

Christmas Day Responsive Liturgy

One: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

All: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

One: 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.

All: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

One: 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.

All: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

One: Jesus Christ is the brightest revelation of God's love. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

All: The true light, which enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

One: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. We light the Christ Candle because Jesus, the light of the world, was born on this day, and He brightens all things.

The Christ Candle is lit

Unison Prayer: Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. O LORD, your love for us was so great that you sent us the most precious gift imaginable, the gift of a child, a Saviour, who is Christ the LORD. On this most holy of days, our hearts are overjoyed with the good news which is for all people. As the light from the Christ Candle illumines our world, help us to remember that your Light came to penetrate the darkness and set us free from our bondage to sin. Help us to remember that your coming calmed the ache in our hearts and soothed the longing in our very souls. Help us to remember that with your breaking into our lives in a profound way, our souls felt its worth. O God we thank you for your Son, Emmanuel, and the promise of hope, peace, joy and love that He brings us on this blessed morning. Inspire us to acts of love and grace in Jesus' name, in whose name we pray. Amen

Presbyterians Sharing Mission Capsule

CANADA: Reaching out to South Asian communities – Your gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing* support Asian Christ Church, a unique mission in Surrey, British Columbia serving Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi-speaking South Asian communities. There are more than 500,000 South Asians living in the lower mainland alone! Asian Christ Church's weekly television outreach ministry, "Jeewan Kee Raah" (The Way of Life) reaches thousands of people, many who don't attend church. The program can be watched online at www.asianchristchurch.com. Let us pray for Asian Christ Church as it provides South Asian communities with a welcoming place to worship God in their own language.

PWS&D Bulletin Bit

Christ is Born! Even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster, hope finds a way. For 65 years, our church has been serving people around the world through PWS&D. Together, with partners overseas and Canadians here at home, we work to restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation as an expression of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love. Thanks to your support and faith in action, we are providing people in need with education, health care, food, clean water, small loans and the loving support we all deserve. During Christmas celebrations this year, may we continue to remember our brothers and sisters around the world. This Christmas, please support PWS&D. www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd

~ The response to the request from Hope Cottage for sandwiches has not garnered enough support for us to commit to this long-term initiative; however, some have expressed an interest in getting together occasionally to make sandwiches. The reality is the need still exists at many of the shelters like Out of the Cold, Metro turning Point, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission and Hope Cottage. So, we are proposing we plan to meet occasionally to make some sandwiches which can be utilized by these missions in the city. Please let Rev. Brian know if you would be willing to support this initiative.

~ Subscriptions for the Atlantic Mission Society's Presbyterian Message are due. The cost is \$12. Please speak with Audrey Croft if you would like to subscribe.

~ If you are interested in contributing to our church using PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) or would like to make changes to your current givings, please speak to Pam following the service.

~ Mark your calendars: We will be starting a 5 week Bible study on the Book of James beginning Tuesday the 10th of January at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion as we continue to grow our faith on our journey with the LORD our Saviour Jesus Christ.