

*Gathering Table*  
*a Faith Community*  
*in the Anglican Church of Canada*



*Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love*  
*Family Service with Morning Prayer*

.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:** Rev. Ann Camber  
**Honorary Assistant:** Rev. Gail Clifton  
**Lay Reader:** Richard Pepper  
**Lectors:** Erminie and David Reid  
**Music:** Selections of children's carols from You tube  
**Greeters:** Connie Bryson, Ellie Bennett  
**Altar Guild:** Elaine McKinnon, Audrey Love

**Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love**

December 24<sup>th</sup> , 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.*

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel. Matthew 1.23

***Lighting of the Advent Candle***

The Medwid Family are lighting the Advent Candles today.

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God’s plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, “Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, “How can this be? I am only...” Yet, like Mary, the “onlys” that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God’s love transforms us into bearers of good news.

**Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us

into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

*Light the four outer candles of the Advent wreath.*

Opening Hymn: **The First Nowell**

**Gathering of the Community  
Introductory Responses:**

Celebrant: Restore us, O Creator of the star of night;

**All: show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Celebrant: Will you not give us life again.

**All: so that your people may rejoice in your ?**

Celebrant: Show us your mercy, O God.

**All: and grant us your salvation.**

Celebrant: Blessed is the Christ who come in your name!

**All: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**The Psalm Canticle - Luke 1: 47 - 55**

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and  
holy is his name.  
50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation  
to generation.  
51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered  
the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the  
rich away empty.  
54 He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

## **The Responsory**

My soul wait for you, O Lord, in your word is my hope.  
**My soul waits for you, O Lord, in your word is my  
hope.**

Celebrant: Out of the depths have I called to you,  
O God; O God, hear my voice.

**All: In your word is my hope.**

Celebrant: There is forgiveness with you;  
Therefore you shall be feared.

**All: In your word is my hope.**

Celebrant: My soul waits for the Holy One,  
With whom there is mercy.

**All: My soul waits for you, O Lord,  
In your word is my hope.**

## **A Reading from Romans**

### **Romans 16: 25 – 27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**This is the Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God**

Gradual Carol:    **Away in a Manger**

**The Christmas Gospel Story**  
read by Rev Ann to the children.

*Book supplied by Ellen Teahan*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**Hear O Israel  
Hear, O Israel,  
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God,  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

### **Intercessions and Thanksgivings**

**Prayers of the People  
Advent Litany #12**

*Lay Reader  
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!***

### **Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Celebrant: O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. **Amen.**

Carol: **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

We gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

**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 Blessing: Rev. Ann**

Be people of love. Let love live in your heart and share the love of Christ with all you meet. Share love by loving those you see regularly. Start by loving your community. Share love by loving those you do not know. How do your actions affect the rest of God's creation? Share love by praying for our world. In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share love. As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share love, joy, peace, and hope with those you meet.

***All: Amen.***

**Announcements:**

Closing Music:     **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !**

**Readings for the Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7 .....

Psalm 96

Hebrews 1: 1 – 12...

Luke 2: 1 – 20

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer Please Pray for:**

**The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.**

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for:**  
**St. James', Gravenhurst,** The Rev. Heather Manuel  
The Rev. Canon Tom James (Hon.), The Rev. Jim Schell  
(Deacon Associate), **Church of the Holy Manger,**  
**Barkway,** The Rev. Heather Manuel

**Our Parish Cycle of Prayer: Please pray for our own church members:** Mary Browne and Jaclynn Marttunen, Connie Bryson, Murray Butler, Laura Byce, Anna and Grace Dosen, David L Bythell, Rev. Ann Camber, Blaine Carlson, 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, Sharon Corston, Hellen Corston, Margaret Cousins, Joe and Nancy Crane.

**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](http://www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com)  
“God’s Love is for everyone. He sent his son for us.”

### **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*

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](mailto: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.

**Our Daily Bread** is available at the back of the church  
Pick up a copy today for **Dec. Jan. Feb.**

**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](mailto:rector@gatheringtable.ca)



**2024 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 2023 you will find a personalized box of 2024 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](mailto: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

**Church Calendars Available Today in the Parish Hall. See Roberta** Please let the office know, if you would like a 2024 Church Calendar, 807-345-6898 or [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca)

## **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](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca)  
Or call 807-345-6898

### **Calendar of Events**

Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.
Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day service – 10 a.m.
Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Food Cupboard Prep
Dec. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Food Cupboard Carols and Readings at 10 a.m.
Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Food Cupboard Prep
Jan. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Taking down the Christmas Decorations
Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Food Cupboard
Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Camp Gitchigomee Meeting St. Thomas Church 7 p.m.
Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parish Council Advisory (PAC) Zoom 7 p.m.
Jan. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Food Cupboard Prep
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Camp Gitchigomee Appreciation Dinner
Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Food Cupboard
Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Altar Guild Meeting 3 p.m.
Apr. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Camp Gitchigomee 2 Bit Auction
Apr. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mission to Seafarers Dinner, save the date



Join us in the Parish Hall today following the Service for some fun events, crafts, cookie decorating, Christmas ornaments, and snacks.



Gathering Table

228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

Email: [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto: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](mailto:rector@gatheringtable.ca)

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

Phone: 768-9865 Email: [gailx2@shaw.ca](mailto: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

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**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*