

St. James' -Rosemount United Church

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

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

Gift of Love



HYMN FESTIVAL Christmas with Bonhoeffer

Sunday December 19, 2010

10:30am

4th Sunday in Advent

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

During each Advent season, we seek for new and meaningful ways to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In today's Hymn Festival Service - *Christmas with Bonhoeffer*, we will sense the depth of his understanding of the incarnation. May the readings from this book help us to fathom the true meaning of Christmas. Let us embark on this journey together as we take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

PRELUDE

*HYMN **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** VU#2

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

- Speaker 1: What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?
- Speaker 2: You stop.
- Speaker 1: What do you do when an angel speaks?
- Speaker 2: You listen.
- Speaker 1: An angel interrupted Joseph's dream.
- Speaker 2: He stopped. He listened.
- Speaker 1: The angel had a message for Joseph, who was engaged to the pregnant Mary: "The baby is God's son."
- Speaker 2: But Joseph said, "I can't handle such a challenge."
- Speaker 1: The angel said, "Have courage. God will be with you."
- Speaker 2: Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this Candle of Possibility.
- All: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.** (Light one candle)
- Speaker 1: Remembering Mary, we light this candle of Risk.

All: In the circle of God's light, we dare to risk.

(Light the second candle)

Speaker 2: Remembering the shepherds, we light this candle of Joy.

All: In the circle of God's light, we live with joy.

(Light the third candle)

Speaker 1: Remembering Joseph, we light this candle of Courage.

All: In the circle of God's light, we live with courage. (Light the fourth candle)

A Light is Gleaming

VU# 82

READING **This Reversal of all Things**

Read by Dennis Wylie

WE WAIT FOR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from *Celebrate God's Presence - CGP*)

L: O come, O come, Emmanuel,

All: to the empty-handed and the heavy-hearted, to the despairing and the despised.

L: Enter this world,

All: giving love to the lowly and hope to the downcast.

L: Dwell among us, and teach us your ways,

All: saving the lost and strengthening the weak.

L: Be made incarnate within us,

All: that we might cast away fear and live boldly by faith.

L: With gratitude that you come to be with us, we worship joyfully this day.

Amen

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VU#8

(please remain seated)

READING

Celebrating Advent

Read by Dana Moore

PRAYER (from *CGP*)

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 the 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 ready for his coming. Amen.

*CHILDREN'S HYMN **The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy**
VU#73

CHILDREN'S STORY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

GOD PROMISES HIS SON

*HYMN **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** VU# 48

SCRIPTURE READING **Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7** Don Willcox

READING **God Became Human**
Read by Don Willcox

THE GIFT OF GIFTS

HYMN **What Child is This** VU# 74
(please remain seated)

READING **In a Bethlehem Stable**
Read by Rev. Val Pitt

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

DOXOLOGY

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

VU# 44 (please remain seated)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE WORLD GATHERS AT BETHLEHEM

*HYMN

The First Nowell

VU# 91

RESPONSIVE READING

(from Psalm 96; Isaiah 9:2; Luke 2: 1-19)

Narrator 1: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Narrator 2: And everyone went to his own town to register.

Narrator 1: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judean, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Narrator 2: He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married and who was expecting a child.

LEADER: LET THE HEAVENS REJOICE, LET THE EARTH BE GLAD!

All: Let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

LEADER: THEN ALL THE TREES OF THE FOREST WILL SING FOR JOY.

All: Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

LEADER: THEY WILL SING BEFORE THE LORD, FOR HE COMES,

All: He comes to judge the earth.

LEADER: HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

All: He will judge the peoples in his truth.

Narrator 1: While they were there, the time came for the
baby to be born, and she gave birth to her
firstborn, a son.

*Narrator 2: She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a
manger, because there was no room for them
in the inn.*

LEADER: THE PEOPLE WALKING IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

All: For to us a child is born.

LEADER: ON THOSE LIVING IN A LAND OF
DARKNESS – A LIGHT HAS DAWNED.

All: To us a son is given.

Narrator 1: And there were shepherds living out in the
fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks
by night.

*Narrator 2: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and
the glory of the Lord shone around them, and
they were terrified.*

Choir Women: Do not be afraid.

**Choir Men: I bring you good news of great joy that will
be for all the people.**

*Narrator 2: The angel said to them, "Today in the town of
David a Saviour has been born to you; he is
Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You
will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a
manger."*

Narrator 1: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly
host appeared with the angel, praising God.

**Choir: Glory to god in the highest, and on earth
peace to men on whom his favour rests.**

LEADER: SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG;

All: Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

LEADER: SING TO THE LORD, PRAISE HIS NAME;

All: Proclaim his salvation day after day.

LEADER: DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE
NATIONS.

All: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

LEADER: SPLENDOR AND MAJESTY ARE BEFORE
HIM.

All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

LEADER: STRENGTH AND GLORY ARE IN HIS
SANCTUARY.

**All: Worship the Lord in the splendour of his
holiness.**

LEADER: HE WILL JUDGE THE PEOPLES WITH
EQUITY.

