



## Canon Davis Memorial Church

380 Russell St. North, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

(519) 344-9531 - <http://www.canondavis.com>

NATIVITY OF THE LORD • December 24 & 25, 2020  
Isaiah 9:2-7 • Psalm 96 • Titus 2:11-14 • Luke 2:20

Dear Friends,

We are finally to the time when we celebrate Christmas, the birth of the Christ Child — the baby Jesus.

But things are different this year than any in our memories. We are marking one of the most important events in the history of the earth. Christians and others find themselves looking forward to honouring this event by following the many traditions that have been handed down throughout history.

This is because we are awed by the knowledge that Jesus is the Son of the living God, also known as Emmanuel, God with us. We are deeply moved by the demonstration of the extreme love expressed by this baby as he was willing ultimately to give his life for all of us.

And more than this, the Baby Jesus reveals to all who would listen, truths about life that totally contrast with the wisdom of the rest of the world. Christ reveals to those with open minds how riches, power, land holdings, huge armies, sharp and clever tongues, and so much more are not keys to better ways of living — better societies.

Instead, we worship the supreme God of all creation. In sending the baby Jesus to minister and serve humankind, God starts out by celebrating that which is small and seemingly insignificant in the scheme of things. Who would have ever guessed the importance of this birth? The baby was small and easily dismissed as just another baby born of impoverished parents. God often works through the small, the insignificant, the powerless, and the weak. And for those people who do not accept the value of the insignificant, they are in for stunning surprises. As Bishop Tutu points out, God ultimately acts on the side of the oppressed.

We live in complex and seemingly unsure times. We find decisions being made that may seem inappropriate. Who ever heard of anyone shutting down churches from holding worship services? Some think this to be totally unacceptable. But in our case, this wise decision was made by Bp. Todd. This action is taking place in a time when there are so many viable alternatives and considerations. Jesus speaks to our hearts in our coming to understand how love moves in surprising ways. For Christmas still remains a time of

celebration. The essentials are still with us. Jesus is alive and with us even now, two millennia later.

Christ is still Emmanuel and remains with us every hour of every day. Church services can be brought into many of our homes via the internet and other means of communication. Importantly for many folk, there are many options also available for bringing friends and family members into our homes electronically. And yes, people are working to bring us to the time when we can gather in groups again on any day we wish.

Very important are the rewards of the efforts of so many front line nurses, doctors, and the research people who have brought us effective vaccines to help eliminate this coronavirus from our lives! Many people have prayed for this pandemic to end. Many continue to pray. Your prayers and mine continue to also be needed. For our heartfelt prayers for others are expressions of our love of them. Also our doing what is requested of all of us to help bring us to the end of this nasty virus is vital. These actions (e.g., social distancing, wearing masks, staying home, etc.) we also do in our love of our neighbour.

Our churches' are temporarily closed, but not as a rejection of Christ. We are reminded by every communication from our Bishop, that we are doing what we do in our love of our neighbour. This we do in the spirit of Christ, who informs us that we are to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

We worship an awesome God who tells us that love is the key to true life. May we rejoice in God's love!

God's blessing be upon you and all those you love in this Christmas Season and forever more!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray", with a small cross or plus sign to its upper right.

---

---

## Christmas Memorial Fund

Because of COVID-19, there will not be a beautiful display of Poinsettias in the church for Christmas. Therefore, there will not be a Poinsettia Fund this year to give towards in memory of our loved ones, and a printed list issued. Instead, we will have a Christmas Memorial Fund to give towards in memory of our loved ones. A printed list will be issued the same as the Poinsettia Fund list. Please note on your envelope Christmas Memorial and the amount. If you have any changes to your memorial note that will be printed please contact Karen in the office. Thank you.

---

You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

[tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC](https://tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC)

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at [revgregjenkins@gmail.com](mailto:revgregjenkins@gmail.com). He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

---

We are joining with many parishes in our deanery in providing telephone support to our members and friends. This support is designed to keep us up to date, while not requiring a computer. The CDMC Pastoral Letter will be read this week through our phone ministry.

A free phone line for prayer,  
reflections, worship and a  
reminder you're not alone.

**1-888-229-5422**

With love, from the Anglican  
Churches of Lambton-Kent

