

St. James' - Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave., Kitchener, Ont. N2B 1K2

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



Are we ready?

Matt 24:36-44

Sunday November 28, 2010
1st Sunday in Advent

10:30am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Please Rise in Body and/or Spirit when you see this symbol ()

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU# 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Even though we do not always feel it, God is with us.

All: The darkness and doubt of the world can threaten to consume us.

L: Yet God is with us.

All: All around us there is fear and hopelessness.

L: God brings to us hope and peace. We place our trust in God's abundant love.

All: Let us freely and without fear open our hearts to God's healing words of hope. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

All: God of the unexpected and undreamt: In this holy season, instill your hope in our hearts. Prepare us; prepare us so we can hear again the song of the angels and see again the beckoning star. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, always with us, always coming: we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your Kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive

us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem, and find the Good News of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

L: The Good News of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

All: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – see insert

(Please leave inserts in the pews for future services)

We will sing A Light is Gleaming VU# 82 (Refrain, Verse 1 only, Refrain) during the lighting of the Advent Candle

A TIME WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHILD WITHIN US ALL

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY Your Work, O God VU# 537**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: Let us pray
O God, beginning and end, by whose command time runs its
course: bless our impatience, perfect our faith,
and, while we await the fulfillment of your promises, grant us
hope in your Word. Amen.

FIRST READING **Isaiah 2: 1-5**

One: This is the witness of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God for the Word.

PSALM

122

VU#845

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 24: 36-44**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ

All: Praise to Christ, the Word

SERMON

Are We Ready?

QUIET REFLECTION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN **All My Hope is Firmly Grounded** VU# 654

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

L: May God be with you

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

CHORAL PREPARATION

VU# 400

**Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Leader continues... Gracious God hear our prayer,

All: And in your love, answer.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN - **O Jesus, I Have Promised** VU# 120

*COMMISSIONING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

**Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true
Know He will guide you in all you do
Go now in love, and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see
God will be there watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen**

By Nancy Price & Don Besig

POSTLUDE

Our Worship is Over – Our Service Begins

Large Print Bulletins and **Hearing Devices** are available.
Please ask an usher.



Please join us for Gather and Gab (Fellowship and Coffee) in the Rainbow Room following the worship service.

Thank You to our Volunteers

THIS WEEK - November 28, 2010

Greeters	Bob & Joan Sanders; Sandra & Terry Jardine
Ushers	Carol & Bob Snelgrove; Joan & Wally Kaehler
Counters	Don & Joan Stafford; Beth Shirreff, Bob Snelgrove
Gather 'n Gab	Shirley & Gord Double
Advent Candle Litany	Charmian Patrick & Hong Seang

NEXT WEEK - December 5, 2010

Greeters	Fern & Ted Youngs; Olive Fair & Rose Young
Ushers	Vikki & Jim Tait; Joan & Don Stafford
Counters	Cam & Ann MacNeish; Bev & Les Houston
Gather 'n Gab	Jessie Millar & Michelle Sarre



WE NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE COFFEE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS!

Please see Jessie Millar ASAP to be put on the schedule. Even 1 Sunday every 8 weeks would be a big help!

Stewardship Seconds

We strive to learn the ways of Christ and walk in his paths. Our offerings are one way we walk in God's light.

Pastoral Care Needs

Please contact Val Pitt, our Minister of Pastoral Care, if you know of someone who needs Pastoral Care.



Next Week (Advent I) Bible Readings

Isaiah 3: 1-5; Psalm 122;

Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 36-44

Would you like to deliver Poinsettia plants to our members who are in retirement and nursing homes? Plants will be available Sunday, December 5 with names and addresses of where to deliver them and to whom. Please see Rev. Val, if you have any questions.

Extra copies of the Funeral Preparation Booklet are available on the table in the narthex. These were handed out at last week's "Preparing for the Big Trip" seminar.

