



The Parish of St. Dunstan

the Reverend David Taylor
Rector

Advent and Christmas 2020

Dear Parish,

As we near the beautiful season of the Incarnation – Christmas – we are reminded of **the tenacious love of God**. God will not stop pursuing us or the wellbeing of this world. And so we give thanks and celebrate.

And we remain **steadfast**. Because this has been a **tough** year where God has seemed absent. Pandemics, polarized politics, racial inequalities, wars and rumors of wars. It is easy to imagine, in all this, that there is no God. Or that, if there is a God, this God is either cruel or indifferent.

But this is not the Christian Story. We **cling** to the faith that, despite the evidence contrary, God has created this world; that God envisions a beautiful future for this world; and that God works with us – alongside us – to prepare the way of the coming Lord, Jesus Christ. Both as a helpless baby and as a saviour whose arms stretch around the entire world. We are **steadfast** in this faith.

Still, it's been a **tough** year for our beloved congregation and the ministry we do here. The pandemic forced the closure of our COMMUNITY MEAL for a time. This meant that many people stayed hungry. We worked with the Diocese and the Province to re-open as quickly as possible and now the hungry are fed again. Safely and with good nourishing food.

Our beloved CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL, likewise, has had to rethink how it can offer the spiritual food needed to nourish the hearts of the faithful. We, again, worked with the Diocese and the Province to ensure that if people gathered together in-person, they did so safely. We also went online. Offering many of our programs in the safety of our own homes. It's been **tough**, but we did it!

And SUNDAY WORSHIP? Well, I am not the only one who misses gathering together to share in the liturgy, the bread, the wine, the peace and the coffee. Oh, the coffee! How we miss the coffee and the connections that come with it. Zoom has been a gift, yes. But we miss being with one another, in the same space, with the same smell of coffee. Yes, it's been a **tough** year. But we are, like God, a **tenacious** (a **tough**) people filled with Love.

This year, for the first time in a while, we will be depending upon the generosity of years past by using a portion of our CONTINGENCY FUND to offset administrative costs. Likely around \$10,000. And we continue to depend on YOUR GENEROSITY. As you are able, ***please offer a special Christmas offering to support the administration of the Parish and to ensure that the tough faith we hold so dear – that God loves this world – will continue to be proclaimed in years to come.***

You can MAIL THE ENVELOPE provided, DROP OFF a gift to the office on Wednesdays between 9am and noon, or use the CANADAHELPS part of our website at ST-DUNSTANS.CA/GIVE-ONLINE.

With Love and in the name of Jesus Christ, our Friend and Helper,

the Reverend David Taylor, Rector