

Christmas SHINES ITS *miracle* IN OUR *hearts.*

Christmas 2020

Message from the Executive Minister ***Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council*** ***Regional Council 15*** ***First Dawn Eastern Edge Regional Council***

This week, one of my children was in the middle of final exams. For her, it was very stressful. In a moment of being overwhelmed, she lamented that she was not able to retain any of the information that she was studying. So, we went together to her room to go through the material, and the comfort of knowing that she was not alone enabled her to take on the task.

This morning at 5 am, the alarm went off and I groggily got myself up and ready, to sit in the passenger seat of the car so my other daughter could drive herself to soccer practice. Not having driven to this new location before, she was very anxious. Knowing it was still night and snowing, I offered to go with her, not do it for her, but to simply be a companion in the car while she drove herself. She drove perfectly and found her way without my assistance. The comfort of knowing she was not alone gave her what she needed to take on the task.

There are many times in life when we need the comfort of knowing we are not alone. To be assured that things will be ok, in spite of the outcomes. If there ever was a time that we as individuals, as families, as community, as a country, and as a world, needed to be comforted, it is now. The uncertainty of the pandemic, the grief and loss of so many, the loss of gathered community, the tiredness of working and overthinking every decision, the heaviness of trying to do everything right to keep others and ourselves safe, the wailing of the broken earth, the crying of the hungry, the screaming of the excluded. The hurting in our heart and the noise of our thoughts!

In this midst of all of that clamour... "Can you hear it? Hush now."

*"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*



*When they saw him,
they worshipped him.*

MATTHEW 28:17

*“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”*

This Christmas, as we worry and wonder about the future, wisdom creeps in and reminds us that Christmas is the promise that was born that night to a scared, young, refugee family. The promise that no matter what, God is with us. The promise that the giver of Hope, Love, Peace and Joy is our companion on the journey. The promise that we are never alone gives us the comfort we need to take on the task of being the carriers of that Hope, Love, Peace and yes, Joy. And the clamour becomes the call for justice, and noise of our thoughts becomes our ministry.

Amen

Rev. Faith March-MacCuish

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