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Sunday, December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude - Leo Clossen

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (*1 Chronicles 29:11-13*)

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power
And the glory and the victory and the majesty,
For all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours.
Yours is the kingdom, O LORD,
And you are exalted as head above all.
Both riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all.
In your hand are power and might,
And in your hand it is to make great and give strength to all.
And now we thank you, our God,
And praise your glorious name.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Pat Pluister

Today we begin our celebration of Advent. On these four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ.

To help us celebrate, we will be lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the world. The evergreens remind us that He is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

Each Sunday we will light an additional candle. Then on Christmas Day, we will light all the candles, including the center one, the Christ candle. As we do, we will rejoice that Christ has come to us. He is Emmanuel....God with us.

On this first Sunday of advent, we light the candle of hope.

Hope is our assurance that God will finish all He has started. Hope is our confidence that He will do all He has promised. All the promises of

God are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is our hope, today and forever! (2 Corinthians 1:20) Thanks be to God for all His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Hymn: We Lift the Light of Hope, verse 1
(to the tune of #43 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name)

We lift the light of hope, O God,
Your presence burning bright.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.
In praise we sing the gift You bring:
Our hope complete in Christ.

***SONGS OF APPROACH**
#245 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Daniel 9:18-19)
L: O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."
{Let us call on the Lord together in silent individual prayer}

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Psalm 62:1)
**ALL: For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER - PRAYERS FOR OTHERS - THE LORD'S PRAYER

***SONG OF PRAISE**
#348- My Saviour's Love

TO HEAR HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 6:16-20 [p 1098; 1292]

Reader: Tricia Groeneveld

SERMON: "Jesus Is Hope" - Jacob London

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

AND RESPOND TO HIS WORD

OFFERTORY PRAYER – OFFERING

* #815 - Doxology

COMMUNION SERVICE

- Meaning of the Sacrament

- Invitation

- Communion Prayer:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: Holy and right it is....we worship and adore your glorious name.

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

L: Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper... Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

P: Christ has died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

- Communion

- Thanksgiving Prayer:

L: Brothers and sisters, since the Lord has now fed us at his Table, let us praise God's holy name with heartfelt thanksgiving!

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

P: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

P: and do not forget all His benefits—

L: who forgives all your iniquity,

P: who heals all your diseases,

L: who redeems your life from the pit,

P: who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

L: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

P: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

P: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

P: so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

L: as far as the east is from the west,

P: so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

L: As a father has compassion for his children,

P: So the Lord has compassion for those to fear Him,

L: who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, and will also give us all things with Him.

P: Therefore shall my mouth and heart show forth the praise of the Lord, from this time forth and forevermore. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING SONG**

#526 - The Solid Rock (verse 1)

* Indicates where congregation is to stand, if able.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to **Elizabeth VandenBos** (birthday 5th).

MISSIONS OFFERING: We will have our final missions offering for the year next Sunday, December 10.

ERC THIS WEEK

Sun 3rd Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Library open after service

Mon 4th
Tues 5th

Wed 6th Widow & Widower Christmas Party 1:30 pm

Thu 7th
Fri 8th
Sat 9th

Sun 10th Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Mission offering



PRAYER CORNER

Carly Hippern	Fred Hippern
Hennie Ryken	Allan Blake
Nelly VandenBrink	Mina Trachsler

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

James 5:16 (LEB) Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much.

John & Hennie Ryken
Harry Sintniklaas
Mina Trachsler

MISSIONARY INFORMATION: There is a new newsletter posted for Peter & Patty Ford, and also information introducing our new missionary, John Lokeno in Kenya. Both are posted on the missions board in the fellowship hall.

An Advent Celebration of Music: You are invited to join the combined choirs of Maranatha and First Baptist Church in an evening of Christmas music! Conducted by Cory Kuipers. Sunday, December 3, 7:00 p.m. at Maranatha CRC, 2805 Hwy. 2, Bowmanville, and Sunday, December 10, 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 812 Hortop St., Oshawa. PLEASE NOTE that this year both concerts are on Sunday one week apart. A free will offering will be collected, and refreshments will be served after the concert.

DECEMBER "FOOD" DRIVE: During the month of December, we'll be holding a "food" drive for Gate 3:16. If you would like participate, please bring your donated items to the church. Items the Gate needs are these: coffee, tea, sugar, whitener, ketchup, mayo, soup, styrofoam plates, bowls and 7 oz cups, plastic forks, spoons and knives, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, Kleenex, tin foil, dish and laundry soap, and XL heavy duty garbage bags.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDED: Emmanuel has been invited to host delegates from the Regional Synod for the Sunday morning service on April 22, 2018. There could be 10-15 people needing to be picked up and brought back to Mississauga. What we need is some drivers to do this. A lunch will also be served.

Gate 3:16 Outreach Centre located at 394-Simcoe St S in Oshawa is looking for volunteers who can spend time with our staff serving our less fortunate and homeless as volunteers. The need is great and the laborers are few to serve with brotherly and sisterly compassion those who have fallen into the direness of poverty and hopelessness, homelessness and loneliness. Responsibilities would include helping to serve and prepare meals, clean up, conversing and spiritually caring for those less fortunate. If you feel called to serve in this manner, please call 905-432-5316 ext. 22 or email office@gate316.org. Ask for either Rita or Alan. Many blessings of God's grace and peace.

Emmanuel Reformed Church

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Welcome Greeters

December 3 Kevin & Tricia Groeneveld
December 10 Leo Cossen & Marinus Rensink
December 17 Michael & Marion Fulcher
December 24 Neil & Ann VanStaveren

Scripture Readers

December 3 Tricia Groeneveld
December 10 Cathy Warren
December 17 Pat Pluister
December 24 Lisa London

Coffee Fellowship

(An extended list may be found at ercwhitby.com/announcements)

Dec 3 Ben & Narda Hoogkamp, Nelly VandenBrink & Beatrice Koster
Dec 10 Harry & Helen Zylstra with Michael & Catherine Brady
Dec 17 Michael & Marion Fulcher with Trudy Van Staveren
Dec 24 Kryn & Anne Duivesteyn with Elizabeth Raaphorst

Nursery Helpers

December 3 Elizabeth VandenBos
December 10 Barb DeJong
December 17 Cathy Warren
December 24 Pat Pluister

PowerPoint Operators

December 3 Paul Hippenn
December 10, 17, 24 Tricia Groeneveld

Sound Technicians

December 3 Chris Groeneveld
December 10, 17, 24 Kevin Groeneveld