



Rejoice. A Saviour is Born

Blessings!

I want to enjoy and remember this Advent/Christmas season with all of you. But, every year, I find myself participating in a frenzied rush with the rest of the world as Advent days lead into Christmas. Will I be ready in time to celebrate the birth of Christ? In order to relax and enjoy this sacred season, I'm going to make a conscious choice to slow down and show gentle patience to everyone as my Christmas to-do-list is gradually completed. On a daily basis, I'm going to be 'still' and listen for God's voice to help me. If you feel as I do, perhaps you'll consider this as well.

I like the Apostle Paul's positive words in Philippians 4:4-5, *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone."*

Because we live in a world that is fast-paced, filled with technology that gives us information and messages in an instant, we've come to expect instant gratification. Anything that requires us to wait requires a conscious choice to be patient. During the season of Advent, as we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ, it will require patience in more ways than one. As we interact with others, may God help us display gentle patience in our daily living as the beginning of Advent progresses into the joyful birth of the Christ Child, born in a manger once more. For we know, through words of Scripture, that Jesus, the Word of God, was born God incarnate.

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was 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...And the Word became flesh and lived among us...' (John 1:1-14)



With the birth of our Saviour comes the Word of God that gives us hope, and Light that shines in the darkness of this world. With the birth of Jesus comes the gift of love; God's greatest gift to us. We have the assurance of these gifts, so as we interact with others during this busy season, we can show the love of God through our kindness and patience. As the Advent gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love present themselves over the weeks leading to Christmas, let us give thanks for these most gracious gifts, for each week that we are gentle and patient in this season of waiting, we will sense a deeper meaning in the birth of the baby Jesus.

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)

So come, join us for this Advent/Christmas season, and together, we'll seek gentle patience in a fast-paced world, for the gift of the Christ Child is a gift like no other. It's a gift worth waiting for and it's a gift for everyone.

Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte

Blessings from our Church Staff Family to yours,
Mary Lynne, Phillip, Shannon, Robert, Shelley & Ruth

Christmas 2017 at Woodlawn United

Sunday December 3 rd	10:00 AM	1st Sunday of Advent White Gift Sunday led by Sunday School
Sunday December 10 th	10:00 AM 12:00 PM	2nd Sunday of Advent Bedlam in Bethlehem

Join us for Bedlam in Bethlehem as we experience the TRUE meaning of Christmas through interactive activities and crafts while building relationships and having FUN! Find Bethlehem in the midst of Bedlam! We will share lunch together (provided by the CD committee) and then participants will start their journey to Bethlehem. Families of all sizes, ages welcome..... as well as ANYONE who would like to join in the experience of celebrating Christmas. *Sunday school aged children must be accompanied by an adult*. Must **RSVP by Dec 6th** to office@woodlawnunited.ca or 902-434-8302.

	7:00 PM	Woodlawn United Church Choirs and the Fairview Citadel Salvation Army Band, Present the 30th Annual Christmas Concert (Free Will Offering)
Wednesday December 13 th	7:00 PM	Blue Christmas Memorial Service
Sunday December 17 th	10:00 AM	3rd Sunday of Advent
Friday December 22 nd	12:00 PM	Office Closes for Holidays
Sunday December 24 th	10:00 AM 4:00 PM 10:00 PM	4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve Sunday Worship with Communion Youth & Child Led Service Family Service with Communion
Wednesday December 27 th	8:30 AM	Office Reopens After Holidays
Sunday December 31 st	10:00 AM	Worship - Celebration of Song Jerry Jackson & Jim Farmer

Please visit our website and Woodlawn Calendar for further details
www.woodlawnunited.ca

