Gathering Table

a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada





Greetings In The Name Of The Risen Lord !'

Seen - Sa - gen, Sem na do wakp gan ning

Gathering Table a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant and Preacher: Rev. Ann Camber Honorary Assistant: Rev. Gail Clifton

Lay Reader: Rose Jardine

Lectors: Erminie and David Reid

Music: Ted and Donna Hamill and Singers

Greeters: Volunteers

Eucharistic Assistants: Alex and Sylvia Kostecki **Altar Guild**: Rose Jardine and Erminie Reid

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24th, 2022

7 p.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE +++++++++++

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.

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*

Processional Carol: CP 118 (V 1,3,5) O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Beaudry 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.

Music during lighting of four candles:

All four candles are lite first, followed by the Christ candle in the middle

Gathering of the Community

BAS Page 185

<u>Celebrant</u>: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires know, 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

A Litany of the Incarnation

Lay Reader

In joy and humility, let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying Lord, grant us peace.

You have said Blessed are the ones who bear good tidings. We pray for such blessings for Rev Ann, Rev Gail, Bishop Anne, and Gathering Table's ministry leaders. By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord grant us peace.

For thousands of years, through thousands of generations, by the love and works of thousands, today we continue to receive the good news of Salvation.

By the mystery of the Word made Flesh, hear us, O Lord, **Lord grant us peace.**

We live with so many worldly distractions that we are easily pulled away from the purpose of this celebration. Help us to better focus on You.

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

Lord grant us peace.

The miraculous birth of the Son of God, once in all of eternity, forever changed human destiny.

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

Lord grant us peace.

Humanity is led astray by its own wants, pride, and rebellious spirit. We see in Jesus Christ the perfect

example of how we should live. Help us to grow in our Christian lives so that we become more like Him. By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us O Lord.

Lord grant us peace.

We give thanks for all whom you have sent to us for baptism at Gathering Table. By this baptism, we are now sisters and brothers in the Eucharist, united with each person here and each person who has gone before. By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us O Lord.

Lord grant us peace.

Oh Lord, this world is divided, with greed for money and power being a catalyst for despicable acts of inhumanity to people, animals and the planet. Heal us, O Lord, through the power of Holy Spirit, for only then will we see unity, loving kindness and wisdom.

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.

The Collect of the Day

<u>Celebrant</u>: 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. **All: Amen**

Children's Time: Rev. Ann Camber

The Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from The Book of Isaiah Isaiah 52: 7 – 10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

This is the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Psalm: 98

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Refrain: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Second Readings is from The Book of Hebrews 1: 1-12

God Has Spoken by His Son

- Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
- but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.
- 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. The Son Is Superior to Angels
- For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?
- And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
- Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire."
- But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.
- You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."
- And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

- they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;
- like a cloak you will roll them up, and like Clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

This is the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Gradual: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

John 1: 1 – 14

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. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Sermon: Rev. Ann Camber

Time for silent reflection

The Nicene Creed

Presider: Let us confess our faith, as we say

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism For the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Confession and Absolution BAS page 191

Celebrant: 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 us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you

Offertory: Immanuel

The Prayer over the Gifts

<u>Presider:</u> Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the

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.

Eucharistic Prayer #3

BAS page 198

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

For Incaranation: BAS page 220

<u>Celebrant</u>: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices 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

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,

<u>All</u>: 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 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

Celebrant: 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.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Music during Communion Agnus Dei

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

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

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

CP 48 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (all 4 V) CP 130 Born In The Night, Mary's Child (all 4 V) What Child Is This

Candle Lighting

(Church Lights turned out and candles and tea lights on)

<u>Ablutions:</u> **CP 119 Silent Night** (all 3 verses)

Prayer after Communion

Presider: Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **All: Amen**

Doxology: BAS Page 214

<u>Presider</u>: All your works praise you, O Lord. <u>All:</u> And your faithful servants bless you. Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and the 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 whom 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.

Blessing: Rev Ann Camber

Tonight, as we celebrate God is with us in the birth of Jesus, let us continue to live lives of hope, peace, joy, and love. Share God's love with the shepherds you meet on the hillside. Let the communion of the Holy Spirit fill your heart with glad tidings like the angels. And the Prince of Peace born again tonight, may He live in your heart to comfort and challenge you as you seek to live as one of his disciples. **All: Amen.**

<u>Closing Carol:</u> **Glory** (Let There Be Peace)

Dismissal: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! All**

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

Church Office Hours for Roberta will be December – 26th & 27th *Closed* Open December 28th - 10 a.m. -5 p.m. *Closed* January 2nd / *Open* January 3rd & 4th, 2024 **Note:** Rev Ann will be away starting Dec. 25th after the 10 a.m. service and will be available again on Jan. 5th, 2024

Readings for Christmas Day

Isaiah 9: 2 - 7 Psalm 96 Hebrews 1: 1 – 12 Luke 2: 1 – 20

A grace note from www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

Sing to the Lord a new song!

<u>Anglican Cycle of Prayer</u> 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

<u>Please Pray For:</u> 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

"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 <u>prayerchain@gatheringtable.ca</u>. 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**

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 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

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

Church Calendars Available \$6.00 each

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

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

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

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.

2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWER TRIBUTES





At Gathering Table

In Thanksgiving for

Family, friends and Gathering Table *given by* Linda Rintamaki and Wayne Edmunds.

Family, and friends **given by** Jean McAlpine-Marler, and David Marler



Given to the Glory of God

With grateful thanks for the love of family and friends given by Al and Marilyn Chisholm

In loving memory of

Dale Sparkes **given by** his wife Sharon Sparkes.

In loving memory of

Hazel and Robert Johnson, and Helen & John Wolfe *given by* Carl and Roberta Wolfe and families In loving memory of family members *given by* Kostyniuk, Speer, Coda and Crocker families. In thanksgiving and love for our family, friends, Rev. Ann and all our church family here at Gathering Table *given by* Audrey and Neil Love.

In loving memory of

Len, Michael and nieces Tammie, and in thanksgiving for

the lives shared and memories we now have. *given by* Diane Hartley and families.

In loving memory of Phyllis and Edward. given by their son Murray Butler.







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