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Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude - Harriet Chepesiuk

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(John 1:1-5, 9)*

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all men. The light shines forth in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

ALL: The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - Chris Groeneveld

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of love.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us! (1 John 3:1)

This is how God showed His love: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. (John 13:34-35)

Hymn: **We Lift the Light of Hope, verse 4**

(to the tune of #43 - All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name)

We lift the light of love, O God,
Your candle in our night.
You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.

You come to give and help us live
The mighty love of Christ.

***SONGS OF APPROACH**

#244 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#279 - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

RESPONSIVE READING (*Micah 5:2,4,5*)

L: But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

P: And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Ephesians 3:11-12*)

L: This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

P: Thanks be to God.

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

***SONG OF PRAISE**

#271 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

#157 - The Love of God

TO HEAR HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-21; 1 John 4:7-12 [*p 1036; 1316*]

Reader: Lisa London

SERMON: "Jesus Is Love" - Jacob London

PRAYER FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD

AND RESPOND TO HIS WORD

OFFERTORY PRAYER – OFFERING

* #815 - Doxology

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING SONG**

#256 - Love Has Come! (verse 3)

* Indicates where congregation is to stand, if able.

Sermon Notes

ERC THIS WEEK

Sun 24th Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
Christmas Eve
Mon 25th Christmas Day; Service 10:00 am
Tues 26th Boxing Day
Wed 27th
Thu 28th
Fri 29th
Sat 30th
Sun 31st Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:30 am
New Year's Eve



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.

**Jane VanSlageren
John & Trudy VanStaveren
Neil & Ann VanStaveren**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to **Michael Brady** (birthday 27th), **Marinus Rensink** (birthday 28th), and **Ann VanStaveren** (birthday 30th).

CONSISTORY VOTING: Kryn Duivesteyn has consented to serve as elder for a one-year term. The Deacon nomination ballots are in the mail slots. Please return by January 7.

A CORDIAL INVITATION: Marinus Rensink would like to cordially invite you to join him in the fellowship hall today after the service for a special coffee time, in celebration of his 95th birthday on December 28th. We rejoice with him in his continued good health and active life.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Please join us on Christmas Day at 10:00 am for a special Christmas service.

DECEMBER FOOD DRIVE: During the month of December, we'll be holding a food drive for a local food bank. If you would like participate, please bring your donated items to the church.

THANK YOU NOTE: Thank you to everyone that prayed for me and visited me while I was in the hospital and rehabilitation centre. I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Special thanks to all the men for their help every Sunday in the elevator, and to Jacob, who was very good to me. --Mina Trachsler

OFFERING ENVELOPES: The 2018 offering envelopes have been distributed. If you didn't receive a set and would like one, please speak with Kevin or Tricia Groeneveld.

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 24 Neil & Ann VanStaveren
December 31 Pat Pluister & Jo Veenstra
January 7 Paul & Carly Hippern
January 14 Ron & Ann Reitsma

Scripture Readers

December 24 Lisa London
December 31 Susan Duivesteyn
January 7 Tricia Groeneveld
January 14 Pat Pluister

Coffee Fellowship

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

Dec 24 Marinus Rensink with Ken & Joanne Reinsma
Dec 31 Kryn & Anne Duivesteyn with Elizabeth Raaphorst
Jan 7 Herman & Susan Duivesteyn with Janet Vander Meulen
Jan 14 Sheldon & Sofie Huitema with Tony Duivesteyn

Nursery Helpers

December 24 Pat Pluister
December 31 Kathy Wielinga
January 7 Trudy Van Staveren
January 14 John DeJong

PowerPoint Operators

December 24 Tricia Groeneveld
December 31, January 7 Paul Hippern

Sound Technicians

December 24 Kevin Groeneveld
December 31, January 7 Chris Groeneveld