

*A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi*



A Service of Evening Prayer for  
The Nativity of Our Lord (24 Dec 2020)

# IMPORTANT Community Announcement !

The Canadian government recognises the essential service work of Santa Claus.

To that end, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam has approved Santa Claus's travel in and out of Canadian airspace on the 24th of December, and has given special permission to abstain from the 14 day post-travel quarantine.

It is also on good authority that Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the American National Institute of Infectious Diseases, has personally inoculated Santa against Covid19.

Santa was seen earlier this week doing a few early deliveries in the Brome-Missisquoi area!





# A Prayer for the Community

God's peace to you this night, all you who came in from winter's cold, all you who joined us online and on the phone, all you who again make this annual pilgrimage of the heart — to hear God's birth among us told, to birth God again within our souls, to wonder with the shepherds, and raise our voices with the angels, to lay at the manger the gifts of our hopes and dreams. God's peace to you this night.

**O come all ye faithful!**



# Hymn 118: O Come All Ye Faithful

1. 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*

2. God of God, Light of Light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb; very God, begotten not created:

*Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest:

*Refrain*



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

*Refrain*

Refrain:

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



# Territorial Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on the lands that we now call Canada; their relationship with the land was, and remains today, at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

In this holy time and place, when the Christchild came to walk among us, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

We also acknowledge all the indigenous territories, near and far, from which people are tuning in this Christmas night.

**May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.**



*Nativity Painting by Oji-Cree artist  
Moses Beaver*

# Confession & Absolution

Dear Friends in Christ, tonight as we prepare to worship the God of love and renewal, let us confess the ways that we have fallen short of our relationship to God and to one another:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips,  
**And our mouth shall proclaim  
your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is  
now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt  
among us.  
**O Come let us worship. Alleluia!**





# Hymn 120: O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven! No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

# Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.





# “How the Light Comes”

*A Poem by Jan Richardson*

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.  
What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.

That it travels  
across an astounding  
expanse to reach us.  
That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden,  
what is lost,  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.

That it has a fondness  
for the body,  
for finding its way  
toward flesh,  
for tracing the edges  
of form,  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand,  
the heart.

I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.

That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.

And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.  
May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still to the  
blessed light that comes.



# Hymn 136: While Shepherds Watched their Flocks



1. While shepherds watched their  
flocks by night, all seated on the  
ground, the angel of the Lord  
came down and glory shone  
around.

2. "Fear not," said he, for mighty  
dread had seized their troubled  
mind; "Glad tidings of great joy I  
bring to you and mankind.

3. "To you, in David's town, this  
day is born of David's line a  
Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4. "the heavenly babe you there  
shall find to human view  
displayed, all meanly wrapped in  
swathing bands, and in a manger  
laid."

5. "All glory be to God on high  
and on earth be peace; good will  
henceforth from heaven to me  
begin and never cease."

# Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor 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 for them in the inn.

Il y avait dans le même pays des bergers qui vivaient aux champs et montaient la garde pendant la nuit auprès de leur troupeau. Un ange du Seigneur se présenta devant eux, la gloire du Seigneur les enveloppa de lumière et ils furent saisis d'une grande crainte. L'ange leur dit : « Soyez sans crainte, car voici, je viens vous annoncer une bonne nouvelle, qui sera une grande joie pour tout le peuple : Il vous est né aujourd'hui, dans la ville de David, un Sauveur qui est le Christ Seigneur ; et voici le signe qui vous est donné : vous trouverez un nouveau-né emmaillotté et couché dans une mangeoire. » Tout à coup il y eut avec l'ange l'armée céleste en masse qui chantait les louanges de Dieu et disait : « Gloire à Dieu au plus haut des cieux et sur la terre paix pour ses bien-aimés. »

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. But 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, as it had been told them.

# The Sermon



# Confession of Faith

1. **We believe** in God the Father,  
God Almighty by whose plan,  
earth and heaven sprang to being,  
all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour,  
Son of God in human frame,  
virgin-born, the child of Mary,  
upon whom the Spirit came.

2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken,  
like a lamb to slaughter led,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen,  
heaven's king to rule and reign,  
to the Father's side ascended  
'Till as judge he comes again.

3. We believe in God the Spirit;  
in one Church, below, above:  
Saints of God in one  
communion, one in holiness and love.  
So by faith, our sins forgiven,  
Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,  
we shall rise with him in glory  
to the life that knows no end.



