

# CALEDONIA CONNECTOR

## Serving Anglicans in Northern BC

### Upcoming Diocesan Events

#### Morning Prayer

Monday - Saturday ~ 8 MT

St. Mark's, Dawson Creek  
Facebook Page

#### Mid-day Prayer

Monday - Saturday ~ 12:15 PT

St. Andrew's Cathedral  
Facebook Page

#### Spiritual Journey

Monday - Friday ~ 2ish

Bulkley Valley Anglican  
Facebook Group

#### Compline

Nightly

9:00 pm PT on Facebook

9:45 PT on Vimeo & YouTube

#### Diocesan Service

Sundays

10:00 am PT on Facebook,  
Vimeo, and YouTube



## Watchers Awake!

by Bishop David Lehmann

Advent is a special time of the year, for me. In worship, the readings are rich and the hymns are bold. It is a time of preparation and anticipation. As we follow the lectionary, we hear from the prophets and God's promises of old, the call to be people who are awake and attentive to God's activity. "Be ready!" That ancient call that speaks rather profoundly this year.

### *The unending season*

To quote C.S. Lewis, 2020 feels like it is "Always winter but never Christmas." Or one perpetual long Lent, as that time where things first were suspended. We wait with anticipation for a vaccine and a renewal of our daily lives. But there is no clear date, yet, for the vaccine. So we wait, and again with only our households.



**ANGLICAN DIOCESE**  
OF CALEDONIA

## Follow us

Current new items and prayer lists are on our website and Facebook page.

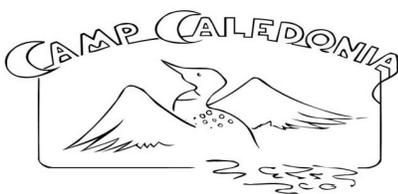


## Bishop's Travels

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of Bishop David's travels have been canceled until further notice. As we do not know when social-distancing will end, please watch our Facebook page for updates!

## Camp Caledonia

Like us on Facebook for up to date information.



[www.campcaledonia.ca](http://www.campcaledonia.ca)

## *Waiting as an action*

We are taught from early on that waiting is a passive thing. You are supposed to do nothing. Be still, keep quiet, and wait. Not all cultures view waiting as passive. It's rather active. We are actively not doing that which we want or feel we should be doing. We are intentionally putting ourselves to the side and waiting for another. It is not easy, but an important spiritual exercise. While it may be frustrating, boring, or tedious, it is an element of our spiritual journey. Advent is a season of waiting. There is a call to wait for the Lord's return. In slowing down, in waiting, we can prepare ourselves for this joyous day.

## *As we wait, be people of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy*

The Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy bring form and meaning to our waiting. We are people of great hope, for today and in the age that is to come. While it may not be visible today, we hope for a future that is bright. The future is also one of Peace. A peace that the world cannot give. A peace that transcends meaning and time. The message of the prophets and of God is always one of Love. It is out of love that we don masks, stay 6 feet apart, and have closed bubbles at this time. It is love that sustains us. Love for and from God, and love for and from our neighbours. Our waiting will end with Joy as we see and understand the greatness of God and his love for us and all people.

## *The arrival, begins anew*

In the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Father Christmas does arrive with gifts for the children. Our waiting will end, for Christmas is coming, and Christ will return. While we wait, let us pray for medical staff, first responders, essential workers, and all who aid us during this pandemic. Let us care for the poor, those in need, especially those who are alone in simple ways. Let us remind those in our bubbles that they are loved, and let us be kind to ourselves.

## Synod Dates

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic second wave, the Diocesan Executive unanimously moved to postpone Diocesan Synod. The new dates are **April 30th and May 1st in Prince Rupert.** (The change in location allows for effective physical distancing.) Details will follow.

## New Address

Diocese of Caledonia  
200 4th Avenue West  
Prince Rupert, BC V8J 1P3  
Phone: 250-627-1107  
Email:  
admin@caledoniaanglican.ca

## Ruby's Thoughts

Advent a Time of Preparing

I have to admit one of my reasons for cutting back on the goodies in Advent is to make it okay to munch mince tarts and shortbread at Christmas and still fit into my clothes. That said there are more legitimate reasons for disciplining ourselves in

## Prayers Before Opening Christmas Gifts

*Diocese of Syracuse*

The gifts are here, Lord Jesus Christ – and so are you!

For you come, as you have promised, whenever we gather in your name, as we do now.

We thank you for these gifts.

We thank you for each other.

But most of all we thank you for your nearness here. Amen.

*Author Unknown*

Lord and Giver of all good things, the magi travelled for miles to bring the Christ child the first Christmas presents. So may we, too, remember with thankful hearts the love that comes with each present we open. We also thank you for the love you have for each of us, and we thank you for the many gifts that you give us, especially the gift of live itself. Amen.

## Good News in difficult days

*a welcome and some hope*



*Advent Activities*

Here's a list of things you can do this Advent as part of your preparations for Christmas.

- Do a daily Advent Devotional
- Create a prayer list for people in your community that you would like to encourage. Pray for them daily and send a Christmas card. This list could include doctors, nurses, first responders, and clergy.

Advent. Our spirits like our bodies need to get rid of excess baggage. Fasting and other disciplines will help us to appreciate the feast of the spirit which Christmas provides. The wonder of the Christ child can be lost in the busyness of the season. We can fix that by making Advent a bit of a quiet time - a time to back off from consumerism. Perhaps like me you have stocked up on groceries because of the second wave. Here is an opportunity - use that little extra non-buying time for prayer and spiritual reading or... for phoning someone who is lonely? Give yourself a gift right now in Advent - come close to God and God will come close to you. (James 4:8). God will prepare your heart to say with peace "O come let us adore him."

*Ruby McBeth is a Lay Reader in the North Peace Parish*

- Write a Christmas letter.
- Go on a Christmas lights scavenger hunt.
- Leave candy in shoes in honour of St. Nicholas Day. (Drop off oranges to a school class as a treat!)
- Write a letter to a soldier that is deployed.
- Adopt a family or elder for Christmas and arrange to drop off Christmas Dinner and gift for them
- Create hope notes for next Christmas. (Imagine the difference a year will make!)
- Make a paper chain of prayer requests.
- Create a Jesse Tree, invite church members, family, and friends to contribute to it.
- Create Christmas Colouring Packages with Loot Bags to share with family and neighbours.
- Share pictures of Nativity Sets online.
- Bake Nativity Set Cookies and share.
- Have a Virtual Gingerbread House Decorating Competition for bragging rights.
- Sing Christmas Carols at home!

## Social Media

Please look for the Diocese on

Facebook @dioCaledonia

Vimeo by searching for the Diocese of Caledonia or [vimeo.com/user110118524](https://vimeo.com/user110118524)

YouTube Channel - *Diocese of Caledonia*

Special Christmas Eve and Day Services will be shared on all social media platforms.

## Tithing Options

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One of the concerns expressed is how we can continue to support the mission and ministry of the local congregations. Easy! Either arrange to mail in or drop off post-dated cheques, complete the forms on the Diocesan website for direct debit, or go to [CanadaHelps.org](https://CanadaHelps.org) or PayPal Charities and donate to your parish or the Diocese. For more information, please contact your parish treasurer.