



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

A People United in Justice and Love



A Christ Church Christmas Letter
61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth
Nova Scotia, Canada

December 24, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

“Between the dark tree-trunks, she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. It seemed to be still daylight there. Lucy began to walk forward, crunch-crunch over the snow and through the wood toward the other light. In about ten minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post.” C.S. Lewis
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Just as Lucy finds a lone lamp post that shines brightly in the midwinter wood, we too welcome the Christ child this Christmas, who shines brightly upon us. John writes in his gospel, “*What has come into being 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.*” 1:3-5. At this time of year, many of us are excited about sharing Christmas with loved ones and family, and others feel a sense of loneliness. Today, in Dartmouth, many people are homeless, looking for a place to rest their heads, just like Mary and Joseph did so long ago.



I am reminded of the hospitality Mary and Joseph received, even though they acquired just simple quarters amongst the animals. The nativity reminds me of our ministry here at Christ Church. As people committed to Christ, we, too, have sought to provide shelter and warmth for the stranger.

So long ago, on that first Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph, so young and anxious, had all they needed—friends in the shepherds, treasured support from the Magi, and angels looking upon them from overhead. Now and then, all the world needs is a friend, some provisions, and a watchful heart for others. Sometimes, all the world needs is the generosity of the Christmas Spirit all the year through. For us, Jesus’ birth signifies such love!

Jesus is among us, shining brightly. And we, too, are called to be amongst each other, like the lamppost in Narnia, to be a beacon for the lost, the broken, and the hungry. We are called to cast our light and God’s love on all we meet. That is the true message of Christmas: God was born among us in the incarnation, a small child who lit the world on fire and illuminated the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love! I pray that you and your family, and those you love, will experience God’s light and presence this Christmas Season and that you, too, can cast light in a seemingly dark world. A heart for Christ will always be a light brighter than the darkness!

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Rector

