



EMMAUS

Anglican
Church

Advent/Christmas 2021

There is joy in the journey



Some Thoughts on Advent &
Christmas

By The Reverend Holly Klemmensen

December 12th, 2021 (Third Sunday of Advent)

My dear Siblings in Christ,

In the first chapter of John's Gospel, we hear
of the Word of life: "In the beginning was

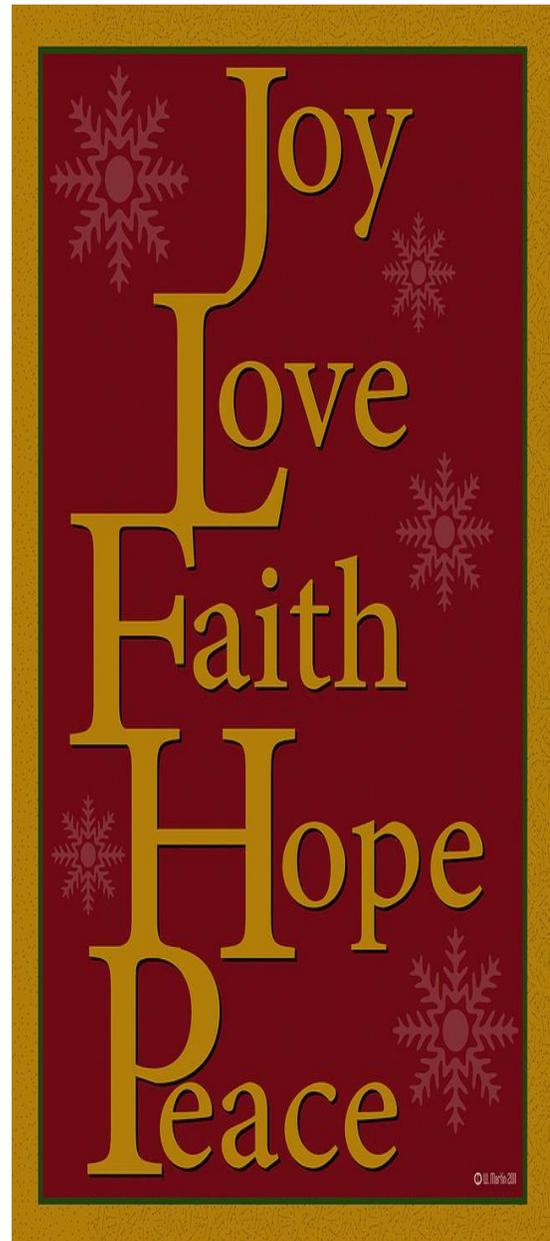
the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning
with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came

into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” During the busy weeks of Advent and our preparations for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child we celebrate a season of hope, peace, joy, and love.

We celebrate hope in our lives as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child into a world in desperate need of hope. We celebrate the hope that shines like a star on the horizon to lead us forward as a people searching for new possibilities in our lives and in our world; an end to Covid, homelessness, hunger, war, fear, loneliness, climate disasters and illness, to name but a few.

We long for peace, inner peace to calm our spirits and assure us that no matter what may be, God is with us and we are not alone. We search for outer peace in our world, a peace that enables us to reach out to our brothers and sisters in and from many places and many circumstances.

We see joy filled faces of children who keenly anticipate the excitement of the season. The joy of the Christian faith is central to all we do and are. The spirit of joy enables us to reach out to others. In places where joy is lacking, let us be the face, hands, and hearts of joy to share with one another.



As we approach Christmas the power of love is revealed through the birth of the baby Jesus in a manger. A love that gives without counting the cost, the love that weaves compassion and justice together, the love that endures when the going gets rough, the love that was revealed in the life and sacrifice of Jesus. Let us remember to love others, love God and love ourselves – there is no greater mission in our life and in our world.

