



Rejoice

**"Restore us, O God; let Your face shine,
that we may be saved." ~ Psalm 80:3**

Niagara United Mennonite Church

Called to be Servants of Christ in Our Community

"The Light Breaks Forth"

A Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols

Welcome

Announcements & Family News

Advent Candle Lighting

Opening Prayer

Introduction

The Light of the First Morning

Genesis 1:1-5

HWB 46 "I sing the mighty power of God" - Renate

The Light that Shines in Darkness

Isaiah 9:2-7

HWB 178 "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

The Light of Peace

Isaiah 11:1-9

HWB 211 "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

The Light of the Word

John 1:1-14

The Light of Gabriel

Luke 1:26-35, 38

HWB 193 "Silent night"

The Light of New Life

Luke 2:1-7

HWB 191 "O little town of Bethlehem"

The Light of the Good Shepherd

Luke 2:8-16

HWB 201 "Hark! the herald angels sing"

The Light of the Star

Matthew 2:1-12

HWB 218 "As with gladness men of old", vs. 1 & 3

The Light of a New Heaven and a New Earth

Revelation 21:1-7

HWB 218 "As with gladness men of old", vs. 4 & 5

Closing

Readers: Joachim Dau, Pastor Daniel Janzen, John Tiessen

Song Leader: Pastor Renate Dau Klaassen

Pianist: Marlene Borzychowski



Our Advent theme for this year has been Restoration is Near. We have been called to Watch for, to Prepare for, to Tell and to Trust that God's restoration is at hand. Today on Christmas Day, we are called to Rejoice because God's restoration has begun with birth of a child.

We are surprised once again at the way the story has unfolded, by the way that God's presence returns to his people in the form of human baby born to obscure parents in the hinterlands of Galilee – far from Temple, the place where God's presence used to dwell, far from Jerusalem, the city that God had formerly chosen for himself, and far from the Davidic ruling family of old.

In Matthew 1, our scripture on 4th Advent, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to tell him that the child of Mary, his wife, is to be God's servant. This is beginning of God's restoration plan for all the world – that God is with us!

One of our Christmas Day scripture readings comes from John 1:1-14, in which we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

This passage reminds us that Jesus has been central to God's work and plans from the beginning, to reveal God the Father to us and his everlasting love and presence in a new and glorious way – God with us, God one of us, God in human form –Jesus.

Restoration is Here because Jesus has arrived –and we rejoice!

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Spirit fill your hearts and homes this Christmas Day and in 2023.

~ The NUMC Staff ~

*Zach & Nancy Dube, Emily Fieguth, Chris Hutton,
Daniel & Ana Janzen, Renate Dau Klaassen*

Within Red Brick Church ...

2022: Have you seen God?

4:00-5:00 p.m. New Years Eve, let's gather around tables to reflect on the past year and share how we have encountered God in the past year. Bring a favourite dish of party finger-food to add to the buffet table!

Praying in the New Year

On Sunday, Jan. 1st, 10:45-11:45 a.m., there will be a prayer time led by Pastor Renate. Come, and share in prayer or just sit in quiet contemplation, as we seek God's will and provision for the coming year. The regular monthly prayer times preceding the Church Board meetings will resume in February. A prayer guide is issued at each of these gatherings, and extra copies are available at the welcome desk or the church office for anyone to use as a resource for our personal prayer times as we lift up to God our faith family, the wider community and the world.

Financial Update ...

To date \$360,227 received, \$73,548 required to meet expense obligations of \$433,775. We remind those that donate by cash or cheques that we should receive these donations no later than Friday December 30 in order for them to be deposited within the 2022 calendar year. Those who prefer text or E-transfers donations, those can be received up to December 31 to process them with the 2022 calendar year.

Administration ...

Church Offices Closed December 24 - January 2

The church offices will be closed while the staff are off during the Christmas break. Pastoral issues, please contact Daniel Janzen at 905-246-8031.

Mennonite Church Easter Canada ...

The Fall 2022 edition of *Sprout* is available at the Welcome Centre. Copies were taken to those living at Pleasant Manor.

Mennonite Burial Society ...

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held both in person at Scott Street Church (www.scottstchurch.ca) and online <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7404216638> on Saturday, January 14, 2023 at 2 pm. Agenda will be similar to past AGMs, discussing 2022 results, 2023 levies and benefit payments, and future plans. Board and committee positions are available. Further details available at www.mennoniteburialsociety.com, or Barry Boese at 905-228-1850 or email info@mennoniteburialsociety.com