

To all of our dear friends, we encircle you with God's love and peace ---

CELEBRATING EMMANUEL: "GOD WITH US"

We imagine that the sky was lit up like a Christmas tree the night Jesus was born, that the babe's mewls were the only melody that anointed the silence, and that a profound peace settled like snow upon the land. Jesus' birth baptized everything with the grace of Emmanuel, God with us. All was transformed.

Ultimately, Christmas is about the transformation of flesh into spirit, of mire into meaning. It is about the transformation of space, be it the space of the heart, of workspace, or of living space. The new workspace of Becoming Neighbours, we have discovered, is a most wondrous space of transformation. When Immigration Canada told our Argentinian friends that there was no room for them in the country, our workspace, thanks to your generosity, made room for 30 suitcases that would help Paulo and Andrea make their heart-breaking move. When the Latina Women's Circle had their "*fiesta de Navidad*," the room took the form of prayer, warmth, food, friends and song. Still today, our work space has two tables brimming over with expressions of your care.

During these days of the Festival of Lights, our new workspace has taken on the form of the heart, a "piazza," a space immune to constriction, and which grows larger and is enriched with mutuality, hospitality and inclusivity. With your prayer, presence, and solidarity, you join with us in being "artisans of peace" and hope, and for this, we give thanks to God!

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and magi are home,
when the shepherds are with their flocks
the work of Christmas begins ---



to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to bring peace
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to recognize one another as **Neighbour**.

— Howard Thurman

NOW OUR WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS ---

Together in the days of 2019, let us be "artisans of peace"
for our dear neighbour and for our earth.



Lois Anne Bordowitz, FCJ



Peter McKenna, SCJ