

Greeting Friends,

Two days before Christmas I find myself reflecting on the gifts that we have all received over the course of this challenging year. Back in March it truly felt like worship together on zoom would be a limited experience, but here we are almost tenth months later gearing up to celebrate the most sacred of nights from the comfort of our homes, rather than in the company of our families and neighbours in the pews. Yet, what a gift it has been to have remained connected. What gift it has been to be able to worship together not just with recordings, but with live services each Sunday. What gift it has been that we have in our midst Jenn and Nick and so many others that have shared their musical talents with us and made each season of the church that we have worshipped through seem familiar. What a gift it has been to have congregational leaders who have navigated this time with grace and wisdom, people like the chairs and members of our councils and board, our treasurers and all the members of our Ministry and Personnel committee. What a gift it has been that so many new faces have appeared in our midst, some we knew and many others we did not, but now are part of our families of faith. When you stop to think about, though hard and worrisome, this time has also been filled with so many gifts.

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for staying connected with one another. I want to thank you for offering your prayers and encouragement when there were hiccups in getting things started. Thank you for staying online when our internet at the church just failed and I was booted from the zoom services or meetings. Thank you for clicking the button to join each Sunday morning or calling in, because I too needed to see your faces and hear your voices. Thank you for caring for your communities and making the choice to stay online.

Tonight, and tomorrow night we will join in worship. We will sing the songs of the season, share in Holy Communion, light candles, and welcome the light of God's love into our world once again as celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This will certainly be a Christmas to remember and maybe for some one that you hope to forget, but in my remembering first and foremost, I will hold close the care and compassion that all of you have shared with one another and these wider communities.

With all my heart, mind, and soul, thank you and Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Rev. Adam Hall