



Merry Christmas

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
to men on who his favor rests" ~ Luke 2:14*

Sunday December 25, 2021

CHRISTMAS DAY

Welcome! We are so glad that you have chosen to attend Niagara UM today! If you have any questions or would like to learn about what happens on a Sunday morning please visit the Welcome Center desk in the foyer or ask an usher.

All in-person services are "Live Streamed"

[Click here](#) to watch live.

[Click here](#) to watch archived videos during the week.

Worship Service at 10:45 am

Welcome

John Tiessen

Worship

Advent Candle Lighting

Scripture

Luke 2:1 – 21

Sermon

"Telling our Christmas Story "

John Tiessen

Benediction

Closing Song

*YOU'RE INVITED TO TAKE HOME COOKIES PROVIDED BY WESTVIEW, AS A
THANK-YOU FOR OUR SUPPORT OF THIER HOLIDAY PROGRAMMING.*

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE NUMC STAFF

“Together is a wonderful place to be!” After 2 years of living through a global pandemic, we can all relate to that simple quote. Through the long months of separation from those we love, and isolation from community, we have come to appreciate on a whole new level what a wonderful gift we have in Jesus, our Immanuel, God with us — not just with each of us individually, but with us together.

Back in November, we were warned that pandemic-related worker shortages, combined with natural disasters, would result in supply chain issues that might keep us from getting the things we want for Christmas. But the prevailing sentiment seems to be that all we really want, really need, is to be together. As a new COVID variant began to spread, the big question everyone was concerned about was, “Will we still be able to gather for Christmas?”.

Since the beginning of time, man has valued community; humans have sought connection with each other and with something or Someone greater. Despite so many centuries of us trying to reach the Divine — I think of the pyramids, Stone Henge, towering cathedral spires,... — it was God who showed us how much He longs to be with us: He gave up His Divine Otherness, and took on flesh and blood, a heart that beats, nerve endings that feel. He was born into a human family, in humble surroundings — no barriers, no physical distance, no mask. He made Himself touchable, vulnerable to be either loved, or rejected. We will never be able to fully comprehend how miraculous this is. But in our togetherness with each other, we get a sense for how good it is!

Let us give thanks this Christmas for vaccines that make our coming together possible again, for the scientists who develop them, for the health workers who have been working so hard to take care of us, and for the love of family & friends that has endured through the tough, lonely times. In this season and in the coming year, let us keep our eyes and ears open, hearts and hands ready, to respond to the needs of those who remain isolated & alone. Let us keep praying for healing for this troubled world, and let us praise God for the gift of His Son who, by His Spirit in us, comes to be with us here & now!

May God bless you with Joy, Love & Hope in these festive days, and throughout the coming year!

~ The NUMC Staff ~

Daniel Janzen, Chris Hutton, Renate Dau Klaassen,
Rachael Peters, Emily Fieguth, Zach & Nancy Dube

