



Church of St. John the Evangelist

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Pastoral Letter for Christmas

December 21, 2021

Dear Beloved in Christ at St. John's Elora.

While it is deeply disappointing for us not to be able to gather in-person at churches for worship this Christmas, I see this as a gift that we are given the opportunity to express our love for one another enough to be able to keep one another safe and healthy.

Today is the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. As we anticipate marking the twelve days of Christmas in ways that we wouldn't have imagined even a few weeks ago, we are invited to hold on to the same words that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds: *"For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."*



Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God made flesh, is still our Saviour and Lord, born into a world that was dark, fragmented, and full of fear. I am reminded of the words in the carol, "O Little Town of Bethlehem":

*"Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight".*

May you bring your hopes and fears to the manger this Christmas in ways that you may never have before.

Pray and sing with St. John's Elora online as you are able from your home - your manger.

[You can read the full description of services that are live-streamed to the St. John's Elora YouTube Channel here.](#)

I look forward to seeing you online or connecting with you by telephone as I am able in the coming weeks.

I trust that you are keeping safe, grounded and connected with those you love. You are in my prayers daily, and I trust that you uphold our community, the churches, and those who work in health care and public health in your daily prayers.

God bless and keep you.

Faithfully in Christ,

Paul+

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