

CALEDONIA CONNECTOR

Serving Anglicans in Northern BC

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Mid-day Prayer

Monday - Saturday ~ 12:15 PT

St. Andrew's Cathedral
Facebook Page

Compline

Nightly

9:00 PT on the Diocesan
Facebook page

Diocesan Service

Sundays

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

Year-end

Please complete Year-end
forms that we emailed out to
the parishes.

Light in the dark

by Bishop David Lehmann

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5 (ESV)

I have lived most of my life in northern Canada. The days leading up to Christmas and throughout January seem very dark. There is almost an oppressiveness about it. Especially how it lingers on well past Christmastide. The days do lengthen, that is noticeable. But the darkness clings on.

It is in this darkness that I am reminded of John prologue. That epic cosmic view of Jesus's arrival. It is not the romantic view Luke offers, but one much grander. One that is linked not to merely Bethlehem, but to all of creation. It is a view that offers me much hope in the dark days. For it places Jesus as the permanent light in a dark world.

Darkness takes many forms. We all struggle with it in some form. Be it actual darkness and Seasonal Affective Disorder, or a list of other options. As I look around the Diocese I see people struggling with loss in many forms. Loss through death, a deep and tangible wound. Loss through the CoVid restrictions and fears of contracting the virus. Loss of employment and food security are placing a greater need on food banks and shelters in the Diocese, too. There is no



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OF CALEDONIA



Bishop's Travels*

January 2 Prince Rupert

January 5-7 Surrey, BC

January 9 Prince Rupert

January 16 Nass Valley

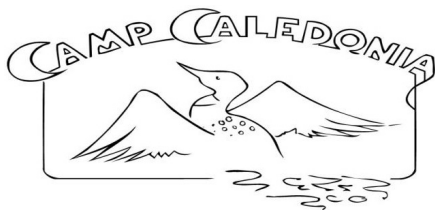
Jan 17-25 Fort Smith, NT

* depending of CoVid restrictions
in this 5th wave.

*

Camp Caledonia

2022 Camps are being
planned! Details of 3
camps, including a Youth
Camp are coming soon!



www.campcaledonia.ca

denying that there is much darkness around us.

Two things to remember is that we are not alone in the dark, and that the one true light has come into the world. Turning to Scripture is an excellent way to hold these truths and to connect with our ancestors in faith. We can also be light in the world, as a way to participate in Christ's redeeming life and light. Henri Nouwen wrote about being a "wounded healer" and using our darkness to be light. In these days, this makes much sense to me.

Aa this New Year begins, let us recall those dramatic words of St. John and hold on to the reality that the great light of Jesus has come into our world and our lives. Let us walk in the light and love of Jesus.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your image in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

Good News in difficult days

some hope

St James Brings Hope to a Refugee Family

by Laurie Cooper

At Christmas time, we celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus. We gather with friends and family to mark this momentous event. We light candles to signify the hope that Christ brought to the world and we exchange gifts just as the Magi brought gifts to the baby in the manger. But there is another darker aspect to the story of Christ's birth.

Jesus was born into a perilous situation. King Herod had heard of the child and wanted him found and killed. An

Ruby's Thoughts

Put on the whole armour of God so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *Ephesians 6: 11*

One day last month I was at the sink planning to remove the skin from a beet which I had cooked. The beet was in cold water and when I put my hands on the beet to remove the skin the red water splashed up on the white blind above the sink. I was horrified. I headed for the bathroom where I kept the Tide to Go.

With a wet rag in one hand and the Tide to Go in the other I doused the stain and started rubbing.

Unbelievably, the stain came off. In the end the blind was whiter than when I started. That is what God's love in Jesus is like. It takes our disgusting sins and wipes them off leaving us with a clean slate. However, as well as being amazed by Jesus' gift, we are called to replace sinful actions with loving action. (The beet gets the water drained off from

angel appears to Joseph and tells him that he and his family must flee the country in order to protect their very special son. And so, shortly after his birth, Jesus and his family fled to Egypt where they lived as refugees.



Earlier this year, St James Church made the decision to help another refugee family. Aisha Mhmid, her husband, and four children also fled a tyrannical despot who had declared war on his own citizens, Bashar al-Assad of Syria. Fearing for the lives of their children, Aisha and her husband made the heartbreaking decision to leave their country, their friends and their family to find a safer life. For the past seven years, they have lived as refugees in Turkey.

Aisha's two brothers, Ismail and Mahmoud, live in Smithers and they have been trying for years to help their little sister and her young family. In June 2021, St James partnered with Canada Caring Society to submit a refugee sponsorship application to bring Aisha and her family to Smithers. The application is supported by the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster and the funds required to sponsor the family were raised by community members.

