

**O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

“This advent season we prepare  
to celebrate the birth  
of Jesus as a tiny baby come to save this earth,  
who came to live within our hearts  
to show us life’s true worth.

We praise you and thank you, God,  
for hope that joy will come.  
Free us from all the hopelessness  
to which we oft succumb.  
And lift us by your Spirit  
to be what we can become.”

(from The Friendship Book 2018)

Dear Friends in Christ,

There is much hurt and pain in our world. Sadly, greed, hatred and despair are widespread. We need God more than ever for justice in our world and for peace in our hearts.

During the 4 weeks of ADVENT, as Christians we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. This means times of silence and quiet for pause to listen for the heartbeat of God that is in all creation: **“Be still and know that I am God”** (Ps.46:10). This means waiting in patience and readiness for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to surprise us again by their presence. It may be a child’s small hand in ours or a sick person’s tears that kindle the spark of the Divine, as in complete awe we know God’s holy presence.

You will be pleased to know that \$150. was sent by our Bothwell-Wabash Pastoral Charge to the Pakistan Relief fund of the The United Church of Canada to help the families who continue to struggle because of the horrendous flooding in their country. Our Joint Board also approved \$150. for Kenessee Camp and \$ 150. for Breaking The Silence.

Thank you to all who contribute non-perishable items & financial contributions to our **Caring Cupboard**. Both Patty & Karen get so many positive & thankful comments about its presence in our community. Our thanks to them for their continued provisioning on our behalf.

Bill & I would like to thank the Bothwell-Wabash Pastoral Charge for the gift certificate that Dave Annett & Terry Smith presented to me for my 20 years of service in the 2 churches. Together, we have had 76 Baptisms, 23 Confirmations, 52 Weddings and 205 Funerals! God has blessed us richly. It is such of privilege to **“serve with the joy of compassion”**. (MV 171)

I would also say thank you to Shirley Robinson & her team for the delicious lunch & yummy cake that we all enjoyed on Oct 16—a combination of Bothwell Anniversary (156 years) & the Celebration of 20 years service.

How true it is that **“Your work, O God needs many hands”**.

Most recently, our thanks go to Marlain Wolfe who attended by Zoom, the Antler River Watershed Fall Conference. She & I will give a report summary of the details on Nov. 20 before the Christmas season begins. There was especially important info for our treasures, Dave Martin, Eva Cryderman, Dave Annett & Laura-Ellen Anderson.

Our Christmas Eve service will be a Joint Service at Wabash UC at 4:00. Anne Patterson, Ruthie Reid, Nina Reid-Maroney & Karen Smith are beginning to organize in the hopes that some of our children might take part in this very holy night as we celebrate the coming of the Saviour.

I look forward to seeing you at the up-coming services. Wabash United Church needs your support. Let Jesus come to your heart this Christmastide.

### **My Christmas Prayer**

I think of that night of olden  
and offer my Christmas Prayer,  
I pray it on bended knee;  
“O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,  
there is room in my heart for Thee”

**“There is room in my heart for Thee”**

Blessings to you and your loved-ones in this Holy Season.

Shalom, *AnnaLee*