

# Knox Knews

*Knox Presbyterian Church – Vernon, B.C. | Christmas 2019*



## *The Gift of*

*“For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and  
the government  
will be on his shoulders.*


*And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting  
Father,  
Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6*

It's the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as we celebrate Christ's birth with the Knox Church family. A time to be with family and friends, to enjoy each of our Christmas traditions: putting up the Christmas tree; hanging the stockings; placing a wreath on the front door; lighting the fireplace; and hoping to avoid the Christmas shopping rush....For some, it is also a time of sadness....remembering loved ones who have passed:

Christmas: "That magic blanket that wraps itself about us...it may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance: a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved."  
Augusta E. Rundel

JESUS said: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

KJV Matthew 11-28-29



*“I bring good news  
to you—wonderful,  
joyous news for all  
people.” – Luke 2:10*

## *Does “Merry Christmas” Really Matter...*

Is “Merry Christmas” a thing of the past, a greeting from a bygone era, a remnant of a past with which we no longer want to be associated?

We might not be there yet, but if current trends continue, we’re not far off. If so, it’s a shame, a further coarsening of the culture — and worse. It is yet another example of the removal of religion, specifically Christianity, from our land that has long been one of the most religious major industrialized democracies in the world.

Proponents of “happy holidays” argue that this is no big deal. They say the advocates of saying “Merry Christmas” are making a mountain out of a molehill. There is no “war on Christmas,” they say. But the “happy holidays” advocates want it both ways. They dismiss promoters of “Merry Christmas” as hysterical, while simultaneously replacing “Merry Christmas” with “happy holidays,” “Christmas vacation” with “winter vacation,” and “Christmas party” with “holiday party.”

So, is all this elimination of the word “Christmas” important or not?

The answer is obvious... it’s very important!

That is why so much effort is devoted to substituting other words for “Christmas.” And these efforts have been extraordinarily successful.

In place of the universal “Merry Christmas” of our youth, in recent decades we are wished “happy holidays” by virtually every waiter and waitress in virtually every restaurant; by virtually everyone who welcomes us at any business; by flight attendants and pilots; and by just about everyone else.

*If you think Christmas is important... wish all you meet  
with a joyous, Christ is born & risen,  
“Merry Christmas!”*

*“Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord.”  
– Luke 2:11*





# Some Christmas



## *A Christmas Prayer*

*By Robert Louis Stevenson*

Loving Father,  
help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the  
angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and worship of the wise men.  
Close the door of hate and open the  
door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift  
and good desires with every greeting.  
Deliver us from evil by the blessing  
which Christ brings, and teach us to be  
merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be thy children,  
and Christmas evening bring us to our  
beds with grateful thoughts,  
forgiving and forgiven,  
for Jesus' sake. Amen

A favourite Christmas song has to be "O Holy Night"...composed in Roquemaure, France at the end of 1843, on the occasion and celebration of the refurbishing of the church's organ. Wine merchant and poet Placide Chapeau, a native of the town, was asked to write a Christmas poem. Later that year, Adolphe Adam composed the music and the song premiered in Roquemaure in 1847, sung by opera singer Emily Laurey. Minister John Sullivan Dwight translated the song into English in 1855.

A Christmas classic, it has been recorded by singers as diverse as Enrico Caruso in 1916, Nat King Cole in 1960, Mahalia Jackson in 1968, and throughout the following years by Josh Groban, Celine Dion, Luciano Pavarotti, Andrea Bocelli, Mariah Carey, and Martina McBride, who all sang of that special night so many years ago!

*A song of hope and celebration...*

*Allow this beautiful Christmas song to wash over your soul this sacred season.*

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

# Upcoming Events



## **The Christmas Cantata**

Fa la la la la! Don't miss worship on December 15 as our choir presents this year's special Christmas music programme. Carol and her merry band of singers have been hard at work... learning the notes and the lyrics to celebrate Christ's birth in music.... come and be blessed!

## ***You Are Invited !!!*** **THE ADVENT SEASON**

**December 01 – Holy Communion (10 AM)**

**December 08 – Lighting of the Memory  
Candles  
(10 AM)**

**December 15 - Choir Christmas Cantata &  
Church Potluck (10 AM)**

**December 22 – The 12 Days of Christmas  
(10 AM)**

**December 24 – Christmas Eve Service &  
Cider (3 PM)**

### **LIGHT A MEMORY CANDLE**

Feeling the tug of loss this Christmas? On Sunday December 8th, we will be lighting candles during worship in memory of those we are missing at this time of year. If you would like a candle lit on your behalf, please contact Rev. Teresa at [bastorelle03@gmail.com](mailto:bastorelle03@gmail.com)

### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ALL**

Looking for the perfect gift? Look no further....the Session would like to offer you the opportunity to purchase small gifts, celebrating the talents of our Knox church family. Pocket calendars and Note Cards can be purchased for \$5.00 each....Act fast, as quantities are limited...(Cards created by Knox artist and elder, Mary Rypstra)

### **CHRISTMAS POTLUCK**

Join us on Sunday December 15 for our Christmas Potluck...bring your favourite hot and cold dishes, (and perhaps some Christmas baking) to share with the Knox family after church. Dress code is for **RED** & **GREEN** attire....there will be a special guest judge to judge our Christmas colours!

