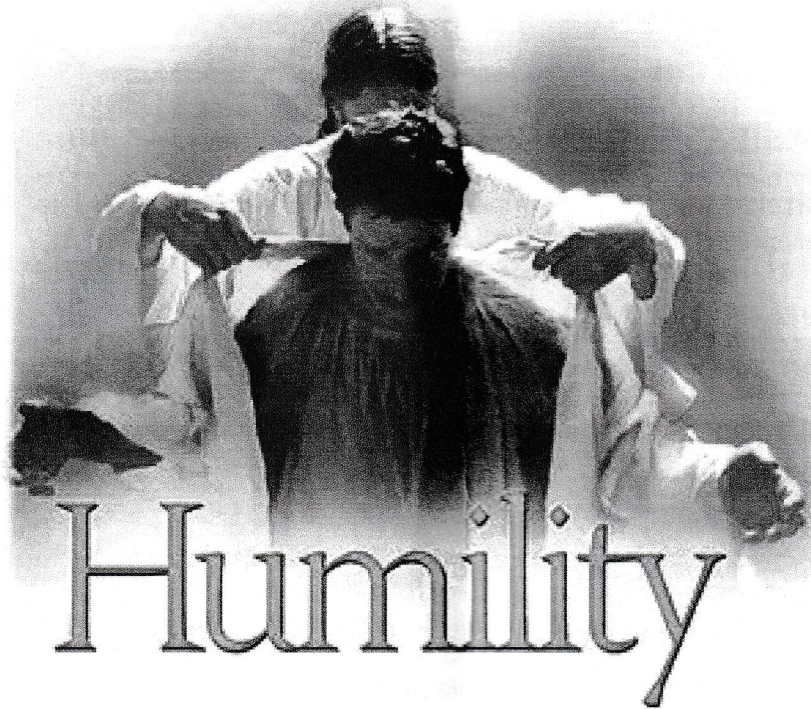


St. John's Presbyterian Church

1480 George Street in White Rock

December 31, 2017



WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Morning Praise

"The Snow Lay On The Ground" Hymn 157

"Infant Lowly, Infant Holy." Hymn 143

Announcements

Greeting & Call to Worship

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies." Hymn 177

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Matthew 2: 13 - 23 (pew Bible p. 1498)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Presentation "I Wonder As I Wander."

Sermon **"Imitating Christ's Humility"**

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" Hymn 151

Prayers of the People

Remember in Prayer:

Hazel Alden, Natalie Anthony, Sylvia Bleeks, George Boulet,
Pat Brown, Ruth Campbell, Sandy Erickson, Helen Garvie,
Jim McKee, Anne McNaughton, Carla Simpson, Alex Lozanski,
Rod MacLeod, Margie Stager, Maxine Watson

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Gathering of the Offering

Doxology Hymn 830

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

"Now Israel May Say" Hymn 85

Charge & Benediction

"Three-Fold Amen"

Postlude

St. John's Proclaims Christ in
Welcoming Fellowship
Uplifting Worship and Compassionate Service

Today's Greeter

Happy Birthday

Matthew Gold on January 3rd!

A Very Special Christmas Gift ~ December 21, 2017

"The Lord Loves a Cheerful Giver!" "Blessed are the poor for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God"

Ladies Fellowship & Congregation Members of St John's Presbyterian & St George the Martyr Anglican, what can we say? Cathy and I were so privileged and blessed to deliver the Christmas Hamper to the single mother and her five children today. What a visit! We were both holding back the tears! We were thinking she would be blessed but we think we were the ones who received the greater blessing instead!

The mother, and her five children, is presently in a "transitional safe house" for one or two months before returning to their rental home in South Surrey. This family has NOTHING but love. We were both shocked at the condition of this temporary home and how very little they have at the moment. They have very little food and \$10.00 in the bank. She is gradually getting back on her feet but oh so difficult and such a slow process.

When the mother and her grade eleven son and preschool daughter saw all the gifts, stockings and food, they were overwhelmed! Her son willingly carried the gifts into their home while the little girl peered out the front window. Both Cathy and I could tell that they're all in terrible need by their drawn out faces, grey pallor and state of their clothing and hair. We wish we could have taken them all for a Spa Day and hair cut! We were impressed at how loving and caring this mom is for her children who are very clever and GOOD kids! The little preschooler is reading, the older boy is at UBC and the other children have interesting hobbies and talents. This household has no tv!

She said they'll love to put together the Gingerbread House kit right away, as well as another decoration that needs assembling. When they mentioned they didn't have any lights and decorations, it hit Cathy and me when we were leaving that they didn't have a Christmas tree! We drove down a country road and found a country market called "Port Kells Nurseries." We looked around at their various trees and noticed a 31/2 ft artificial tree with coloured lights and artificial snow at the bottom. When we mentioned to the lady that it was for a single mother of five who had very little and that we had just delivered a Christmas Hamper from a church, the lady said she'd ask the manager or owners about the cost. When she returned, she amazingly told us they said we could have it with the lights and decorations of peace doves and red shiny bells for free! It was their gift to this special family! We were so surprised and grateful for their generosity!

When we took the tree back to the family at their temporary home, they were once again so surprised and thankful the mother then asked us where we were driving to and for a lift for her and her daughter, as they needed to pick up the ten year old from school in South Surrey. They all have to take the bus everywhere all the time! They are quite isolated and far from UBC where the older boy is studying and in South Surrey where the children still attend school. At the last minute she was given her lunch money and bus fare for her trips to her girl's school concert later in the day and generous Starbucks gift card for a family treat by generous donors!

The mother is so very thankful and grateful for all the kindness shown to her family from both our congregations. We think they'll be amazed when they open their gifts on Christmas morning and when they sit down to a Christmas feast and have money for food for the month ahead.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for all your generous giving! St John's Presbyterian and St George the Martyr Church congregations are so very generous and kind! Merry Christmas to All!

Bible Readings January 1st, to January 7th.

1 Kings 8:22 – 40; 1 Kings 8:41 – 61; Ephesians 1:1 – 23;
Ephesians 2:1 – 22, Ephesians 3: 1 – 21; Matthew 2: 1 – 12;
Mark 1: 1 - 13

Session meets next on January 23, 2018 at 7pm.

St. John's Presbyterian Church

Worship with us at 10:30 on Sunday Mornings!