

Welcome to
Calvin Presbyterian Church



*December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
Calvin Presbyterian Church
248 Westmount Road East,
Kitchener, ON N2M 4Z1
Phone 519-744-4061
www.calvinchurch.ca*

As the prelude begins, you are invited to enter into quiet, and allow the music to help prepare you for worship. (= Please stand if you are able)*

Prelude

Introit - Hymn #114 "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" (3x)

Welcome

The Life and Work of the Church

* Call to Worship (see 'Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love' insert)

Leader: For God so loved the world...

People: that the Lord looked with favour upon Mary, to conceive and bear the Son of the Most High.

Leader: For God so loved the world...

People: that the Son of God took flesh and dwelt among us.

Leader: For God so loved the world...

People: that the Lord lifted up the lowly and humbled the proud and powerful.

Leader: For God so loved the world...

People: that God gave us Jesus, God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

(Light the candle of love.)

Written by The Rev. Jeffrey Murray

Produced by Presbyterian World Service & Development

Golden Verse: *"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."* (Luke 2:10)

* Hymn #118 "Hark the glad sound" (vv. 1-4)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (Contemporary Version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Introduction of Dan Steffler, Custodian

Song of Blessing: *"May the Lord, mighty Lord"*

Choir Anthem *"Infant holy, infant lowly"*

arr. David Hein

* Hymn *"The Virgin Mary had a baby boy"*

Children's Time

Scriptures

- Luke 2:1-20

Congregational Response

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn #109 "*All earth is waiting*" (vv. 1,2,4)

Prayer of Understanding

Father, I pray that You would open the eyes of my heart as I read, study and meditate to see Jesus – so that I may see You more clearly and love You more dearly. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Golden Verse - Luke 2:10

Sermon "Rejoice! Jesus is Here"

* Hymn #148 "*It came upon a midnight clear*" (vv. 1-5)

Offering

>> *Presentation of gifts, tithes and offering during the singing of the hymn*

* Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, the Giver of all good things, from You all blessings flow; out of the abundance of Your blessings, we offer You these gifts. Take and bless our gifts and our lives to Your use and purposes in this world. And may Your reign of love, reconciliation, hope and peace be extended by them. Amen

Prayers of the People

Golden Verse - Luke 2:10

* Hymn #160 "*Unto us a child is born*" (vv. 1-4)

* Benediction

* Song of Blessing: Hymn #119 "*Hope is a star*" (v. 4)

Postlude

Thanks to:
scripture reader – Betsy Dickie
greeters – Sheena Curwood & Joe Tomchick
Advent liturgy readers – Jeffrey, Jaden and Jason Amankwa,
and Queenly Amoako

All are welcome to Coffee Hour
in Calvin Hall following the service.

NOTICES FOR CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH December 24, 2017

Good morning to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to us. We encourage you to fill out one of the visitor envelopes in the pew and give it to an usher or put it in the offering plate. Nursery care is provided for young children.

Rev. Frank Szatmari is willing to visit with those who need pastoral support. Please call Rev. Frank for appointment request at 226-647-4705.

Next Week: "Angels in the Bible"

CALVIN CALENDAR	
Sun. Dec. 24	- Prayer Group, 9:15 a.m., Lounge - Worship Service, 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary - Christmas Eve Worship Service, 7 p.m., Sanctuary
Mon. Dec. 25	- Christmas Day Worship Service, 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary
Wed. Dec. 27	- Board of Managers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Lounge
Sun. Dec. 31	- Prayer Group, 9:15 a.m., Lounge - Worship Service, 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Special Christmas Services

- Sunday December 24 – Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.
- Monday December 25 – Christmas Day at 10:15 a.m. Come celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Refreshments will be served in the Narthex following the Christmas Eve service – hosted by the Men's Breakfast Group. The men of Calvin are asked to bring cookies etc. to share. Juice will be supplied.

Welcome to Dan Steffler as the new custodian at Calvin Church. He provided this brief introduction: *I was born in Kitchener and raised in Elmira, ON. During my rebellious youth, trouble was always one step ahead of me like a shadow. Then I came to know the Lord about 15 years ago when He led me to Bethany EMC on Lancaster St. I have worshipped and served there in various roles ever since. This is also where I met my beautiful wife, Jenn, four years ago. Together we have a blended family of seven with four boys and one girl, ages ranging from 10 to 16. Our home is chaotic at times but full of love. I work as a general contractor, mostly working on home renovation projects, plumbing service, and property maintenance. I have volunteered in various ministries over the years such as construction and parking for the Bethany Christmas Pageant, leading Sunday night kids' programs, mission work in Haiti. Currently I am a trustee at Bethany - completing church repairs and making decisions about facility rentals and repairs. Now I am happy*

to be here as well, serving alongside you in the ministries here at Calvin as we are all the hands and feet.