All: The Lord reigns!

READING **A New Ordering of All Things**

Read by Maureen Dennie

PRAYER (from *Celebrate God's Presence*)

Gracious God, we pray for all those around the world who have gathered with us today in this little town of Bethlehem. We pray for all who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds, that they may hear good news. We pray for all who are wandering and searching like the magi, that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their burdens. We pray for all who are busy, hurried, preoccupied like the innkeeper that they may know the peace that comes from genuine acts of hospitality. We pray for all like Herod who have power, that they may use it with good will. We pray for ourselves – we who need comfort, peace and joy, even in this starlit season, and all the days of our lives. Amen.

GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE

CHOIR ANTHEM **Jesu, Word of God**
Mozart

READING **Jesus Christ, the God who became Human**
Read by Jan Omand

GOD SENDS US OUT

*HYMN **Go, Tell It On the Mountain** VU#43

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION (from *CGP*)

L: Return now to our world with its pain and wonder,

All: Remember the words of the prophets, the faithfulness of Mary, and the longing of all you yearn for, a sign of hope.

L: And may the blessing of God who is ever faithful, the blessing of Christ who still comes to us and throughout our world, rest upon us and abide with us, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Our Worship is Over – Our Service Begins

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

Thanks to Judith Norton of Bridgewater United Church, Nova Scotia for sharing their resource for today's Hymn Festival service. Our readings today were from *Christmas with Bonhoeffer* ed. Manfred Weber.



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 - December 19, 2010

Greeters	Rose & George Zeigler, Don & Anne Willcox
Ushers	Millie & Bill Wilson, Freddie McLarnon, Lois Chambers
Counters	Candy Dillman, Dana & Chris Moore, Grace Baer
Gather 'n Gab	Lorene Hay & Nancy Ebel
Readers	Dennis Wylie, Dana Moore, Don Willcox, Maureen Dennie, Jan Omand

NEXT WEEK – December 26, 2010

Greeters	Bob & Betty Morrow, Luella Crawford
Ushers	Cindy Kratky, Ellen & Ed Edwards
Counters	Cindy Kratky, Ellen & Ed Edwards
Gather 'n Gab	Evelyn Shantz & Vikki Tait



**In Memory of Family and Friends,
flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by:
Jim & Teresa Carse, Mr. Bill Young, The Parkin Family,
Francis Crandell & Marion McCarter, Janet Thiessen,**

**Elizabeth Templin, Lois Chambers, Karen Johnston, Anne Hitchman,
Carol & Jack Wilson, Wally & Joan Kaehler, Rev. Christina & Sam
Boyd, Anne & Don Willcox, Bob & Betty Morrow, Norma DeNoble, Ena &
Bob Arnott, Nancy, Collin & Heather Ebel, Lynda Perkes, Sue Cressman,
Gord & Shirley Double, Ken Gawthorn, Terry & Sandra Jardine, Jim &
Norma Mosgrove, Rose Young**

Prayer Cycle for the churches of Hamilton Conference



Fenwick United, Pelham in Niagara Presbytery

Clavering United and St. John's United, Wiarton in Bruce Presbytery

Founded by Methodists around 1840, Fenwick United is a village church located in the centre of Niagara Peninsula between St. Catharines and Welland. Rev. Alan McLean, in his second year as minister, speaks of a congregation that is well organized to help those in need. The sanctuary has a pipe organ and the congregation is seeking a new director of music.

Located in the lower part of Wiarton which is at the head of Colwy Sound of Georgian Bay, St. John's United was started by Methodists in 1873. At first, it was attended by working people who lived nearby. But, over time, it has become more representative of the town's people. Clavering United, five miles to the south and isolated, was organized after (United) church union. Recently, it has been losing members. Both churches have been blessed by members who are active in secular music. Rev. Edward Laksmanis, minister for 12 years, reports that St. John's is maintaining its membership well, with about 100 Sunday worshippers. It has many organizations include a men's breakfast.

Receipts For The Cookie Walk & Silent Auction Church Fundraiser

Still to report--7 auction items being sold on e-Bay (3 Norman Rockwell plates with certificates, 2 Little Ladies plates and 2 coin sets). From the AUCTION so far--\$654.50 (45 items were sold). From the COOKIE WALK--\$1201. There were 87 kinds of Christmas baking, approx. 150 lbs., all homemade and donated which sold at \$8/lb. 70 % of the baking sold between 9 am to 9:40. Total receipts approx. \$1900. Thank you for your most generous support in so many ways. This has been a phenomenal success!

Dana, Dorothy, Norma and Janice

Church Office Hours for Christmas/New Year's

The Church Office will be closed from 12noon December 24 until 9:30am on January 4, 2011. Have a safe and happy Christmas and New Year's. See you in 2011!

Stewardship Seconds

We belong to Christ. As God's beloved, we offer our gifts with love and joy.

