

*Greetings in Christ!*

I write this the day after the first Sunday of Advent; the beginning of a new liturgical year for the church and a season where we walk through lessons of waiting and watching. At Emmaus, we mark the time from the first Sunday of Advent through to our Christmas celebrations with the lighting of the Advent wreath. Each week, a new candle is lit helping to remind us who we celebrate at Christmas, and always – Jesus, the light of the world.

*...what might it look like for us to consider living out Advent every day of the season rather than simply on Sundays while the wreath is lit?*

This, of course, is not new for those who have been in church for years. We expect the Advent wreath to make its debut on Advent I. We figure there will be some sort of ‘Advent Wreath Lighting Liturgy’ at the beginning of the service. We might even have Advent calendars at home, perhaps the ones with little chocolates behind each door that help us countdown to Christmas. But let’s be honest... the main event of this time of year is Christmas. So why Advent? Yes, Advent is a time of preparation. A time when we prepare ourselves to welcome again God’s great gift to the world – Jesus. But we already know this. We already know who we gather to worship come Christmas Eve. And so, I wonder, what it might look like for us to consider living out Advent every day of the season rather than simply on Sundays while the wreath is lit?

What I mean is this. The majority of those around us celebrate Christmas – whether followers of Jesus or not. Christmas is one of those celebrations that has become commonplace in our society, typically marked by folks being more charitable to each other

**Advent @ Emmaus**

***Sunday Dec. 3 - Advent I***

8:30am Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:30am Communion Celebration (BAS)

***Wednesday Dec. 6***

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

***Sunday Dec. 10 - Advent II***

8:30am Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:30am Communion Celebration (BAS)

***Wednesday Dec. 13***

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

***Sunday Dec. 17 - Advent III***

8:30am Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:30am Communion Celebration (BAS)

***Wednesday Dec. 20***

9:00am Holy Communion (BCP)

***Sunday Dec. 24 - Advent IV***

10:30am Communion Celebration (BAS)

**Christmas @ Emmaus**

***Christmas Eve (Dec. 24)***

7pm Christmas Communion Celebration (BAS)  
11pm Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

***Christmas Day (Dec. 25)***

10am Communion Service (BAS)

***New Year’s Eve (Dec. 31)***

10:30am Christmas Lessons & Carols Service

***Epiphany & Baptism of the Lord (Jan. 7)***

8:30am Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:30am Communion Celebration with  
Renewal of Baptismal Vows (BAS)

at this time of year, people coming together to share a meal and exchange of gifts. And while as Christians we too exhibit such traits and participate in similar activities, what if we also thought it important to share Advent blessings the weeks leading up to Christmas?

When we light the candles on the Advent wreath this year at Emmaus, together we contemplate hope, peace, joy and love. But we contemplate this trusting that we do so because *Christ has given his* hope, peace, joy and love to the world. What might it look like for us to both share and watch for Christ's very hope, peace, joy and love? How and where might God be calling us to share and receive the light of Christ in our midst this Advent? What if our primary Advent aim was truly to 'prepare the way of the Lord!' instead of simply 'prepare the way of the turkey dinner' or 'prepare the way of the perfect tree' or 'prepare the way of the most expensive present'? My guess is that we'd be surprised about

where and when opportunities to share and receive Advent blessings spring forth. It might be while sitting in a coffee shop, waiting in line at the grocery store, serving at Vincent Place, chatting with family. It might even be right here at Emmaus.

At this time of year, it's not unusual to find people searching. People who are frustrated with the status quo of the holidays and are looking for something 'more', people who are struggling through loss and are overwhelmed by the sentimentality of Hallmark Christmas movies, and people who want to reconnect with their faith, may just find their way here among us in their journey with Christ. In fact, while not during Advent, such a scenario recently occurred. A few weeks ago, a young man made his way to Emmaus shortly after service had ended. He found us downstairs during coffee time and not having seen him before, I made my way over to greet him. He was travelling and was distraught and asked if he could speak with me. He wanted was a blessing. He was struggling and said he came upon the church and knew he needed to come in and pray. We prayed. I extended God's blessing of forgiveness and love upon him. He came downstairs and we chatted over coffee and then he was on his way.

We just never know. The smallest exchange, a simple shared "good morning" might be the very interaction that breaks open a conversation where the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ is shared. May we 'Prepare the way of the Lord' this Advent season and rejoice with exuberance this Christmastide as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord!

Advent blessings & Happy Christmas,



### @ Emmaus

Rev. Pamela Rayment – Rector  
Alison Weir – Rectors Warden  
Barbara Sherwood – Peoples Warden  
Micheline Lablance – Deputy Warden  
Music Ministry Associate – Tasha Filice  
Parish Administrator – Mary McDonald  
Sylvia Sherwood – Treasurer

### Advisory Board Members

Nancy Cardiff  
Dan Fritz  
Joy Kaldma  
Deborah Kalinowski  
Mary McDonald  
Judy Pratt  
David Taylor  
Phyllis Walls  
Bruce Yendell

The office will be closed Dec. 26 – Jan. 2

Office Hours: M-F 9am-12noon

We make every effort to keep scheduled office hours, however due to the nature of the work of the church, there are times when this is not possible. Thank you for understanding.



*emmaus*  
ANGLICAN CHURCH

1643 Wellington St. East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2R8  
705-759-2545

emmausanglicanssm@gmail.com  
www.emmausanglicanssm.com