

## The Parish of St. Peter (Upper Gullies)

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“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.” Matthew 16-18



Diocesan Bishop:

Rector:

Interim Administrator

Parish Deacon:

Organist/Choir Director

Parish Wardens

Office Administrator:

The Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Peddle

The Reverend Jean Smith (On Leave)

The Reverend Irving Letto

The Reverend Dr. Bonnie Morgan (On Leave)

Andrea Powell

Ralph Drover

Robert Hilliard

Jack Morgan

# Merry Christmas



# Christmas Message

“She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands **of cloth, and laid him in a manger.**”(Luke 2:7) That was 2000 years ago — a birth that changed the world. It’s a birth that is eulogized in scripture, art, poetry, song and theology. And we are in church tonight because of that birth.

Jesus’ crib was the feeding bin of animals, but he had the most important thing that any child needs. Mary may have been only 14 or 15, but she believed her child was the most important person in the world. Joseph may not have been his real father, but he risked his life to protect Jesus from the cruel hatred of Herod. Surely, this helped Jesus learn how to turn the other cheek and reach out with respect and love to people his culture often despised.

“**There was no place for them in the inn.**” There’s not much room for many children born tonight in refugee camps and homes threatened by terrorism. Many of them will not live to grow up. But some will experience sparks of kindness in the rubble and turmoil of their lives and become advocates for peace and justice.

Sometimes you may feel as if *there is no place* for you where you work or even among the people you call your family. As you reflect on the meaning of Christmas, may you feel encouraged by the love and grace of God that is at the heart of Christmas. God doesn’t promise any of us a life without disappointments and loss. But God does promise to be a light in the darkness, a spring in the desert and a companion who walks with us in difficult times.

This is faith. This is what Jesus came to offer people. This is what the church has to offer you today. This is God’s gift to you. Accept it. Nurture it. And like Jesus, may you find in it the strength and courage you need to be a loving and giving person. **Merry Christmas.**

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rev. Letto".

**Christmas Home Communion** Rev. Letto has been able to visit only a few people for Communion at home in the past week. He will be continuing with Christmas Home Communion during the coming week. If you know of someone who would like to be visited for Home Communion and he has not contacted them to date, please let him know as soon as possible with a call to the parish office.

## Welcome and Announcements

### Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:  
O come let us adore him....

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
O come let us adore him....

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
O come let us adore him....

*Celebrant:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

**The Collect** Loving God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-Child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(Terry-Lynn, Roxane and Terry Baird)



*Reader 1:* During each Sunday of Advent we light a new candle on the Advent Wreath. Each candle represents a special signpost on the highway that God calls

us to walk through life. All four candles are lit this evening and the banners are hung above the altar. They are the signs of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

*Reade 2:* Once upon a time the angel Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary. He told her that she was going to have a baby who would be called the Son of God.

*Reader 1:* Mary wondered what this would mean, but she decided to answer, "Yes!" She said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

*Reader 2:* Today we celebrate the birthday of Mary's baby and listen again to the Christmas story. We give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth reminds us of the wonder of life and the promise of God.

*Reader 1:* We recall that when Jesus was a baby, the Holy Family became refugees in Egypt because they were not safe in their own country. Many children today are refugees and others do not feel safe in their own homes.

*Reade2r:* Let us begin our Christmas Celebration by lighting the white candle in the centre of the Advent Wreath for Jesus' birthday and for all children who do not feel safe in their homes tonight. As we light this candle we sing "Jesus Bids Us Shine." (*The candle is lit.*)

Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
Like a little candle burning in the night;  
In this world there's darkness, so we must shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine for a world of peace,  
So that all the fighting and the wars shall cease;  
All the world needs Jesus, so we must shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine for a world of joy,  
And he needs as helpers every girl and boy;  
All the world needs Jesus, so we must shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine.

Jesus bids us shine for the world to see,  
Like a Christmas candle on a Christmas tree;  
All the world needs Jesus, so we must shine,

You in your small corner and I in mine.

## A “Godly Play” Telling of the Christmas Story

**Introduction of the Christmas Story** (*This is followed by the children bringing forward the barn animals as the congregation sings.*)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**The story continues...** (*This is followed by the children bringing forward Mary and Joseph as the congregation sings.*)

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

**The story continues...** (*This is followed a child brings forward the Baby Jesus as the congregation sings.*)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**The story continues...** (*This is followed by the children bringing forward the angels and the shepherds as the congregation sings.*)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.

**The story continues...** (*This is followed by the children bringing forward the camels and the three kings as the congregation sings.*)

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O Star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding

Guide us to thy perfect Light

**The story continues...** *(This is followed by the remaining children coming forward carrying stars as the congregation sings.)*

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,

Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!

Christ the Saviour is born,

Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;

Radiant beams from thy holy face

With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*(The children return to join their families in the pews.)*

### **The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God

the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again

to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People**

**Youth Choir Anthem:** Do You Hear What I Hear?

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Leader:* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness: *Silence*

*All:* **Most merciful God,  
forgive us our sins against you and against each other.  
Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,  
that we may live in love as you would have us live,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen..**

### **The Absolution**

#### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **Offering Hymn**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the lord came down and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

To you in David's town this day is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:

the heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high, and to the world be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin, and never cease.”

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we  
grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever.

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you

***People:* and also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Question:* Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

*Answer:* Listen, and we will hear.

*Celebrant:* God of all life, you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea, the birds of the air,  
and every plant and tree; the life that sleeps in the winter earth,  
and awakens again in the spring.

