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Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year we make our way through the season of Advent, filled with hope and expectation. It is the kind of hope that is more than wishful thinking. It is the deep conviction that our faith is built on – a promise that God made long ago. A promise revealed to us in a profound way when Christ came into our world in human flesh. Christ is the fulfillment of all that God has imagined for us and all creation. It is almost too wonderful to grasp: a love that has no end!

As we prepare to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas, I pray that the light of Christ will shine brightly in and through you; in your gatherings, in your worship and in all that you do in service to those around you. May that light fill those who will come through our doors, perhaps for the first time this year.

I know that you have worked hard preparing for the many special events and services this season. Thank you for your countless hours of service and ministry. We look forward to welcoming every person who finds themselves entering our churches this Christmas Season. May they find a welcoming space, ready to make room for them, knowing that God has led them to us for a reason. We remember those around us who may not have loved ones nearby, or find themselves alone for the first time this Christmas, especially if they have experienced a loss.

In a world where there continues to be so much heartache and suffering, we cling to what we know to be true: that Christ is with us always. We may not have answers or solutions, but we can hold on to the hope that God has not given up on us or our world. It means that we too cannot give up on our world, and that we have something to offer. May this hope carry us into the next year filled with grace and compassion.

You are in my heart and in my prayers as we celebrate this glorious season! Blessings and a Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

In Christ's Service,



The Rt. Rev. Clara Plamondon
Bishop – Territory of the People