

## Christmas Letter 2022

Dear St-Genny's Family,

I have never written a Christmas Letter before, so I looked at one of Ian's old letters for inspiration. It struck me how different the world is on the other side of 2020.

While in 2017, Ian talked about how busy we are in the Christmas season and how faith is not so much about doing as it is about receiving, I wondered if we would receive the blessing of being busy again this year. I remember a time when it was commonplace to complain about being too busy in the Advent and Christmas seasons. I also remember the last two Christmases in lockdown, longing for the Christmas potlucks, bazars and concerts that allegedly kept us too busy in the past.

I am writing this letter several months before Christmas, in the wake of the 7<sup>th</sup> wave, and I have no idea if we will be able to gather in large groups this winter or if we will have to hide behind closed doors again. What I know, is weather you are allowed to let our whole family in your dining room, or you must drop of gifts on their balcony and wave from 2 meters away, you can still let Jesus in.

When the Holy Family was travelling to Bethlehem, they were looking for someone to let them in for the night. Despite the chaos, the crowds, the humble stable in which Mary and Joseph spent the night, Jesus came in the world and transformed it by bringing hope, healing, and an intimate knowledge of the love of God for humanity.

Christmas is an occasion to reconnect with this sacred story about God coming into our human reality through incarnation in Jesus Christ. We are invited to let Christ into our homes and our hearts and let God transform our lives, making us humbler, more forgiving, more generous, more loving; bringing peace and healing in the bustling business of Christmas activities and in the ever too quiet times of quarantine.

This season, may you let Jesus in and may God's light shine through you, making you a blessing for the world.

Rev. Joëlle

**October 9, 2022** – Thanksgiving Sunday – Appreciation Sunday

**October 16, 2022** – World Food Sunday – Baptism Sunday

**October 16, 2022** - We are holding our Visioning Part Two after service Noon to 3:00 pm. Brown Bag your lunch... This is YOUR church home and YOU have a say in WHERE we are heading and HOW we will accomplish our goals. More details to follow.

**October 23, 2022** – Peace Sunday

**October 30, 2022** – Reformation Sunday – All Saints Sunday

**October 30, 2022** – Imagineers Invitation - « Imagineers » is a word made up of “imagination” and “engineers”. I learned that word while I was doing an internship at Cedar Park United Church several years ago. -Worship imagineers are a group of people coming together to brainstorm ideas for worship for a season. This is not a committee with permanent members, but rather an ad hoc group that does not have to have the same members each time they meet. Please Join us to plan Advent!

Rev. Joëlle Leduc

**November 6, 2022** – Remembrance Sunday

**November 13, 2022** – Communion Sunday – Children’s Sunday

**November 20, 2022** – Reign Of Christ Sunday

**November 26, 2022** – Our Annual Advent Supper and Carol Sing

**November 27, 2022** – Advent 1

**December 4, 2022** – Advent 2

**December 11, 2022** – Advent 3 – Communion

**December (Date to be determined)** – Blue Christmas

**December 18, 2022** – Advent 4

**December 24, 2022** – Carol Sing followed by Christmas Eve Service

**December 25, 2022** – Merry Christmas – NO service – the church will be closed