

Gathering Table
a Faith Community
in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant: Rev. Ann Camber
Honorary Assistant: Rev. Gail Clifton
Preacher: Brenda O'Neill
Lay Reader: Rose Jardine
Lectors: Erminie and David Reid
Music: Ted and Donna Hamill and Singers
Greeters: Sharon Sparkes, Al Chisholm
Eucharistic Assistants: Alex and Sylvia KostECKi
Altar Guild: Sarah Pyne

First Sunday of Advent

December 3rd, 2023

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE

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For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their 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.

Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. *Luke 21.28*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Katelin Anderson Family
are lighting the Advent Candle today.

Reader 1:

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out: O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

(Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come”

(Mark 13:35)

Congregation:

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.

Reader 1: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God’s activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

Light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Music during lighting of the first Candle:

Lord, Hear Our Prayer

Opening Hymn: CP 114 (Omit Verse 2)
Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Gathering of the Community *BAS Page 185*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you 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.**

Children's Time with Rev. Ann Camber

Collect Of The Day

Celebrant: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the
works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in
the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he
shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the
living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *All: Amen.*

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading is from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 64: 1 - 8

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 80: 1 – 7, 16 – 18

Refrain: *Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir
up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.

Refrain: *Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite
the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given
them bowls of tears to drink.

Refrain: *Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our
enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.

Refrain: *Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.*

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

***Refrain: Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.***

Second Reading is from The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

1 Corinthians 1: 3 - 9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

**Gradual: CP 476
God, You Have Caused To Be Written**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

ALL: GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

This is The Gospel of Christ

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Mark 13: 24 - 37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayers of the People

Lay Reader

First, we will bring our needs to the Lord.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYERS IN A CELTIC TRADITION:

God of all Hope, we hold in your healing presence those who live with pain and ill health. As I read the names of those who have requested our prayers, please lift to God others for whom you seek His blessing:

Rev. Gail Clifton, Gail, Rose, Ted, Diane, Sara, Frances,
May they know the deep peace of Christ. May we all know the deep peace of Christ.

We hold in your healing presence the oppressed, the starving, and the homeless people of our world. Spirit of God, pour out peace and protection over all people who live in constant fear and poverty.

May they know the deep peace of Christ. May we all know the deep peace of Christ.

We hold in your healing presence those who need wisdom for their next steps. Today we ask that the leaders of the nations turn to you for direction, and to discover the true Hope that you give.

May they know the deep peace of Christ. May we all know the deep peace of Christ. *All: Amen*

Now, we will bless the Lord, as one body united in Hope, through the beautiful Advent Litany.

Advent Litany #12

BAS Page 119

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!")

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires:

Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

The Confession and Absolution – *BAS Page 191*

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites us 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. Amen.

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

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Offertory: **We Come**

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***All: Amen***

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.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer # 3 –

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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

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are
full of Your glory**

**Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest**

***Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest***

Patrick Schlabs

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word

made flesh, Jesus your son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon

these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

BAS page 211

And now, as our Saviour Christ 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 #5

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Celebrant: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: Happy are those who are called to the

supper of the Lamb.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Communion:

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God you take away
the sins of the world
have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away
the sins of the world
have mercy on us

Lamb of God you take away
the sins of the world
grant - us peace

Communion Hymns:

Bread Of Life (Advent Setting)
Glory

Prayer After Communion

Celebrant: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **All: Amen.**

Celebrant: All your works praise you, O Lord.

All: And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and

blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, who the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing: Rev. Ann

A Hopeful Benediction

*Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity. Share hope by listening to someone's story. Share hope by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet. **All: Amen.***

Announcements:

Closing Music: **Come To Us** (Advent)

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !

Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1 – 11

Psalm 78: 1 – 2, 18 - 13

2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a

Mark 1: 1 - 8

Anglican Cycle of Prayer Please Pray for:

Advent 1

The Church of North India (United)

Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for:

ACC: The people of the Anglican Church of Canada
ELCIC The people of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for:

Pray for: All Lay Workers within our parishes who
play an integral role in the administration of our churches

Our Parish Cycle of Prayer

Please pray for our own church members: Cindy
Papassay, Marjorie (Midge) Peel, Richard Pepper, Sheila
Pepper, Donna Phoenix, Dr. Michelle Proudfoot, Alex and
Sarah, Evelyn, Emerson, and Elliott Pyne, David and
Erminie Reid, William and Lillian Richmond, Linda
Rintamaki and Wayne Edmunds, Mary Ripley, and Grace
Dawson, Muriel Rowan, Alan and Cynthia Roy, Graham
and Michael, Kenneth and Irene Roy, Marlene Salmonson,
David Semple, Ophelia Shawinimash, Lucy Shewaybick

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

“From Darkness into Light” Awake to Hope.



The flowers in the church today
are in loving memory of
Violet Ivy Thomson
Given by
Elizabeth, Michael and their families.

The Cold Weather is Here

Please make sure that if you are the last to leave, that you shut the doors in the different areas of the church and hall to help save money on heating. Thanks David Reid

Christmas is coming.

See the **World of Gifts Guide**, on the website or the insert in the Anglican Journal. For a unique meaningful gift, you can order seeds for farmers, livestock and contribute to projects worldwide, etc. You can order **Christmas cards**. Sign up for a **daily Advent reflection**. For further information go to www.pwrdf.org
Linda Rintamaki (rep)

Scents, kitchen, allergies

For the well-being of us all, a few reminders:



Please do not wear scents (perfume, cologne, hairspray etc.) because exposure to them can adversely affect a person's health, including headaches, shortness of breath, nausea and fatigue. After using the kitchen, please ensure that all surfaces are cleaned and sanitized and the floor is swept of any mouse-attracting crumbs. Some of us have life-threatening allergies to nuts, so please do not bring food containing nuts into the building. Sealed items for the Food Cupboard are exempt.

