



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Christmas Day - A
December 25, 2022

“Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2: 10, 11

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday

Stewardship - No Giving Envelopes will be ordered for 2023. Folks are encouraged to use up their current supply. If additional envelopes are needed the Church Secretary can provide a supply.

Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations

Please pray for our **Children and Children's Programming**

Phase One “An Introduction to Healing Pathway” is being offered in Kemptville 20, 21 January 2023, 9:00am – 5:30pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about energy healing in a small group, hands-on setting.

The Belonging Project

Experience and practice good connection through this introductory series of five sessions. Together we'll practice the skills of **really listening** to others while asking questions that lead to **richer and more authentic connections**. In the process we'll **listen to our own hearts** and **share to our own comfort level**.

The first series is for adults only. Those who wish may take part in a second series to which teenagers and young adults will be invited and the adults will play more of a mentoring role.

Can't attend but want to support? Please talk about this with others, old and young and/or sign up to provide snacks on one of the five afternoons.

Want to know more? See the December Communicator or contact Carol Williams, 613 269 4427, journey@ripnet.com

Tuesday Jan 31 to Feb 28th 3—5 p.m. The Chapel at Trinity
Please plan to attend all five sessions for the full two hours.

Book Group meets again Monday, 9 January 2022.

Advent Study meets again Wednesday, 11 January, 2022.

Potluck and Prayers, 17 January, 6:00pm.

January

15 - **Rev Dr Peter Bartlett** - Minister supporting Visioning with Communities of Faith, Clusters and Social Justice and Outreach Networks.

Recommended Holiday reading - **Fishing Tips**

Confirmation Class will be held in the New Year

Introit 60 "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs 1,5

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain -

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain -

(Lighting of Christ Candle)

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

Call to Worship

Christmas Day is a time for rejoicing!

Arise and shine for our light has come. The time of waiting is over.

Amid all that is still wrong in the world, we proclaim that God comes to us in Jesus Christ.

Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed.

We gather on this joyful day, to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love that will never let us go.

Arise and shine for our light has come. The glory of God is revealed. Our Saviour is born.

As we light the Christ candle, trust that the light of God has come in Jesus and can never be put out. Stand open to the presence and power of God with us in Christ, even here, even now.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Opening Prayer

God of wisdom and wonder,

You stir in our hearts and bring us joy;

You stir in our minds and bring us insight;

You stir in the world and bring hope to lives who welcome you.

In Jesus, you came as a little child, stirring up our love,

so now we come to adore you with the angels;

to bow in welcome with the shepherds;

to kneel in wonder with the magi;

to ponder your mystery with Joseph;

to love and cherish you with Mary.

We come to you with humble hearts full of joy

because you came to us first, and stay with us always,

Wise and wonderful God.

Hymn 95 "Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;

coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;
light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;
prove it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;
saviour of all, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

Anthem “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night”

Scripture Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Reflection Be A Story that People Want to Tell
 Gift Exchange

Hymn 56 “Jesus Our Brother”

Jesus our brother, kind and good,
 Was humbly born in a stable rude,
And the friendly beasts around him stood,
 Jesus our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
 "I carried his mother uphill and down.
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town.
 I," said the donkey shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow, all white and red,
 "I gave him my manger for his bed.
I gave him hay to pillow his head.
 I," said the cow all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
 "I gave him my wool for his blanket warm.
He wore my coat on Christmas morn.
 I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove from rafters high,
 "I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry.
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I.
 I," said the dove from rafters high.

Thus all the beasts by some good spell,
 in the stable dark was glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
 the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

Offering

Christmas celebrates the miracle of God's love, born for us in Jesus, to change the world with acts of mercy and generosity, hope and healing. Share in that miracle by giving what you can, knowing God can do more than we can ask or imagine with our gifts.

Offering Options

- E-transfers to secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca
- delivery to church office
- through Trinity website DONATE button
- PAR

Prayer of Dedication

Generous and loving God, your gift to us in Jesus still draws us to the manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to your love and the blessing we have found in the One born for us. Amen.

Hymn 74 “What Child is This?”

What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. R

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him. R

Prayer

God of beginnings and endings,
God of the eternal Word made flesh in Jesus Christ,
We give you thanks for the gifts that Christmas renews in us each
year:

The hope that as another year ends, something new will yet be
born in us and for us;

The trust that even in the longest nights, stars promise your
Light will continue to shine;

The truth that even what grows old can be made new,
when love is born again in us and for us.

As you came to us in love as the Christ child in Bethlehem,
so we come to you with love and concern for the world.

In this time of prayerful expectation we remember
families who are living close to the edge of survival in these
challenging times,
worrying about how to feed their children and what to
expect in the year ahead...

We remember those who will spend this Christmas alone, in hospital,
in grief or loneliness...

We remember those who work today while we can celebrate or
relax...

We remember those who have lost their sense of joy and wonder,
filled with cynicism or despair;

We remember those who face the year ahead with fear and anxiety,
because their lives are filled with violence, upheaval or
unwelcome changes...

We remember those who celebrate the birth of a new life, a new love,
or a new way of being...

and we remember those whom we have loved and who loved us, who
now dwell in the eternal joy of your presence, giving thanks for all they
mean to us still...

With both joy and concern in our hearts, we gather our prayers together in the words Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 59 "Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
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 world! 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,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

Rejoice this day that Christ is born for us, lived as one of us, died for our sake, and is risen to walk beside us through whatever the future holds.

So may the tenderness of God enfold you,
the promise of the Christ uphold you,
and the strength of the Spirit lead you on,
to greet the year ahead, filled with grace and truth. Amen.

Choral Amen

Postlude “Joy To The World” (arr. Young)