

Gathering Table
a Faith Community
in the Anglican Church of Canada



‘Greetings In The Name Of The Risen Lord !
Been - Sa - gen, Jem na do waky gan ning

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Gathering Table
a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev'd Gordon Holroyd
Lay Reader: Jim Sutton

The Liturgy of the Word for Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE

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For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land, and relationship with the land is at the centre of life and spirituality. We are gathered as treaty people on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg of the Fort William First Nation and acknowledge this people's stewardship of this land through the ages.

Pre-service music

CP 122 In the Bleak Midwinter (v 1 - 3)
CP 146 Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (v 1,2,4)
CP 117 Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming (v 1 - 3)

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come
to all the people, for to you is born this day
a Saviour, Christ the Lord. *Luke 2. 10 - 11*

The Lighting of the Christ Candle Love Song of the First-Born

Colossians 1. 15 – 20

Christ is the image of the unseen God,
the first-born of all creation,
for in him were all things made,
in heaven and on earth.

Through him and for him were all things made,
before all he exists, holds all things in one.
The Church is his body, and he is its head.

He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;
in all things he alone is supreme.
God made all his fullness to dwell in him,
to reconcile through him all creation to himself,
everything on earth and everything in heaven,
all gathered into peace by his death on the cross.

Opening Carol: **CP 118 O Come All Ye Faithful**
(v 1 – 3)

Gathering of the Community *BAS page 185*

Presider:

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,**

**All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us continue in prayer together, saying:
**Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all
you bring to us for our time within your creation.
In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the centre of the
sacred circle through which all of creation is
related. You show us the way to live a generous
and compassionate life. Give us your strength to
live together with respect and commitment as we
grow in your Spirit, for you are God, now and
forever. Amen**

Glory to God

BAS page 186

Presider: Glory to God in the highest,
All: **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

Collect for Christmas Eve

**Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the
brilliance of your one true light. As we have
known the revelation of that light on earth, bring
us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and for ever. Amen**

Collect for Christmas Day

**O God our Father, whose Word has come among
us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of
faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words
and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading is from The Book of Isaiah 62: 6 – 12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 97

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name.

**Second Reading is from the Letter of Paul to
Titus 3: 4 - 7**

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Carol:

CP 136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Verses 1, 2, 3

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 2: 1 – 7, 8 – 20

GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

This is The Gospel of Christ

PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sermon: Rev. Gordon

A Time of Reflection

The Apostles Creed

BAS page 189

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say:

**I believe in God,
the Father, the Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilot,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Holy Catholic Church,
The communion of Saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. AMEN**

The Litany of the Incarnation

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the

universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Confession and Absolution

BAS page 191

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; He
welcomes sinners and invites them to His table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

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.**

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

The Peace

*(During this time, please refrain from moving about and
observe physical distancing)*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

The Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast, May we grow up in Him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen

Eucharistic Prayer #1

BAS pages 193 - 195

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God,

for you created all things.

You formed us in your own image:

male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you in sin,

you did not cease to care for us,

but opened a path of salvation for all people.

You made a covenant with Israel,

and through your servants Abraham and Sarah

gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.

Through Moses you led your people
from bondage into freedom;
through the prophets
you renewed your promise of salvation.
Therefore, with them, and with all your saints
who have served you in every age,
we give thanks and raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Holy God, source of life and goodness,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ,
to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.
He healed the sick
and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
he opened the eyes of the blind
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom
to the poor and to those in need.
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, “ Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, “ Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Gracious God,
his perfect sacrifice
destroys the power of sin and death;
by raising him to life
you give us life for evermore.
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Presider: Recalling his death,
proclaiming his resurrection,

and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts,
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be one body and one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as
our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

BAS page 213

Presider: We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Receiving Holy Communion

This is the table of Christ made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So come, whether you have much faith or little, have tried to follow or afraid you have failed. Come because it is Christ's will that those who want to meet him, might meet him here.

Our tradition says that to receive any part of the Eucharist is to receive the full grace of the Sacrament.

During this time we ask that you remain seated or standing where you are. The bread only will be distributed to you by the Presider or by a designated Eucharistic Assistant.

Music During Communion:

CP 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten (verses 1, 3, 4)
CP 126 Away in a Manger (verses 1 – 3)
CP 137 What Child is This (verses 1 and 2)

Postlude: O Holy Night (verse 1)

Christmas Eve Ministry

Organist: Nancy Wallace

Cantors: Sheila Chisholm and David Marler

Lector: Frances Bennett-Sutton

Ushers: Mary Ripley and Grace Dawson

Sign In: John Kirchen

Altar: Audrey Love

Cleaning: Audrey and Neil Love

Please note that there is a 'treasure chest' at the back of the church where offerings can be left when leaving the church.

At the conclusion of the service, please remain seated until an usher dismisses you. If you are helping with post-service cleaning or counting, please remain seated until ushers indicate it is safe to move about.