You give us friends and families, busy streets for young and old,  
You give us your love, even when things go wrong.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**



**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving God, because you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.  
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

*Question:* Why do we share this bread and wine?

*Answer:* Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'  
After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of  
sins.'

So Loving God, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

*Question:* How do we follow Jesus Christ?

*Answer:* Listen, and we will hear.



Help us, God, to love one another, as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.  
And now with St. Peter and all your saints  
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.  
*All: Amen.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant:* As our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,**

on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, and says:*

*Celebrant:* We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

*People:* **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

## **The Communion**

*(All are invited to share in the Communion. The hymns during Communion are found in the "Common Praise" hymnbook Numbers )*

**Special Presentation:** Jerry, Jackie and Reagan Scott

## **Prayers After Communion**

**All: Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

*Celebrant:* Glory to God

**All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

## **Closing Hymn**

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (*Chorus*)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! (*Chorus*)

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (*Chorus*)

**Dismissal**

## **Announcements and Reminders**

**Parish Prayer Cycle** Please pray for the following individuals who have asked us to pray for them because they are sick or otherwise in need: **Rodney Andrews, Payton Best, John Bradbury, Janet Butler, Mary Dawe, Muriel Fowler, Brian Gosse, Deneal Haines, Mackenzie Jones, Marion Morgan, Glenys O'Brien, Pat Reid, Lucy Thistle, Chris Gillingham, Mary Bussey, Eileen Shaw, Violet Batten, Les McDonald, Fred Kelly, Rev. Jean and Jeanette Rogers.**

**Christmas Memorials** The list of people who have given a special donation in memory of a departed loved one this Christmas and/or to help provide the Christmas bulletins is a long one. Much care has been given to making sure that all names are accurately recorded in the special Memorial Bulletin prepared for Christmas. We hope there are few errors or omissions. We thank you in advance for being kind in the way you make this known to us and a list of these errors or omissions will be provided later. You are invited to read through the list of names and say a special prayer especially for every name that you recognize. A Memorial Candle is being lit during the service and placed on the altar in memory of all Departed Loved Ones. **May the souls of the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.**

**Holy Baptism** Two dates have been set for Holy Baptism - **10:30 on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 14<sup>th</sup>**. It has been the practice at St. Peter's to have a Baptism Service on the third Sunday of each month when there are children to be baptized. However, with the challenge re scheduling when we consider the variety of work schedules of people who work offshore or in another part of the

world, it is not practical to adhere to this schedule. Instead, the monthly baptism date is set when the first family desiring to have a child baptized in a particular month contacts the parish priest. When that date is not convenient for a family, we hope to be able to schedule the next monthly baptism to fit the schedule of that family.

**CBS/Paradise Interfaith Food Bank Sharing Tree** Although the Food Bank has completed the Christmas Hamper program for this year, Because the demand has been high it may have had to use some of its funds it had budgeted to purchase food in the weeks following Christmas. **Therefore, we are leaving the envelopes on the Food Bank Sharing Tree and inviting anyone who has not given to date to take one of the envelopes and make a special donation for that purpose.** Please make sure that your name and envelope number or address is on the envelope you are using and if you are paying by cheque, make it payable to St. Peter's Church. This is important because we want to make sure that your contribution is included in your income tax receipt that the church will be sending near the end of January. St. Peter's Food Bank representatives are Jim and Betty Howell - 834-9673. Thank you for your continued support.

**Year End Reminders** Individuals and groups preparing reports for the Parish Annual Report are asked to please try to have their reports provided to the parish office before the end of January. **Also the deadline for receiving donations that may be included in the 2017 income tax receipt is December 31<sup>st</sup>. If giving by cheque and you want it included on your 2017 income tax receipt, make sure it is dated no later than December 31, 2016.**

**THANK YOU** As the year comes to an end and the wardens, Vestry and parish staff begin preparing the yearend reports, we are reminded daily of how generous the members of this parish are in providing their time and resources to make this church an effective one. We want to thank all the volunteers who give of their time and energy for the work of the church, those who pray for the parish, those who pleasantly provide a helping hand when asked, and everyone who gives financially to support the work of St. Peter's Church.

**Worship Service Today – December 10, 2017**

8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

ON DUTY	Today: December 24, 2017			Next Sunday: December 31, 2017	
	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	10:00 PM	8:30 AM	10:30 AM
Sides-Persons:	S. Morgan S. Parsons G. Morgan K. Morgan G. Coates G. Taylor	D. Morgan A. LeMoine D. Pretty N. Andrews G. Halley M. Anthony C. Button	D. Bishop W. Bishop K. Pack G. Pack K. Scott B. Scott A. Spracklin D. Scott	A Morgan D. Morgan	. B. Howell S. Baird, T. Baird R. Hilliard J. White J. Howell R. Drover G. Hiscock
Eucharist Assistant	Annette Stone	Annie Scott	Emily Pretty	Amy Anthony	Dennis Morgan
Servers' Guild:	M. Greenslade				M. Greenslade
Altar Guild	Barbara E, Carmel H, Karen W, Betty M, Elaine M.			<b>BAPTISM TODAY:</b> Margaret M, Joan L, Annette L, Brenda L, Joyce D.	

**Thank You Fellowship Band**

A very sincere thank you goes out to all the members of St. Peter's Fellowship Band who performed their Christmas Concert last Sunday evening in the parish hall. We are also very grateful to the special guests who took time from their busy schedules to come and perform for us. Last, but not least, the full house enjoyed an outstanding visit from **THE MUMMERS**. Everyone's efforts are truly appreciated and we look forward to your next appearance.