

***"Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:10 (NRSV)***



Dear Friends,

These words from the Gospel according to Luke remind us that the birth of Jesus is indeed good news for all people.

I believe we need to hear this good news now more than ever. We live in a world where we are constantly surrounded by news and information. Thanks to modern technology, we are now more connected with each other than ever before. We can learn about news from our friends and family, from our community, and from our world as soon as it happens.

But there is also a downside to all this news and information. Some people can become discouraged by all the negative things that are happening in our world, and they can begin to believe that the world is a bad place and that there is no hope for the future. Worse still, a number of instances of misinformation and "fake news" can make some people begin to doubt the accuracy of what they are seeing and hearing in the news and greet all news with doubt and scepticism.

So where do we go for good news in a world when we often hear bad news? And who can we trust in a world where we often hear about misinformation?

The answer from Luke is clear: Jesus Christ himself is good news for all people, and we can trust the truth of his message. At Christmas time we celebrate the fact that God has sent us a Saviour in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is a Saviour for all people everywhere. He wasn't just a person who lived in history, he is a living Saviour for us and for our world today. And he is a personal Saviour. He came to save everyone, including you and me. That means that whoever we are, and whatever our current situation in life is, we can trust in Jesus to be our Saviour.

This truly is good news!

Unfortunately, this good news can become crowded out by all the other news that is available to us, and all the other distractions in life that take our attention and our focus away from Jesus. So during this season of Advent and Christmas, I encourage you to take time to pay attention to the good news of Jesus Christ, and the fact that God has sent all of us a Saviour. By really receiving this good news, I hope and pray that you would be filled with joy and wonder during this very special time of year.

If you are able I hope that you will join us at St. Paul's during this season to hear the good news of Jesus' birth, and to celebrate with other Christians. This year we are once again hosting a Community Christmas Dinner at St. Paul's on Christmas Day at 12:00 noon, preceded by Christmas Carols sing-along at 11:30. All are welcome to attend this free dinner but donations will also be accepted. If you plan on attending please RSVP to the church office at 613-256-1771.

I would like to thank each of you for your support of St. Paul's during this past year, and I would like to encourage you to continue to be involved in and support our parish in the year to come. We are blessed to have each other as a church family and to be a Christian presence in our community.

The good work that we do through our various ministries is only made possible through the involvement and support of each and every person, working together as part of a larger team.

May God truly bless each of you and your families this Christmas, and throughout the new year.

Jonathon +

The Rev. Jonathon Kouri
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte
www.stpaulsalmonte.ca
e-mail: office@stpaulsalmonte.ca
phone: 613 256-1771



Services during the Christmas Season

December 22 - Advent 4

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:30 a.m. **Lessons and Carols**

The story of Jesus' birth in scripture and song.

Coffee Hour in the Hall following the service.

Please join us for fellowship over Christmas goodies.

December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. **Family Service** Eucharist with music

December 25 - Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Community Christmas Lunch *in the Hall*

December 29 - Christmas 1

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken)

10:30 a.m. **Service of Intentions** Eucharist with music

An opportunity to consider the year ahead and entrust it to God.

January 5 2020 – Epiphany

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (spoken - BCP)

10:30 a.m. Eucharist with music (BAS)

