

# St. Mary's Anglican United Church

Sorrento, BC

“Keeping in Touch” -- December 16, 2021



## A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. HEATHER HAMLIN-GRAVELLS

Have you ever felt like it is hard to find joy at Christmas? Maybe you have lost a loved one and you miss them so much at Christmas time. Maybe the long nights are getting to you. Maybe accumulated grief hits you hard at this time of year. Maybe you just want a chance to slow down and reflect on what is deep in your heart, away from all the hustle and cheerful Christmas tunes.

On Monday December 20, at 7pm St Mary's is holding a Longest Night service. Although not the actual longest night the sentiment is the same. A chance to gather and reflect.

Everywhere you go this time of year people are rushing around, shopping carols are playing in the malls, it is crazy – we are still wearing masks, talking about the pandemic while slowly adding some normal back to our lives, some travel, in-person worship.

This time of year can be difficult, if you have had a loss of a relationship, job, empty nest. There are so many things that can make us sad, tired, lonely, this time of year.

The longest night gives us a change to acknowledge the darkness and name it and name our feelings. It can help us to enter into the joy of Christmas.

I invite you to come and join us on Monday evening.

Merry Christmas from Rev Heather, Chris, David and Michael and Mengharapkan, our cat. We hope you have a Merry and Joyous Christmas Season. See you in the New Year – 2022!

## PRAYER LIST

Ken Finlayson	Amy Spruyt
Peter Grout	Mandy Gravells
Karen Grout	Dave Nitsche
Michael Shapcott	Joan and Keith
Ida Webb	Reuben Pauls
Anabel Strand	Len Lidkea
Ted Strand	

*This space will be for those in our community who we would especially like to remember in prayer. If you are requesting prayers for someone other than yourself please make sure that the person is comfortable with their name being sent out to others ... then email the information to Kathy ([kwk4141@gmail.com](mailto:kwk4141@gmail.com)).*



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Special Services in December

**December 20, 7 pm** Longest night.

**December 24, 4pm** Christmas Eve

**December 26,** a Diocesan Service is being provided on-line (no in-person service)

### NATIONAL LESSONS AND CAROLS

From Anglican churches across Canada

Lessons & Carols:

From Coast to Coast to Coast

Friday, December 17, 2021

5pm PST

online at: [anglican.ca](http://anglican.ca)

join the Primate, Anglicans and friends across Canada for Lessons & Carols: From Coast to

Coast to Coast. Registration is free at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/.../anglican-church-of-canada...>

### TONIGHT from the United Church

Tonight, please join us for "O Holy Night," a Christmas service of healing and hope, with Moderator Richard Bott and others. Join the livestream on The United Church of Canada's YouTube channel. Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

<https://united-church.ca/events/o-holy-night>

## Christmas Eve

Please note the change of time for the Christmas Eve service ... it will be held at 4pm at St. Mary's and will be a communion service.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Horst!

With the help of daughter Karen, ten minutes in the Thrift Shop and some more moments playing dress up!!! How about those boots, Carol!



## Outreach at St. Mary's

Last November we collected and delivered a very full carload of winter clothing to The Salvation Army. A thank you letter has been received from Pastors Joel and Lynn Torrens from New Hope Community Church in Salmon Arm. In their words, "We wish we could share the smiles and gratitude of those who will wear these items with you". Thank you to everyone who made a donation.

Twenty three poinsettias have been delivered to residents of The Lions' Manor and other shut ins from our congregation. Thirty one emails and six letters have been mailed to former parishioners and clergy. Replies will be shared in the new year.

" May the wonder and magic of Christmas fill you with delight".

Verna

## Vaccination Passports at St. Mary's

St. Mary's Church is asking everyone to sign in each week (for contact tracing) and to present their vaccination passport and wear a mask at all times in the church. Please practise social distancing, especially in the aisle as this is an area of possible congestion in our little church. This is to ensure that safety is enhanced for all who come to worship.

**WORSHIP SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON**

**10AM**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**AT ST. MARY'S, SORRENTO**

*Covid safety protocols include wearing a mask and presenting your vaccine passport.*

The next "Keeping in Touch" newsy-letter will be emailed on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Send any news items to Kathy ([kwk4141@gmail.com](mailto:kwk4141@gmail.com)) no later than that morning to be included.