# Prayers of the People

Led by Cynthia Pagé

(Grace Church, Sutton)



# Christmas Remembrances

Kenneth Ball

Rose Marie Bauml

Peter Blinn

Clayton Brunton

Garth Burnham

Joseph & Sylvia Burnham

Cecil & Ola Carr

Frank Carr

Geoff Clarke

Rosanne Cohen

Dennis, Shirley, & Steven Cowan

Don Dunn

Marjatta & Matti Erkkila

Grace L'Estrange

William Harrison

James Hoblyn

Margot & David Holbrook

Maureen Jolley

Elvia Johnson

Katie Jones

Carole Johnston

Diane Rita Larose

Paula Maundcote

Ian and Yda Monroe

Layton Needham

John & Kevin O'kane

Clayton Page

Doreen Page

Wilfred & Isabelle Page

Richard Price

Bonnie Reece

Olive Theresa Rosberg

Lyndon & Kathleen Royea

Dorothy Sherrer

Jeff Smart

Archdeacon Wally Sparling

Sadie Talbot

Patricia Volkey

Murray & Barbara O'Regan

Ken & Esther Laraway

Henrietta Coady

Andrew Reece

Edith Thompson

Barbara Garz

Doreen Vogt

Eleanor Chlohosi

Mr. & Mrs. Baglow

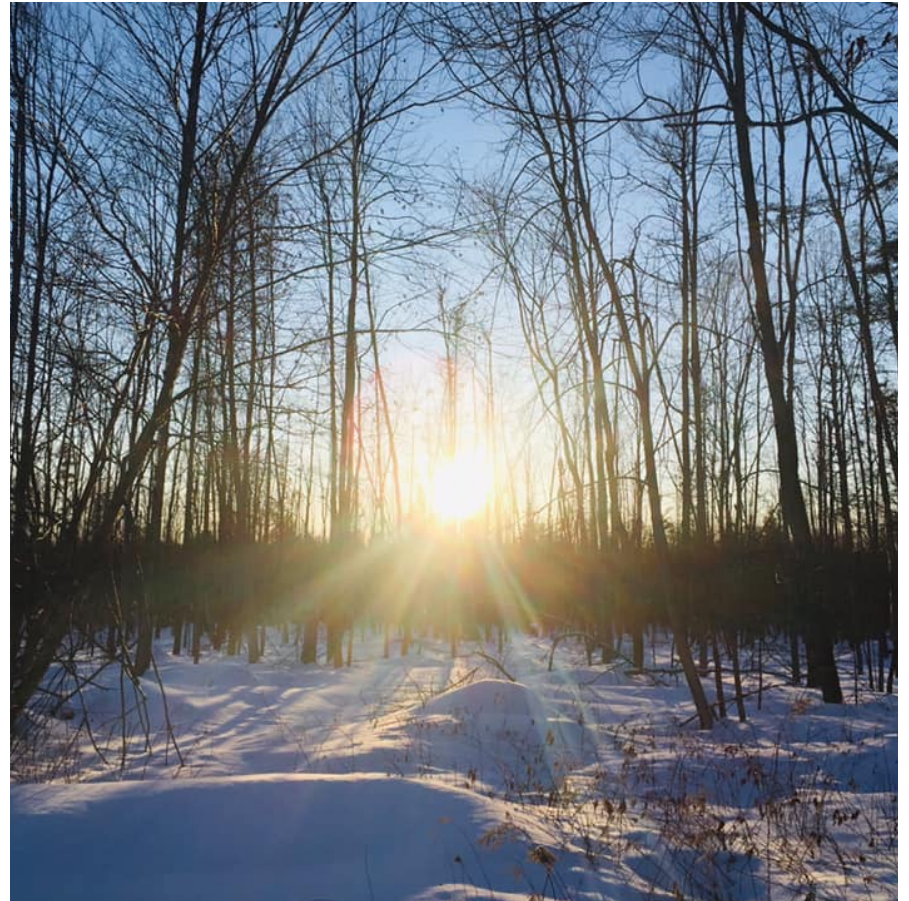
Wanda & Ray Bockus



# The Collect for Christmas

Eternal God who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us also to see the radiance of your heavenly glory. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise the holy Child of Bethlehem; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen. Alleluia!**



# The Lord's Prayer



And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**



# Hymn 126: Away in a Manger

1. Away in a manger, no crib  
for his bed, the little Lord  
Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay; the  
little Lord Jesus asleep on the  
hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the  
baby awakes, but little Lord  
Jesus, no crying he makes. I  
love you, Lord Jesus -- look  
down from on high and stay by  
my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I  
ask you to stay close by me  
forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in  
your tender care, and fit us for  
heaven to live with you there.



# Blessing and Dismissal

May Christ our infant saviour grant us the joy of the Bethlehem shepherds;

May Christ the newborn king grant us the awe of the worshipping sages;

May Christ our God incarnate grant us the humility and love of the holy family;

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this Christmas night and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the newborn Christ.

**Amen. Alleluia!**



# Il est né le divin enfant

## Chorus:

Il est né le divin enfant,  
Jouez hautbois, résonnez musettes !  
Il est né le divin enfant,  
Chantons tous son avènement !

1. Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,  
Nous le promettaient les prophètes  
Depuis plus de quatre mille ans,  
Nous attendions cet heureux temps.



2. Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est  
charmant !  
Ah ! que ses grâces sont parfaites !  
Ah ! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est  
charmant !  
Qu'il est doux ce divin enfant !

3. Une étable est son logement  
Un peu de paille est sa couchette,  
Une étable est son logement  
Pour un dieu quel abaissement !

4. O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant  
Tout petit enfant que vous êtes,  
O Jésus ! O Roi tout-puissant,  
Régnez sur nous entièrement !