Prayer Cycle for the churches of Hamilton Conference

East Plains United Church, Burlington in Halton Presbytery is located on Hwy#2 near the east end of Hwy#403. Roots can be traced back to 1843 when our Methodist forefathers held "class meetings" in an old building without a minister. Until approximately 1858, these Methodist classes would have been visited every two or three months by a "saddle-bag preacher". Today, Rev. Bruce Dickson, in his 11th year as minister, reports about 350 members who have an active outreach program. The music, whose director has served since 1996, is traditional, except for a band that provides a contemporary style 4 to 5 times a year. Our prayers are requested for the children and youth, that they may grow.



Sanctuary Christmas Flowers – To remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund, please fill in your information on the form in the Narthex or on the bulletin board by the church office door. Please put your donation of \$10.00 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and place it on the collection plate before Sunday December 12, 2010. A tax receipt will be issued. Please call Anne Willcox, if you have questions 519-744-5074.

Budget Timeline

Tuesday, November 30th – Board Budget Meeting at 7:00 pm to consider the approval of the 2011 Budget

Sunday, December 5th – Congregational Meeting following the Service to consider the approval of the 2011 Budget.

Advent Calendars are available in the narthex or in the pews for a special advent donation. When you have filled the calendars you can place them on the offering plate on a Sunday morning.



HEY KIDS!

Who wants to be in the Christmas play on Christmas Eve December 24? All ages welcome!
Please see Rev. Val.

Are you willing to drive a senior church family member to and from some of our exciting evening programs? A few minutes of your time would mean a lot to those who aren't comfortable (or can't) drive at night. If you are willing to be a driver – or if you would like a ride to a specific program – please leave your information with Linda in the office.

Mid-Week Morning Hymn Sing & Prayer

Every Wednesday morning at SJR 10:30am

Let's pause and connect with God in our busy schedules

Advent Study Wednesdays Nov. 24 – Dec.15 6pm-7:30pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings in the Rainbow Room for a simple supper and some time to “stop the madness” of commercialism and the busyness of Christmas. We will be using a combination of the resources *Who's Birthday is it Anyways* and *Christmas Gifts that Won't Break*. Please sign the sheet in the narthex, if you are interested in attending. **Feel free to attend one or all of the sessions!**

A Christmas Decoration Workshop! TODAY! Sunday November 28th following the Worship Service. It's fun for the whole family.

You're all invited to join us downstairs to make old fashioned Christmas decorations for our church tree & some to take home. Lunch will be available at the cost of ...a new pair of socks in exchange for a yummy hotdog! Socks will be donated to the Out of the Cold program.

UCW Unit II Monday November 29 at 7:30 PM

(Note the change in date from Tuesday evening to Monday evening).

Devotions and reflections will be led by Rev. Christina Boyd followed by a short presentation by Gail Campbell about the good work the House of Friendship is doing in our community. All are welcome to join us. Note: Will the ladies who have “GRATITUDE JARS “ please bring them to the meeting.

UPDATED COOKIE WALK & SILENT AUCTION DETAILS

SATURDAY December 4, at 9 am is when we open the sale for purchases of Christmas Baking (\$8/pound) and bids on quality Silent Auction items. We can still use more cookies and squares which can be brought in to the kitchen downstairs on **Friday December 3 from 9:00am-12noon (the church office is closed that afternoon) OR Friday at 7 pm.** Volunteers are still needed for cookie detail on Friday at 7 pm and table setup—See Dana Moore. On Nov. 28 auction items can be stored in Rm. 22/Youth Rm. or brought at 7 pm on Dec. 3.

All gift cards/ticket items should be handed to Janice Bock. Come early on Sunday to browse the auction items and bid BEFORE SERVICE or in the 15 minutes after service during Coffee Hour downstairs. AUCTION ITEMS WILL BE DISPERSED DURING COFFEE HOUR.

White Gift Sunday **December 5, 2010**

Please bring a nonperishable food item for the food bank and/or one of the following much needed items for the Out of the Cold program: mitts, socks, long underwear (sizes Med to XL). In addition, we are in need of contributions to our Benevolent Fund. We are hoping that you can help out with this important Outreach program. There will be envelopes inserted in the December 5 bulletin for your donation.

