

Advent Christmas Greetings 2019

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, (Luke 2:7a)

The Advent/Christmas season is upon us and the air around us is filled with joy and good cheer. Many people will enjoy bringing the joy of the season to others. That will happen through gift giving; through shared hospitality; or it may happen in quiet special moments in peaceful solitude. What I think brings the excitement to the air at this time of year is that Christmas eventually came to be what we do this time of year, because of a regular occurrence in life... birth of a baby. An ordinary birth of a child... An extraordinary birth of one who would be "God's Messiah". For most of us, having a baby in our midst creates great excitement for today and the future. Put the fragility of a new life into your hands and care of a human is uppermost in your thoughts. All this should not be earth shattering news to anyone who has had the pleasure of welcoming and caring for new life in this world. And that new life creates so much hope, peace, joy and love in us and others.

Many years ago, new life came to the world for Mary & Joseph. As often happens in our own lives, that new life came in less than ideal circumstances... a foretaste of the challenges that would be part of Jesus' life. And yet I can imagine the excitement and joy within them, holding this bundle of joy in their arms. It was foretold that this child would be very special... and so he was, as the stories of his life and its history have related to us. New life was born that day, and so it is to this very day, some 2,000 years later. New life is born in us, as we join in the recognition of his birth, his life, his death, and ultimately his resurrection leading to new life in us.

Please accept the greetings of the United Churches of Hastings and Roseneath, for this Advent and Christmas season. My prayer is that new life in Jesus, might be born anew in you this season. Please accept the church's invitation to worship the "Prince of Peace" this festive time of year, and throughout the year.

May the peace of God be with you, the love of the Christ Child enfold you, and the nudging of the Holy Spirit inspire you, now and always.



Reverend Jamie York
Hastings Roseneath Pastoral Charge, The United Church of Canada.
www.harpcharge.com

The Life and Work of the Churches

Sundays at 9:15 & 11:00am	Worship Services at Trinity Hastings & Roseneath
Sunday December 22	Sacrament of Holy Communion at both churches
Tuesday December 24	Christmas Eve Family Worship Services
	5:30 pm Roseneath & 7:00 pm Hastings
Sunday December 29	Season of Christmas Worship at Hastings & Roseneath