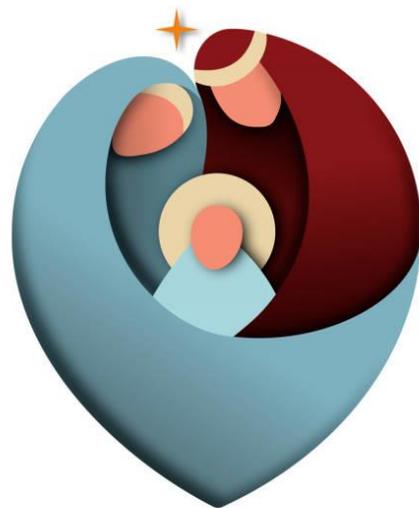
Looking back over 2021 we reflect on all that has happened during the year. We pause to experience the present moment and we look forward to the New Year ahead through faith in the life-giving power revealed in the life of the Christ Child. For children, this is a time of excitement and anticipation; for others, this is a season filled with responsibilities, activity and it is to be hoped, some excitement and anticipation! Some are traveling during Advent and Christmas to be with family or friends, while others spend the coming days quietly at home. May this be a special Advent and Christmas for each of us, as we experience in a new way, God reaching out to us. May the blessings of Christmas be with one and all!

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These are the prayers we share for our world and for one another, as we continue our journey through Advent towards Christmas when we welcome and receive in our hearts once more, the Christ Child.

From my family to you and yours, I wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Christmas and I hope you will join with us to celebrate our Saviour's birth at our Christmas Services.

Warmest Christmas Blessings,

Holly+



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE ACW

Once again, the ACW of Emmaus Anglican Church has held no meetings during the 2021 year due to the ongoing pandemic.

However, this month the Executive made the decision to make charitable donations to five organizations: Christmas Cheer, Council of the North, Teen Challenge, Mary Sherwood, and Pauline's Place. The amount for these donations totals \$1600.

We do not know when our meetings will resume but we will try to keep in touch by e-mail throughout the next few months. In the meantime, we wish you all a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmas.

Christmas Cheer

Emmaus is once again a depot for the distribution of gifts for families in need in our area. This will be December 15, 8:30am to 11:30am. Thank you for your generous donations to this worthy undertaking.

Weekly Bible Study Resuming January 5, 2022

Each Wednesday there are two bible studies with Pastor Holly: 10-11:30am (at Emmaus) and then again at 7-8:30pm (via Zoom). No prior bible study experience required – come and listen, read and ask questions and be part of our incredible conversations. Talk to Holly+ or a participant to learn more about this experience. All are welcome, all the time!



Christmas Eve Services

* Holy Communion *

at Emmaus

4:30pm: Family Service

7pm: Traditional Service (also live-streamed/recorded)

11pm: Candlelight Mass

Due to pandemic restrictions on the number of people who can be in the worship space at any one time, please contact the office to let us know which service you will be attending. [For additional protocols please see page 9]. Thank you very much. (phone: 705-759-2545 or email: emmausanglicanssm@gmail.com)

More Christmas Season Services (all Holy Communion): *Christmas Day* (Dec.25) 10am [Quiet Christmas Morn with The Rev. Holly Klemmensen]; *Christmas I* (Dec.26) 10:30am [Presider: The Rev. Holly Klemmensen; Preacher: The Rev. Susan Montague Koyle]; *The Epiphany* (Jan.2) 10:30am [Presider & Preacher: Archbishop Anne Germond]; *The Baptism of the Lord* (Jan.9) 10:30am [Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Holly Klemmensen] *Note: all Sunday services are live-streamed/recorded

Important Notice: The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 27th, 2021 through to Saturday, January 1st, 2022 (inclusive) as staff takes life at a much-needed slower pace. ☺

An Update on Christmas Celebrations at Vincent Place

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support and your prayers for our Vincent Place family. Many changes continue to occur due to COVID-19 which also means some changes to the giving of gifts this December.

Meals will be take-out – handed out at the door this year. Imagine a Christmas dinner in a Styrofoam container with no second helpings, no sharing of fellowship around a festive table, and not even a chance to get inside to warm up.

A limited number of volunteers shopped, sorted and packaged the gifts for distribution. This year, all of the gifts were distributed on the weekly Lunches for Learning routes. We had two enormous batches of gifts that we delivered on two consecutive Fridays in December. Once again, thank you to the generous people who donated gifts, money, time, and talents (of the sorting, wrapping, organizing, driving variety!) Together, we helped make Christmas a little brighter for about 88 local families!

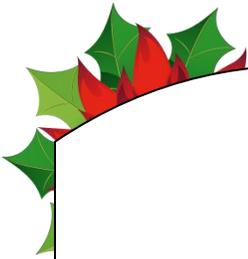
Speaking of generous people, Canadian Tire outdid their very generous donations of gifts last year, providing nearly \$1000 worth of toys!

