home or church!

***Hymn: 62 Once in Royal David’s City**

Once in royal David's city

stood a lowly cattle-shed,

where a mother laid her baby

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join the song to announce the day.

Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last! **R**

O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect Child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind! **R**

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The pandemic has been exhausting in so many ways
but we are grateful for your steadfast love.

We give thanks for all the ways ministries have been able to adapt
and for faithful generosity to support the needs we confront.

Thank you for friendships and relationships that sustain us in
uncertain times.

We ask for your Spirit to guide us into the future,
and create new possibilities for ministry and mission through
our congregation.

In gratitude

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

God of all people and places,

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The year just ending has held sorrows for so many in our community and around the world.

We remember dear ones of have died
and pray for those who look ahead in loneliness or sadness.....

A silence is kept.

We pray for those who have faced challenges in health, in their families or at work.....

A silence is kept.

Support each one who needs you close by.

In compassion

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

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God of light and love,

As we face the year ahead, so much around us is still uncertain.

We seek your strength and guidance in each challenge we will face.

Draw near to each one who must confront illness, loss,
economic hardship or changing circumstances....

A silence is kept.

Guide those for whom new opportunities appear and choices must be made

In anticipation

Our hearts kneel before you, O God;

Receive our humble prayers.

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God of community and commitment,
We pray for wisdom and courage in the year ahead.

Strengthen us as a congregation to be a lively and committed witness
to your love.

Help us reach out to our community in faithfulness and service.

Guide leaders in our nation and around the world

so that justice and peace may prevail,

especially in troubled places and vulnerable lives.

Show us all how to honour and protect your creation,

even when that takes sacrifice on our part.

Receive our humble prayers

and encourage us onward in the name of Jesus our Christ who
taught us to pray together:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

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Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,

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Now may the true light shine on you.

May the Son sent by God be your guide and strength.

May you go in peace and live in hope, in Jesus' name.

Amen

Choral Response

Postlude: God Rest Ye Merry (arr. Young)

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