

To: Members of the Congregation  
St. Mary of the Incarnation Anglican Church

At Christmas, God put his own life in the hands of a young couple, Mary and Joseph. God's strength is made visible in weakness. God is with the vulnerable, including us.

Having a baby in 1st century Palestine must have been risky even without additional complications. Imagine Mary travelling to Bethlehem in her third trimester and then giving birth in a barn. Putting a newborn baby down in a manger where animals eat does not seem very safe or hygienic, but it could have been the cleanest spot available. This is a picture of vulnerability.

Many of us are feeling a bit vulnerable ourselves this Christmas. The new Omicron variant is spreading and the December weather is concerning. For those masked and vaccinated, we dare hope to gather in person for worship Christmas Eve at 11 p.m. in the old church and Christmas morning at 10 a.m. in the new church.

In the interests of safety, and despite our yearning to reach out, we will not yet be offering home communion. Each of you who cannot come to the church services will be with us in spirit as we stand at the altar surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses. Soon, we pray, we all can safely gather and visit in person.

Modern technology allows our church community to connect electronically. If you or someone you know would like a pastoral phone/zoom call, please email or call the Rev. Doug at 778-678-2126, Rev. Wally at 250-888-6376, or the office at 250-474-4119.

After almost two years of the pandemic, we remain a vibrant community.  
Thanks be to God!



The Rev. Doug Friesen  
Interim Priest



The Rev. Wally Eamer  
Deacon

p.s. It has been a pleasure to worship with you at St Mary's since Advent 1. I look forward to being with you until Pentecost or until you find a new Rector. I hope you have a joyful and safe Christmas and New Year.