National Day of Remembrance **Monday December 6 at 7pm**

AND Action on Violence Against Women. Join us in St. James'~Rosemount United Church's sanctuary for this faith based Candlelight Vigil. Wear a white ribbon. Bring a red rose.

UCW Christmas Potluck Dinner **Tuesday December 7, 2010**

Dinner 6pm, Annual Meeting 7pm, Candlelight Communion 8pm

There will be a Christmas Gift Shower for the Out of the Cold program. Suggested items for the "Shower" are gloves, hats, men's briefs (sized Med-XL). The entire congregation is warmly invited.

Family Reel Theology **The Polar Express** **Friday, December 10**

Dinner – 6:00pm, Movie – 6:30pm

Come for pizza, popcorn, a great family movie and some discussion after. Kids (of all ages) – come in your p.j.'s, bring a blanket and get comfy during the movie. This movie is suitable for ALL ages!

Turkey Dinner (& all the fixings) **Sunday, December 12 at 12 Noon**

Join us! Net proceeds will be shared with our Two Countries One World participant, Olivia Curtis. Advance Tickets: Adults \$12, Children under 12, \$6 OR Tickets at the door: \$15, Children \$8

An evening of Outdoor Caroling **Sunday December 12 at 7pm**

Back by popular demand 'round our real Christmas tree

“Love makes the world go ‘round” Bible Study

Join us for the first eight Wednesdays in the New Year 2011 as we take a look at – FOUR GREAT LOVES – Loving God, Loving God’s Word, Loving God’s people in all their diversity and Loving God’s purposes in the world. That’s an awesome task but this Lifeguide Inductive Bible Study will show us how God promises to equip us for it. We’ll meet in the Parlour at 7:00pm beginning Wednesday, January 5th and will finish this study on Wednesday, February 23rd. Please sign the sheet on the Narthex table if you plan to attend so that a book may be ordered for you.

Book Nook

Before and After Christmas by Debbie Trafton O’Neal. Activities and ideas – Advent and Epiphany. Borrow for 3 weeks – on display

Community Events

CGIT Vesper Service

TONIGHT, Sunday November 28 at 7:00pm at Forest Hill United Church, Kitchener. This year’s program is based on “Putting the ‘J’ into Christmas”.

Event in support of Wesley Urban Ministries - Dicken’s Christmas Carol

Reading with Jill Dempsey and Bernie MacNamee from CBC Radio and Stephen Brunt from Globe & Mail Sports, Saturday December 11, 2010 at 7:30 pm at Port Nelson United Church, 3132 South Drive, Burlington. Ticket cost is \$15 and can be purchased at the door or online at <http://portnelsonunitedchurch.com> or https://secure3.ticket-ops.com/Port_Nelson_United_Church/13kipoze Half of all proceeds will go to Wesley Urban Ministries

Creed for our Advent Pilgrimage

- **I believe** in the promise of Christmas and the the importance of celebrating it in the church.
- **I believe** in the God at the centre of Christmas whose hope for the world was imagined by prophets.
- **I believe** in Mary who sang of a world turned upside down, and who allowed her life to be disrupted by God.
- **I believe** in Joseph, whose broken heart broke the rules to do the right thing.
- **I believe** in the smell of the stable – for I believe there is no place God will not go.
- **I believe** in the shepherds, those humble ones, open to hearing the angels’ song.
- **I believe** in the Magi, the ones outside the faith, outside the community who journeyed to search out the Holy.
- **I believe** in Jesus, born in poverty, soon a refugee, raised in faith, lived seeking justice, died speaking forgiveness, rose with a love that can never be stopped.
- **I commit** to using this season to seek out the Holy both in God among us and in God beyond us.
- **I open myself** to a joyful, life-changing journey during this Advent time.

(adapted from “Creed for our Advent Pilgrimage” by Barb Janes)