Thank you to all of the people who made the apple pie making a success (the buyers, the eaters, and – of course – the makers)! That was a major source of funding for our work with St. Vincent Place.

As we look forward to 2022, we pray that our church – the Body of Christ – will continue to live and reveal the kingdom of God in the world.

In the peace and hope of the awaited King,

The St. Vincent Place Christmas organizing committee



Christmas Flowers for the Altar

Anyone wishing to donate poinsettias for the altar for this Christmas season are invited to phone the church office: 705-759-2545. Thank you.



A Report from the Altar Guild

Advent is such a wonderful time where we are preparing for the birth of Jesus. There is always so much happening in the church calendar. Here at Emmaus we have not only our regular Sunday services, but there are a few additional services which we hope will be of interest. Algoma Public Health rules are being followed. We are likely safer in church than at the grocery store.

Our Altar Guild members have changed somewhat since the beginning of COVID-19. Some members have not been participating due to their own low immune system or that of a family member. Prior to COVID we had eight regular members. Since then, one retired, and three have stayed back due to health concerns. Where we previously had four teams of two, we now have four ladies working individually each week in most cases. I really wish Santa would bring us about four new members.

The church looks especially lovely during Advent and Christmas. Decorations will soon be up and the beautiful red poinsettias will add to our worship space as well.

Altar Guild Report continued...

Rev. Holly has some new and different services coming up in the next few weeks. We hope you will attend and bring some family members to share in this blessed time in the church calendar. We acknowledge that there are so many things we cannot do these days, but thankfully there are still things we can do while remaining safe. Although everything is not exactly the same as pre-COVID, being in attendance for worship as a family or group provides some comfort by being in our much-loved worship space and seeing folks you may not have seen for a while.

Sincerely,

Eddie LeBlanc



Some good news...

On Sunday September 19th, during our 10:30am live streamed service, I had the pleasure to install Liz Hamel as our new licensed Lay Reader! Alison Weir vested Liz and presented her with her scarf. Many blessings, Liz, as you embark on this new ministry of yours, that you share with us! Thank you to Alison for preparing and supporting Liz on this journey. *Holly+*



Left to right: Alison Weir, Liz Hamel, The Rev. Holly Klemmensen

Reminder of Covid Protocols
For attending church

We are reminding everyone about the protocols for attending church at this time as we will be holding several services for Christmas and it is important that we adhere to the rules set down for us by Algoma Public Health and the Diocese of Algoma. Due to social distancing requirements, those attending Christmas Eve Services are asked to pre-register [See page 5].

When attending church you will be logged in with your name, phone number and the time you attended. This is to enable us to contact you if we need to.

You must wear a mask when entering the building. If you do not have one we will provide one for you. You must keep your mask on at all times.

There is a hand sanitizing station which you must use when entering the building.

Entering and exiting the church must be carried out in such a way as to maintain safe social distancing. We cannot congregate in the aisles or in the narthex and talk to our friends.

Social distancing is in place in our buildings. The pews are marked to indicate where you should sit. We can sit folks in “family bubbles” but as a general rule the 6 feet distancing applies.

Capacity limits are not in place in the worship space however, there really are limits because of social distancing. Once the pews are filled to the social distancing mandate, we have reached the capacity for our space.

Singing is not allowed by the congregation. The musicians in the choir area are permitted to sing, wearing masks, while maintaining a distance of 13 feet from the nearest seated congregants.

Coffee hours and social times are not permitted at this time in Algoma. When and if that restriction is lifted only those who are fully vaccinated may participate. Proof of double vaccination will be required for anyone who wishes to participate in coffee hours.

Confirmation of Double Vaccination: We require proof of double vaccination for employees of the church, lay readers, lay stewards, advisory board members, altar guild members, sides-people, lectors, choir members, musicians, and folks who are involved in ministries at the church. Please bring your proof to the office to show Mary.

Should you have any questions about any of the protocols please call the office to discuss.

Merry Christmas to all!!
Mary McDonald

Staying in Touch:

You can contact us by phone: 705-759-2545

or

Email: emmausanglicanssm@gmail.com

Plus, we're on FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmmausAnglicanchurch>

and, we have a website: <https://emmausanglicanssm.com/>

