



## GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH

December 24, 2020

**Minister:** Rev. Tim Bowman

**Music Director:** Rita Green

**Pianist:** Jacob Greenan

\*\*\*\*\*



### ZOOM INFO FOR REGULAR GATHERINGS:

*These times and login credentials will remain the same until further notice, regardless of whether you receive an invitation.*

Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

#### Direct Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5410632113?pwd=eDhHL3ZUMkszcFArQzIyZ2lXbEEExdz09>

(Press control and click to follow the link.)

**Meeting ID: 541 063 2113, Password: 839660**

By phone: call 1 778 907 2071. After connecting, when asked enter the Meeting ID: 578 318 6702, and then when asked, enter the password: 839660.

### Virtual Coffee Time: Thursday at 2 pm or Bible Study Wednesday between 3:30 and 4:30 pm.

**Meeting ID 541 063 2113, Password: 123.**

By phone: call 1 778 907 2071. After connecting, when asked enter the Meeting ID: 541 063 2113, and then when asked, enter the password: 123

### Readings for December 27, 2020

Epehesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12.



### Hymns and Music for December 27, 2020

“Good Christian Friends Rejoice”, (verses 1 & 2) VU 35

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” VU 8

“Joseph’s Song”

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” VU 58

“Angels We Have Heard on High”, (v1 and chorus) VU 38

“Joy to the World”, (v1 and 2) VU 59

“From a Distant Home”, (verse 1) VU 89,

“The Welcome Carol”

“Hope Shines as the Solitary Star” (sing twice) MV 220

#### CONTACTING REV. TIM AND JEANETTE:

Please note the office is closed till January 8 due to COVID-19, and Rev. Tim and Jeanette will be working from home.

Tim's office hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 to 5. He can be reached on his cell phone at 1-778-791-3545, or email him at bowmantimothy@gmail.com. Jeanette is also working from home and can be reached at 1-604-799-5375. This is a Chilliwack # or info@gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org.

**Please note the office is closed till January 8, due to Covid. Rev. Tim and Jeanette will be working from home and can still be reached at the above information.**



### **Mid-Fraser United Church Cluster Christmas Online Worship Services**

We will be worshipping online on **Christmas Eve** at 7pm with live communion.

All are welcome to join us via Zoom.

Connection details remain unchanged from our Sunday morning worship and are available on your congregational webpage:

<https://www.saintandrewsunited.church/news/zoom-worship-services-updated>

or

<https://www.gladwinheightsunitedchurch.org/news/zoom-worship-services-and-coffee-times-updated>

### **Christmas Day Open House**

Join us on Christmas day for our “open house” from 10am-3pm on Zoom, with various clergy and lay people monitoring the platform. From 11am-noon children are more than welcome to chat about their gifts and share stories. Noon till 1pm we will take requests for carol singing, and the other blocks of time will be filled with regular chatting and visiting, poems, readings, and other fireside conversation so that we don't feel so isolated on this special day. Please join us.

Christmas day open  
house Join Zoom  
Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83237304353?pwd=ckVSYnhKbXV3OG5yM08zYkI3Q2ZDZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 3730 4353  
Passcode: 33737  
+1 778 907 2071 Canada  
Meeting ID: 832 3730 4353  
Passcode: 33737

### **Readings for December 24, 2020**

Luke 2:1-5

Luke 2:6-20

Matthew 2:7-12



### **Hymns and Music for December 24, 2020**

“Hope is a Star” VU 7

“O Come all Ye Faithful” VU 60

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” VU 64

“Once in Royal David's City” VU 62

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain” VU 43

“What Child is This?” VU 74

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” VU 48

“The Lords Prayer” (Sung)

“In the Bleak Midwinter” VU 55

“Silent Night” VU 67

## Prayer Cycles

Each Prayer Cycle invites Prayer each week for a Community of Faith in the Region.

You are encouraged to name the community in your worship, to email a message indicating your prayer support, to pray for church personnel, and to include an ecumenical / interfaith focus.

**Dec. 27:**  
Boundary

**Jan 2:**  
St. David's By The Lake (SM)

**Jan 9:**  
Vancouver Japanese (Japanese) (EM)

**Jan 16:**  
Hartley Bay: Emmanuel (NM)

**Jan 23:**  
Chemainus-Crofton

**Jan 30:**  
Penticton



## A little humor from Patricia Lockhart



© Bored Panda



© Bored Panda

## A Christmas Story

\*NOTE\* - A little observation from our friend Kate Jordan about last week's story:

A family is where 4 pieces of pie will be divided so that all 5 members of the family have pie for dessert. And thus, equality is served, alongside the dessert.