Readings for The First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 60: 1 – 6

Psalm 72: 1 – 7, 10 - 14

Ephesians 3: 1 - 12

Matthew 2: 1 - 12

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - please pray for:

Christmas Eve

The Diocese of Ilesa South West – The Church of Nigeria
(Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Christmas Day

The Diocese of North East India –The (united) Church of
North India

Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer – please pray for:

ACC The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the
staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry;
Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries
Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott
Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and
Interfaith Relations

ELCIC Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National
Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and
Interfaith Relations; Gretchen Peterson,
Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and
Leadership

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: please pray for:

Christmas Eve

Church of the Holy Manger, Barkway

The Rev. Heather Manuel

Saturday, December 25th – The Birth of the Lord:
Christmas Day Pray for: Christian vocations and for
candidates for ordained ministry.

Pastoral Chaplains

The Rev. Canon Bob Elkin, Algoma

The Rev. Heather Manuel, Muskoka

The Rt. Rev. Tom Corston, Sudbury/Manitoulin

The Ven. Linda White, Temiskaming
The Rev. Canon Paul Carr, Thunder Bay-North Shore

Parish Cycle of Prayer - please pray for our own church members:

Peter Braunberger, and Carolin Braunberger-Houlding, David, Abby and Liz, Mary Browne and Jaclynn Marttunen, Connie Bryson, Murray Butler, Laura Byce, Anna and Grace Dosen, David L Bythell, Alan and Marilyn Chisholm, Doug and Sheila Chisholm, Rev. Gail Clifton and Gail Pell, Bruno Coda, Darleah Kostyniuk-Coda, and Cosmo Coda, Lois Colpitts, Maureen and Teresa Colpitts/Andreychuk, Brenda Coopman

Please pray for: Our young people in Junior High School, High School, College and University who are struggling academically, social and mentally, as well as with understanding their own identities.

A grace note from www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

Good News of great joy !

Reminder about Visitations:

Pastoral care visits will continue to be restricted to emergency situations – please call the office if such a situation arises.

Gathering Table Prayer Chain

During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to pray for one another. If you would like to be a part of the Gathering Table prayer chain

or you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the prayer chain please contact

Sheila Chisholm at chisholmsheilak@gmail.com
or text /phone 306-240-0771.

Sunday Sermons: Sunday service can be viewed on the Gathering Table website <http://gatheringtable.ca> and on the Gathering Table Facebook page. The whole service will be live streamed at 10 a.m. Sunday at the link <http://gatheringtable.ca> **Please Note** You may be visible on the online stream



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 25th – No Service

December 26th – 10 a.m.

Communion – Rev. Gail Clifton

Lay Reader – Jim Sutton

January 2nd, 2022

Lessons and Carols or Communion

Kim Bienvenue – Richard Pepper

**“Pay it forward” and make a donation to
PWRDF’S Vaccine Equity Fund.**

Archbishop Anne Germond in her charge to Synod in the fall of 2021, talked about the importance of the **PWRDF’S Vaccine Equity Fund**, a resolution to support this project was passed by Algoma’s synod. When you receive your vaccine, “Pay it forward” and make a donation to PWRDF’S Vaccine Equity Fund. Your gift will support PWRDF partners in the most vulnerable parts of the world as they prepare for vaccination rollout, including work already underway to supply PPE, thermometers, sanitation and hand washing facilities, and accurate public health information. After you make your donation, you can help yourself to a Christmas tree ornament at Gathering Table as a thank you from the Deanery. You may donate online by going to pwrdf.org/give-today and click on Vaccine Equity Fund. Or phone Donor Relations Officer Mike Ziemerink at 416-822-9083, or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and someone will return your call. Or send a cheque with “Vaccine Equity Fund” in the memo field to PWRDF, 80 Hayden St, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2 For further information go to www.pwrdf.org

Linda Rintamaki (rep) linjrin@tbaytel.net

Primates World Relief Development Fund



2022 Envelopes

are now available at the back of the church.

Or Ask About Electronic Offering Program

2021 CHRISTMAS FLOWER TRIBUTES



At Gathering Table



Given With Thanksgiving to God for

For Friends and Family

Given by Marg Boone

The Gift of Wonderful Family and Friends

Given by Marilyn and Al Chisholm



**Given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of**

Audrey Atkinson

from son Errol Atkinson.

Robert Johnson,

Helen and John Wolfe

Given by Carl and Roberta Wolfe

**With fond memories and thanksgiving to God
for loved ones**

Len and Michael Hartley
and dear friends Nancy and Audrey
from Diane Hartley.



Gathering Table
228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

Email: office@gatheringtable.ca

Web: <http://gatheringtable.ca>

Office: 345-6898

Hall: 345-6088

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday from 8 a.m. to noon

Pastor: Currently Vacant – *Please call the Church Office*

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865 email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Lay Readers: Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine,
Brenda O’Neill and Jim Sutton, **On Leave:** Kim Bienvenue,

Lay Reader in Training: Richard Pepper

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|-------------------------|---|
| Rector’s Warden: | Marg Boone |
| Deputy Rector’s Warden: | Dr. Michelle Proudfoot |
| People’s Warden: | Jim Sutton |
| Deputy People’s Warden: | Sheila Chisholm |
| Co-Music Directors - | Pianist Donna Hamill
Organist (Vacant) |

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2021

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.” *Micah 6:8*