We Welcome Your Prayer Requests:

If you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the Gathering Table prayer chain, please email the request to prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca. If you do not have access to email, please call the office or Sheila Chisholm at 787-0465 and we will get it sent out for you.

Reminder about Visitations:

Rev. Ann is continuing her Pastoral care visits. If you would like a visit, please call 807-285-9446 or email her at: rector@gatheringtable.ca



2023 Envelopes are now available at the back

A note about offerings: all information is on the shelves at the back of the Church. If you used the numbered offering envelopes in 2022 you will find a personalized box of 2023 envelopes for your use. If you wish to use weekly offering envelopes you may take an unassigned box and add your name to the list beside the box number. If you would like to contribute using the Electronic Offering Program*, which we recommend, these forms are also available at the

back of the Church fill in the information and turn it into the office. If you are already using EOP you may amend your offerings using the same form. E-transfers can also be made to Gathering Table by using:

office@gatheringtable.ca and use “church” as your security answer. If you require any assistance, please consult a Warden. The EOP is administered by the Diocese and is a pre-authorized payment plan offering a steady flow of funds to Gathering Table. It takes the worry about “catching up” if you are away or cannot attend for any reason.

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



Note Change in date: Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2023
Come and prepare for Advent and Christmas at our Advent Quiet Day – Everyone Welcome 9:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Bring your own lunch – coffee, tea, etc will be provide.

Please RSVP if you are interested to

office@gatheringtable.ca



Join us for Coffee Hour following the Service Today.

EVENTS AT GATHERING TABLE

Each September groups wishing to book the use of the hall, kitchen has to fill in the “Booking Request Form” each year for your groups’ activities. Please contact the office to request the form. office@gatheringtable.ca
Or call 807-345-6898

Calendar of Events

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Dec. 5 th | Rector’s Book Study – Zoom 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 7 th | Decorating the Church and Parish Hall |
| Dec. 8 th | Food Cupboard Prep |
| Dec. 9 th | Advent Quiet Day 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 10 th | Food Cupboard |
| Dec. 12 th | Rector’s Book Study – Zoom 7 p.m. |
| Dec 13 th | Sleep G. Farm Pick Up |
| Dec. 17 th | Congregational Potluck Luncheon |
| Dec. 17 th | Steve Bell Concert – Redwood Church 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 18 th | Flower Memorials for Christmas due today |
| Dec. 5 th | Rector’s Book Study – Zoom 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 19 th | Rector’s Book Study – Zoom 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 th | Family Friendly Service – 10 a.m. |
| Dec. 24 th | Christmas Eve service 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 25 th | Christmas Day service – 10 a.m. |
| Dec. 29 th | Food Cupboard Prep |
| Dec. 31 st | Carols and Readings at 10 a.m.
Food Cupboard |

Save these dates

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apr. 19 th | Mission to Seafarers Dinner, |
| Apr. 18 th | Camp Gitchigomee 2 Bit Auction |

Church Calendars Available Soon

Please let the office know, if you would like a 2024 Church Calendar, 807-345-6898 or office@gatheringtable.ca

2024 Parishioner Parking Passes are available at
the office Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.:
Friday 8 a.m. – 12 noon

The Undercover Project - PLEASE DONATE
Helping Children Cover Bare Necessities. This Christmas
Season, please help provide children with New socks and
Underwear. There is a big box decorated to put socks and
underwear in that will assist Community Clothing
Assistance provide these basic items to children in need.
Children receive a voucher for new socks and underwear
twice a year. Cash/Cheques are also appreciated, and can
be put in The Treasure Chest at the back of the church and
should be made out to Community Clothing Assistance.
Box pick up will be week of December 3rd,

PWRDF

The 2023 **World of Gifts** guide arrived with your
October Anglican Journal. This is another opportunity for
you to alleviate poverty, promote sustainability and
support communities in need in Canada and around the
world. There are 29 impactful gifts to give this year; some
familiar and many new. Use the order form in the guide, or
shop in the online store 24/7 at www.pwrdf.org



Food Cupboard Looking for Totes to store food in

Let Sharon Sparkes know if you have any
that you would like to donate to the Food
Cupboard.



Camp Gitchigomee - 2 Bit Auction April 18th, 2024

We are looking for items for our Auction in April. If you have any new items that you have received but aren't using, we would love to get them from you to make up baskets for the auction. Cash donations are also welcome. Baskets are also needed if you have any. See Roberta Wolfe, Melanie Gottfred, Jim Sutton.



Christmas is Coming...

Would you like to place flowers in the church during the four weeks of Advent, or for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day? Please talk to the ladies of the Altar Guild, or take an envelope from the back of the church. The last day to get your message in the bulletin for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is December 18th, 2023.

Steve Bell Concert

Christian singer-songwriter Steve Bell will be in Thunder Bay for an Advent concert on Sunday, Dec. 17th, 7 p.m. at Redwood Park Church (2609 Redwood Ave.) Tickets \$25. Visit www.stevebell.com/events for more information.



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.

Office Administrator: Roberta Wolfe

Treasurer: Sharon Corston: Friday from 8 a.m. to noon –

Pastor: Rev. Ann Camber, M.Div.

Phone: 807-251-7503 Email: rector@gatheringtable.ca

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,

Richard Pepper, Jim Sutton, Kim Bienvenue,

Rector's Warden: David Reid

People's Warden: Jim Sutton

Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Music Director: Pianist Donna Hamill

Wifi Guest Password at Gathering Table > GTGuest1

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2023

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4: 18 - 19