### Sharing a legacy of love

When my mother died at the age of eighty-four, my four sisters and I were heartbroken. How could we ever get over the loss of this warm and loving woman, a talented artist who enjoyed life in spite of its challenges and always doted on her husband, daughters and grandchildren?

For weeks after, my sisters and I would meet for dinner, laughing and crying over old memories. When it came time to sell the home my mother loved, we spent many days in disbelief, clearing out her belongings. I remembered reading an Ann Landers column years earlier that discussed how many siblings fight bitterly over the possessions left by their deceased parents. I thought, "How lucky we are that will never happen to us." Somehow, we easily and peacefully divided Mom's belongings—furniture, jewelry, and household items—among ourselves and a few charities. Although I expected there might be a tug of war over her paintings, that never happened. Pretty good considering there were five daughters and four grandchildren. No conflicts, squabbles or disputes at all. Until we discovered the old nativity set in a box in Mom's closet.

I remembered Mom telling the story of how she acquired the manger. An old friend who did carpentry work gave it to my mom and dad as a Christmas gift when they were first married. My sister, Eileen, however, remembers it differently. Mom told her she found the crèche in a garbage can

belonging to Mrs. Bingham, the elderly lady who lived across the street from us.

Unlike some of the ornate versions found in today's stores, this manger was crafted from dark wood and completely unadorned—just a roof, a floor and a railing surrounding it. Though beautifully crafted, there was one flaw: one side of the double gate in front was lopsided. Mom filled it with three figurines to start—Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus. For many years after, she continued to add others—the Wise Men, shepherds, angels, and animals. As kids, we loved the annual rites of the Christmas season, especially taking the nativity set and decorations down from the attic and carefully putting them in place. When the sisters all married and grandchildren came along, they added new characters of their own to the stable, including a set of the three little pigs.

After Mom's death, when the nativity set emerged, no one was prepared for the battle that would follow. My sister Joanne was the first to claim the manger, insisting it was the only one of Mom's possessions that she really wanted. Her wish was granted. But when my niece Mandy found out, she called from her apartment in California to voice her objection. She was clearly emotional as she repeated a decades-old promise made to her by my mother: "Nanny promised me that I could have the nativity set when she was gone," she cried. "The nativity set belongs to me." Joanne felt strongly that as Mom's daughter, she had first dibs. Neither she nor Mandy would budge.

When the disagreement showed signs of becoming a full-blown family feud, we realized something had to be done. Enter the family arbitrator, my sister Eileen, who somehow saw through the fog. But as Mandy's mother and Joanne's sister, could Eileen handle this dilemma fairly? Temporarily, she set aside the emotion of the dispute, and thought logically. The nativity set was just a wooden stable, not an irreplaceable masterpiece of art. The beauty was in the eye of the beholders, the perception of two people who coveted a

simple item owned by someone they loved. Couldn't a copy be created? Of course! She would order the wood from the lumberyard and get someone to build a second manger.

The following day, Eileen went to Centre Millwork and stood in line behind several contractors ordering lumber from a young man with a crewcut. He was wearing a tag with his name, Brett, written in green magic marker. When Eileen's turn came, she had to shout over the sound of buzzing saws. She pointed to the nativity set in her arms and told him the story, explaining that it was causing a major rift between her sister Joanne and her daughter Mandy. Brett took the stable from her, held it up with one hand and laughed, "They're fighting over this?"

"Yes," Eileen explained. "I know it seems crazy, but it was my mother's and they both loved her very much. Is there any way you could measure and cut some wood so we could have a duplicate built?"

Brett said, "Leave it here. I'll see what I can do." Eileen left, hoping he could come up with a minor miracle. That's what it would take to satisfy the two women in her life that were squabbling.

A few days later, she received a phone message saying that her order was ready. When Eileen arrived at the hardware store to pick up the wood, she couldn't believe what she saw — two identical stables sitting side by side. Brett had not only cut and measured the wood, he had built a second manger. "I know you wanted them to look the same, so I added a couple of dings and flaws that were in the original. Hope that's okay."

Sure enough, the new stable had the same lopsided front gate. "Okay?" Eileen said in tears. "You have no idea what this will mean to my sister and my daughter. To the entire family. I don't care what this costs. Your work has saved the day."

"That will be \$3.75 for the materials," Brett said. When Eileen insisted on paying him more, he said, "I didn't do it on company time. I built it at home so I won't charge you for the labor." He pointed to the new manger. "I hope this helps your family have a merrier Christmas."

Eileen left Brett with a large tip and a big hug of thanks. When she got home and called Joanne and Mandy about her creative solution, they were very happy and extremely relieved that the problem was resolved. One phone call later, Joanne and Mandy had agreed that Joanne would take possession of the new stable as well as some of the old figurines—including Mary, Joseph and the infant. Mandy would get to keep the original—just as Nanny promised.

—Kathy Melia Levine