It will probably take up to two years before the Mhmid family will arrive in Canada, but as this very difficult year ends and a new year begins, they have hope for the future for the first time in many years. This would not have been

now on.) We will need to put on the whole armour of God if we are to cooperate with God's healing forgiveness. As we add the armour God will help us gently along the way. Perhaps as the New Year begins you will want to read Ephesians 6:11-17 to refresh your memory on the whole armour of God.

Happy New Year.

Ruby McBeth is a Lay Reader in the North Peace Parish

Social Media

Please look for the Diocese on Facebook @dioCaledonia

Vimeo by searching for the Diocese of Caledonia or vimeo.com/user110118524

YouTube Channel - *Diocese of Caledonia*

2022 Calendars

There are a limited number of 2022 Church Calendars available at the Synod Office. To order call the Synod Office or go to anglican.gilmore.ca

possible without the willingness of St James to support the application.

So this year, as you sit down to feast with your close family members and think about the love and hope that Christmas represents, please know that you have made a life changing difference for a deserving young family. It is the perfect Christmas gift!

Laurie Cooper lives in Smithers and is the founder of Canada Caring Society, a non-profit that focuses on supporting refugees overseas and here in Canada. In 2020, Laurie was recognized with the MOSAIC Humanitarian Award for her ongoing work in refugee sponsorship.

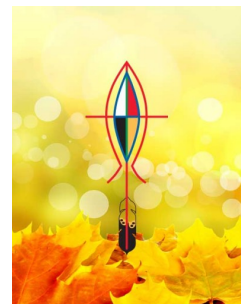
If you are interested in finding out more about how you can make a difference, please contact Laurie at laurie@canadacaring.org. You can find out more about the work of Canada Caring Society here: www.canadacaring.org

Tithing Options

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 or PayPal Charities and donate to your parish or the Diocese. For more information, please contact your parish treasurer.

Gospel Based Discipleship

Attached are the Gospel readings for January. Read the Gospel three times asking 1. what words jump out, 2. what is Jesus saying to me, and 3. what is Jesus calling me to do? The Gospel Based Discipleship book may be found at www.anglican.ca



Gospel Based Discipleship—January 2022

| Date | Day | Gospel | Colour |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | The Naming of Jesus | Lk 2:15-21 | White |
| 2 | Second Sunday after Christmas | Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18 | White |
| 3 | Monday | Jn 1:29-34 | White |
| 4 | Tuesday | Jn 1:35-42 | White |
| 5 | Wednesday | Jn 1:43-51 | White |
| 6 | The Epiphany of the Lord | Mt 2:1-12 | Gold |
| 7 | Friday | Mt 4:12-17, 23-25 | White |
| 8 | Saturday | Mk 6:30-44 | White |
| 9 | The Baptism of the Lord | Lk 3:15-17, 21-22 | White |
| 10 | William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury | Mk 1:14-20 | White |
| 11 | Tuesday | Mk 1:21-28 | Green |
| 12 | John Horden, Bishop of Moosonee, Missionary | Mk 1:29-39 | Green |
| 13 | Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher | Mk 1:40-45 | White |
| 14 | Friday | Mk 2:1-12 | Green |
| 15 | Richard Meux Benson, Founder of the SSJE | Mk 2:13-17 | Green |
| 16 | Second Sunday after the Epiphany | Jn 2:1-11 | Green |
| 17 | Antony, Abbot in Egypt | Mk 2:18-22 | White |
| 18 | The Confession of St Peter the Apostle | Mt 16:13-19 | White |
| 19 | Wednesday | Mk 3:1-6 | Green |
| 20 | Thursday | Mk 3:7-12 | Green |
| 21 | Agnes, Martyr at Rome | Jn 4:16-26 | Green |
| 22 | Vincent, Deacon of Saragossa, Martyr | Jn 8:51-59 | Green |
| 23 | The Third Sunday after the Epiphany | Lk 4:14-21 | Green |
| 24 | Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva | Mk 3:19b-30 | Green |
| 25 | The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle | Mt 10:16-22 | White |
| 26 | Timothy and Titus, Companions of Saint Paul | Mk 4:1-20 | Red |
| 27 | John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople | Mk 4:21-25 | White |
| 28 | Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Friar | Mk 4:26-34 | White |
| 29 | Saturday | Mk 4:35-41 | Green |
| 30 | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany | Lk 4:21-30 | Green |
| 31 | Monday | Mk 5:1-20 | Green |