



# Emmanuel Newsflash

www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca

## A Message From Rev. Roni

Today, hashtag #blessed has become a popular status update on Facebook and Twitter. It usually accompanies a pic of a beautiful meal, a gathering of loved ones, a memorable vacation. We sometimes say that we are blessed to live in Canada. We understand ourselves to be privileged, we enjoy freedoms that others are denied. Mary doesn't enjoy these kinds of blessings.

In Luke 1: 42, Elizabeth overwhelmed by joy, declares a newly pregnant Mary as "blessed". Mary is blessed but not in the same way that we interpret the word "blessed". As a first century girl, subject to child labour, vulnerable to a violent oppressive dominant culture, forced into womanhood at age twelve, her status isn't elevated in a worldly sense, when she becomes pregnant. Mary is not only thrust into womanhood; she is now perceived as a woman who has dishonored her father and her future husband. Her existence now becomes precarious.

Mary is blessed because she has a faith, that is mature beyond her years. Mary is blessed because she believes that God is fulfilling God's word through her. Life in this world does not offer Mary good things. Mary believes that through her God is keeping his word. God is keeping faith with Israel and by lifting up the lowly-those who humble themselves before God.

Mary is joyful because through the uncertainty she knows that God is loyal in love. Our estate is perhaps a little lowlier this year, as we imagine a quieter Christmas, maybe a little less festive. We may have lost loved ones this year or won't be with extended family and friends. You could say, "we don't feel as blessed". Someone not too far from you may be feeling a sense of loss.

Friends, we may not offer intercessory prayer through Mary, or revere her as 'the Mother of God'; however, she can still be our spiritual companion. Her faith can inspire our faith. We can rejoice with her, for God still fulfills God's word. With Mary we trust God's love and mercy through the generations. God is still doing good things: bringing comfort to those who grieve, feeding the hungry, lifting up the lowly. With Mary, we are bearers of God's love and mercy. Joy is found by journeying intimately with our Lord - the joy of the Lord is our strength!

Join us on Sunday December 13th, 10:15 am for a time of rejoicing. John will be playing some of his favourite carols before the service, followed by our Service of Joy.



Rev. Roni ask's you to email your favourite carols to John at [johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:johnkeithhenderson@gmail.com). At each service, including January 3rd, we will begin worship at 10:15 am with a medley of carols and will end each service with a favourite Carol.



**Rev. Roni** is offering a lectionary-based bible study on Zoom during the season of Advent, Thursdays at 2:00 pm.

"A regular meeting of the Emmanuel Trustees is called for **Wednesday, December 16** at 1p.m. in the Bert Passmore Hall.  
*All of the Covid 19 requirements will be in place.*  
Jack Page, Dalton Carmichael"

**FOOD CUPBOARD**  
**CLOSED**  
December 24 and 31  
Re-Opens  
January 7, 2021  
10am-11am

## THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



### **ONCE IN A LIFETIME GIFT OPPORTUNITY!!!**

Emmanuel United Church is producing a 2021 date calendar featuring pictures of the lovely stained glass windows in our sanctuary. Beside each picture is a write up explaining the symbolism in each window. This calendar is a beautiful keepsake for all members of Emmanuel, as well as a unique gift for family members or friends. **In order for your calendars to arrive in time to use as Christmas gifts the deadline is coming up fast so don't hesitate to get your orders in!**

**PRICE \$20.00 each; Deadline for orders: MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2020**

#### **How to order:**

1. **Submitting your order at church:** Print off the order form provided with the Newsflash. Fill it in and put it in a sealed envelope with either cash or a cheque. Mark the envelope "Calendar 2021 Order". If the church is open place the envelope in the Avgen Gift Card order box. If the church is not open drop your envelope into the mail slot at the church.

**NOTE:** If you are not able to access the printed form, on a blank sheet of paper, write the following information: Your name, address, telephone number, email address and the number of calendars ordered

2. **Orders can also be submitted by sending an email** to Elizabeth Henderson at [elizabethlovesmusic2@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethlovesmusic2@gmail.com). If submitting by email place your cash or cheque in a sealed envelope and drop it off at the church as described above. **Payment needs to be at the church by December 14, 2020.**

3. Etransfer payments can be made to our treasurer, Brenda Cote. Email: [euctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:euctreasurer@gmail.com) Telephone number 705-474-2607. Please include in your message that the payment is for ordering the 2021 Calendar. **Payment must be made by December 14, 2020.**

Stay tuned for further details on how we will get your calendars to you when they come in! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! - from the Animation Team

### **Advent and Christmas Services 2020**

**Our Advent services begin at 10:30 am, compliant with COVID19 protocols.**

**Advent 3 Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 126, Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; Luke 1: 47-55

We celebrate Mary's joy and her strength that is found in the Lord.

**Advent 4 Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>:** Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26; Luke 1-26-38; Romans 16: 25-27

We reflect on the angel's message of love and the power of God's love that makes all things possible.

### **Christmas Eve Service begins at 4: 30 pm.**

Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-14, 15-20

**Sunday December 27<sup>th</sup> :** Joint service with Trinity United Church. You may attend the service by phoning ahead and booking your spot. The service is live-streamed and available for viewing on YouTube.

Great worship guaranteed!



#### **"Known by Our Love"**

Emmanuel United Church shall be a caring, welcoming faith community, nurturing spiritual life and sharing God's love and grace as experienced in Jesus Christ.

395 Lakeshore Drive, North Bay, ON P1A 2C5

**Phone:** 705-472-1806

**Email:** [emmanuelunited@cogeco.net](mailto:emmanuelunited@cogeco.net)

**Website:** [www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca](http://www.emmanuelunitednorthbay.ca)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/EUCNorthBay/>

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/emmanuel\\_united](https://twitter.com/emmanuel_united)