

**A Christmas Message from Bishop Susan Johnson – Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Archbishop Linda Nicholls – Primate, Anglican Church of Canada**

*From Manger Square, Bethlehem, December 2022.*

“Greetings to Canadian Anglicans and Lutherans from Manger Square in Bethlehem.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

‘For a child has been born for us; a song given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders, and his name is Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

We are living in the midst of really difficult and challenging times: the end of the COVID pandemic – which really isn’t over yet, the war in Ukraine, and wars in many other places in the world, the growth of refugees, those who are experiencing all kinds of climate disasters and floods and famine, and especially those in Canada who are dealing with cost of living inflation with the way that poverty is increasing in our land.

So now more than ever, we need the coming of the Prince of Peace. Here now in this land which we stand, at home with our families and around the world.

And so this year, we wish all of you a joyous and peace-filled Christmas.”