



*Do not be afraid -
I bring you good news
of great joy!* - Luke 2:10

November 27, 2020

Dear parish community of St. Paul's,

This coming season is one where we would normally anticipate the comfort and immersive beauty of seasonal worship and music, along with the warm pleasure of parish social events.

While the horizon of the pandemic might be in sight with a hoped-for vaccine soon available, still for now, in the midst of the "third surge," we will be holding each other close in heart but at a distance socially, and our experience of worship and music will still be primarily online.

This Advent and Christmas will be like no other. It's not the path of our choosing, but this is the path God is giving us and one that we can embrace with open hearts. This was the path for Mary and Joseph, and for all who have followed the way of Jesus ever since. Many who have lived in convulsive times have found that indeed "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

I am aware that many of us are experiencing extra constriction this year, and I am also aware that our hearts are eager to be generous wherever we can. There are several ways, large and small, to do this. For those of you who are able, please consider a generous end-of-year Christmas gift to support St. Paul's, as our lack of in-person worship means a significant shortfall in our giving. The church gives grateful thanks for your year-end gift that will be crucial to closing the gap. An envelope is enclosed for that special gift.

Another way to contribute is by adding to the beauty of our worship with Advent greens and Christmas flowers. St. Paul's relies wholly on individual seasonal gifts to beautify the church throughout the year and especially at Christmas. While our overall budget is austere this year, any modest gift you make will be creatively put to use for our online/onsite worship! (Envelopes must be received by December 18th to be included in the published list of memorial gifts).

This year we are creating several additional worship services and parish events to help keep us close and connected through the season. Please look over the enclosed schedule of events, and then sign up to attend or plan to participate online.

The heart of this parish beats strong, and I so look forward to celebrating this upcoming season with you, full of faith, hope, and love. God bless us all with eyes to see Christ coming among us, bringing disruptive and liberating good news for all people, and doing a new thing in our time.

Yours in anticipation,



The Rev. Daniel Simons
Priest-in-charge