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December 19, 2023

Dear Friends,

There is a line in the beloved hymn *O Holy Night*: "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn." These words speak of the longing and waiting of a world that is in many ways weary and worn out. A world that clings to the glimmers of light, pushing back the shadows, reminding us that there is more to this world than what meets the eye. We continue to pray for our weary world, our weary communities and perhaps even for our selves. We hold to the promises that a new and glorious morn has come and will continue to be revealed in our midst.

We have been on a journey of waiting and longing for a new day, a new song, a new story drawing us ever closer towards Emmanuel – God With Us. Christmas is a time when we re-tell this marvelous God story. It is the story that goes well beyond the glittery lights and tree, the gifts and special food. It is the story of God's profound commitment and love for all creation including you and me! God's love will prevail no matter what! That is the story of Christmas – God coming into our world in the form of a tiny vulnerable baby, willing to mingle with human flesh, walking alongside us, offering hope and healing to the weary.

Friends, I am excited to be with you in the Territory and look forward to meeting you in the months to come, and I do hope that you will have the opportunity to either come to the Cathedral for the consecration on January 25th at 2pm or join us online. We have been waiting and longing for this new chapter, our new story together as the people of God. We have learned along the way that Emmanuel – God With Us has always been with us and will continue to be with us to the end of the ages.

May you find a fresh sense of wonder and awe as you hear the story once again of God who came to show us the depth of God's love. May this story inspire you and offer you hope in the year to come. Know that my prayers will be with you as we celebrate the season of Christmas!

In Christ's Service,

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Clara Plamondon
Bishop-Elect
Territory of the People