



The Rector's Christmas Newsletter 2023

By Revd. Eimsook Joung

My dear Brothers and Sisters, in Christ Jesus,

Christmas greetings to each one of you! May the Love of God the Peace of the Christ Child and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be your experience during this Festival of Peace, Joy and Good will to all.

Advent is the beginning of the Christian Calendar and in a sense is the year of new Beginnings for us as a church! As your Rector, I pronounce a rich blessing on you, your family and upon your loved ones.

It has been two months since I moved into Regina as your Priest. I have come here answering the call of God to live amongst you and serve you to the best of my ability. I am slowly meeting the members of the Immanuel Church family and I am getting to know members of the larger community here in Regina. Thank you for your warm welcome, love, friendship and support. I am truly grateful for your encouragement and prayers.

I am sure all your preparations have all been made; the food, the travel, and the gifts wrapped and under the tree. Your buildings decorated and our choir well-rehearsed. Expectation has been growing steadily for young and old alike. It is Christmas, when together, we remember that everything that is good, and true and beautiful is a gift from our loving, liberating, life-giving God.

For many today, the idea of God may seem farfetched; others have an inner spiritual longing but seem unable to find a connection and even we believers can sometimes feel a little embarrassed by the Christmas tale.

Nonetheless, the biblical claim of Christmas is nothing short of life changing and world-shattering. For on this day, a Jewish baby boy was born in Bethlehem, in the Roman occupied land of Palestine, "will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

The goodness, truth, and beauty of God's Love in the Christ event has come to us in the person, of Jesus who is "full of grace and truth." As so many in our world search for purpose and meaning, I wonder what it would be like, if on this Christmas Day, all who call themselves as Christians named the blessing of God, believed the truth and lived lives that are consistent and authentic. Maybe we could really Be the Church and Be the Change that our world so desperately needs.

May the Christ be born in you this day,
I wish you a God's blessings and a 2023 happy, joy-filled, Christmas.