Holiday Hours – The office will be closed the week of December 24-30. Rev. Frank is available for pastoral care during this time.

Seniors Exercise Class is cancelled on December 27 and will resume on Wednesday January 3.

Envelopes for 2018 – Pick them up in the Narthex today. Your envelope number might have changed. Please discard any leftover envelopes from previous years. If you would like to have envelopes but have not been assigned them, let the office know.

Thinking of switching to **PAR** (Pre-authorized remittance)? Want to change the amount of your givings? Contact Margaret Woods in the office.

Donations must be received by the church by Dec. 31 to be part of the 2017 tax year. Anything received on January 1 will be considered part of the 2018 givings. Contact Frank Thompson with any questions.

PYROS Youth Event - Thursday, January 4, meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Calvin for pizza and a white elephant gift exchange, then going to Towne Bowl for 'cosmic bowling' from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Two lanes are reserved for us. Pickup is 8:45 p.m. at Towne Bowl, 11 Ottawa Street North, Kitchener.

> For the White Elephant gift exchange: Your job is to find an object and wrap it as appealingly as possible for the White Elephant gift exchange. This can be something around the house or from a thrift store--get creative!

> Friends are welcome! Let the group know if you need transportation. I'd love to see everyone out for this.

> Please let Michael Turman know you're coming (RSVP) by Tuesday January 2 so that we can order the right amount of pizza. Email him (michael.turman@calvinchurch.ca) or leave a message at the church office (519-744-4061).

Your report is important for our congregation's **2017 Annual Report!** The deadline for submissions is January 30, 2018. Please drop off your report at the church office or email it to Margaret Woods at margaret@calvinchurch.ca. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 25, 2018.

<p>Precaution – Be sure not to leave keys or any other valuables in your pockets when you hang up your coat.</p>

BUDGET REQUESTS – It is that time of year when we ask all committees to prepare your budget requests for next year. Please submit all requests to Frank Thompson as soon as possible – in writing or by email to frank.thompson@calvinchurch.ca.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **Calvin Days** financial drive. As of December 17, \$17,840 has been contributed which exceeds our \$17,500 goal!! This will let us bolster Calvin's financial resilience and ensure our capability to deliver on our church's vision and mission is not diminished.

Thank you, Calvin congregation, for the best wishes and gift cards upon my retirement as custodian at Calvin Church. I have been privileged to have filled the custodial position for almost 7 years. I wish all a Merry Christmas. Jake de Wit

Volunteers to read scripture in January-March 2018 are needed. Please sign up in the Narthex.

The winter 2017 issue of **Presbyterian Connection** newspaper is available in the Narthex and we are in it! Check out page 19 for a picture of Calvin's Flag Day.

Canadian Bible Society Daily Bible Reading Guide for 2018 – Copies are available in the Narthex on the large wooden table. If the Guide is used every day during 2018, 48 books of the Bible will be utilized and 11 will be read in their entirety.

To the congregation of Calvin Church

Thank you so much for your generous donations of baby items for our expecting moms in the Growing Healthy Two-gether program. What a beautiful selection – our participants were thrilled with their gifts! Thank you, also, for welcoming us on occasion for our Community Kitchen events with our program. They really enjoy learning to make recipes in your spacious kitchen.

Mission Moment - Gifts that make a difference

As we reflect on giving and receiving gifts this Christmas, let us give thanks for Presbyterians across Canada who are making a difference through their gifts to Presbyterians Sharing! Together, we are supporting inner city missions, equipping congregations, encouraging children and youth, enabling congregational renewal and development, supporting theological education, maintaining international partnerships, sending mission staff – and so much more! Together, we are making mission and ministry happen in Canada and around the world. This Christmas Eve, we anticipate celebrating the greatest gift of all – Jesus Christ our Lord – whose example of giving inspires our own.

Presbyterians Sharing is making a real difference in so many lives

Stewardship Moment – “For it is in giving that we receive.”

*-St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226),
Italian Roman Catholic friar and preacher*

Please notify the office by phone, 519-744-4061 or email calvin@calvinchurch.ca if you learn of any sickness, shut in, new baby or any need within the congregation. Announcements for the bulletin **must** be received by Margaret Woods in the office by 10 a.m. Thursday.

Minister: Rev. Frank Szatmari

Phone 226-647-4705, email revfrank@calvinchurch.ca

Minister in Association: Rev. Bob Duncanson

Phone 519-745-2142, email rduncanson@rogers.com

Clerk of Session: Dean Bulloch

Phone 519-897-8332, email dean@calvinchurch.ca

Program Coordinator: Michael Turman

email michael.turman@calvinchurch.ca

Michael's Office Hours – Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Music Leader: Michel Allard

email michel@calvinchurch.ca

Office Administrator: Margaret Woods

email margaret@calvinchurch.ca

Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday – 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Wednesday and Friday – 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

(closed between Christmas & New Year's)

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