Pastoral Care Needs

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

Upcoming Worship Services

Service of Hope

Tuesday December 21 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Friday December 24:	
Family Service	7:00pm
Communion Service	10:00pm
December 26	10:30am
January 2	10:30am

Sunday Service

December 26 10am

Please join us for worship on Sunday, December 26 for the Christmas Story as told through the eyes of a grumpy camel. Teresa Carse will lead the service, as Rev. Christina & Rev. Val take a well-deserved break on Christmas Sunday. This is a family-friendly service, suitable for all ages.



Next Week Bible Readings

Isaiah 63: 7-9, Psalm 148,
Hebrews 2: 10-18, Matthew 2: 13-23

THANKS!

A heartfelt Christmas Thank You to all who helped make last Sunday's Turkey Christmas lunch a success, and so much fun! We are thrilled to report that \$500 will go to Olivia Curtis for her T.C.O.W. trip to Nicaragua.

Thank you to everyone who donated clothing and boots to the Out of the Cold- Ray of Hope Site. Your generosity is a real Christmas outreach.

The Leprosy Mission Stamp Project

Christmas is the best time to obtain used stamps from parcels & cards. A half inch cut around used stamps is ideal for this project. Post cards, especially old (1920 & prior) are also very useful, with or without stamps. Please place your stamps in the caring bin in the cabinet in the cloakroom. If you have any questions please contact Jim Oliver at 519-893-4092.

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.

Unified Board Update regarding Church finances

The 2010 Budget was set at \$265,241. The Estimated Actual is \$246,720. That's the good news....The challenge is that....excluding money owed to the Manse Fund, we have a projected deficit of \$41,620.

To cover this short fall in revenue we will borrow the money from the Manse Fund. There will be about \$5,000 left in the Fund.

The Unified Board is asking you for your prayerful support and your donations in December to the Operating Budget so that we will need to borrow less from the Manse Fund and still continue the work started here at St. James'-Rosemount more than 50 years ago.

Looking at the 2011 Budget - we have 340 households who have contributed time, talent or treasure at points over the past three years.

With a Total Expenditure Budget of \$242,624 that means that if each household gave \$713.60 per year or \$60 a month we will meet our 2011 Budget. Not all have the same talent, the time to volunteer or the same treasures. God has blessed us differently. If, as a family, we all give the best of our time, talent and treasure we will achieve our goals.

Cec Omand - on behalf of the Unified Board

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

The Christmas Miracle by Jonathan Toomey. A very heartwarming story for our children. On display – borrow for 3 weeks.

For the Young People

What's in a Name?

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:21

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



O J D H V B Q S O N G T W N V
 S H M S F V M I X J M R E K V
 L K E A D G D X M L E G X M F
 Z E Q B R R O I S M L S R E X
 C K M I U R E J N E A D U C Y
 J M A M M A Y A O P H N Z S Q
 R V R C F F Q T M S P G U Q M
 I N Y H S R T E A G E M K E R
 Q A O R X A C H I L D P D F L
 B N I I L I Z U F U F N H N M
 I G H S L D T S Q H A H I G R
 T E F T Q F I A T B Z G C B E
 A L O R O Z P R S K R J V M J
 H F B U W K I U D I V B A U C
 Q U R R L B H F V C I N B Y I

HUSBAND	SON	IMMANUEL	MARY	NAME
CHRIST	CHILD	VIRGIN	BIRTH	ANGEL
JOSEPH	MARRY	AFRAID	DREAM	JESUS

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Minutes for Mission 2010
After the Earthquake

A teddy bear lies in the rubble of what was once a home. An overturned sofa hangs precariously from a ledge. A kitten cries for its owner. Hanwang Village in Sichuan Province was once the prosperous gateway to a beautiful mountainous region, but no one lives in Hanwang Village now. Its streets are lined with collapsed buildings and the scattered remains of the lives that once filled the village with activity. In January 2009 United Church personnel Gary Mac Donald joined a delegation from the Amity Foundation on a visit to this area hardest hit by the May 2008 earthquake. All that remains of a kindergarten are scraps of children's art scattered over the floor. Gym equipment and toys lie twisted and thrown about. Flowers and traditional offerings for the dead are strewn at the collapsed entrance. The place screams in eerie silence. But, not far away, whole new villages have come into being. Miles of temporary shelters stretch out in neat rows. Children sit in improvised classrooms. Open-air markets are busy. A wedding party passes by. People chat and smile. Gary's group distributed warm winter clothing and visited makeshift homes as well as new, earthquake-proof ones. They saw the safe storage containers provided by Amity for the next season's harvest. They worshipped in a shelter with over 1,000 people. These are striking images of the results of your gifts to the Mission and Service Fund. This is concern from one side of the world to the other; in such ministry lies our hope for the future. Please give generously to the Mission and Service fund.

We are a united church! Overseas personnel have come from all Conferences of our church. Remember them in your prayers today and ask for a blessing on the work to which we all contribute.

St. James'~Rosemount United Church

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Meghan Witzel

Youth Leader

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Secretary - Linda Thompson

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