

## Order of Service – December 10, 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Preaching: Pastor Bart**

**Music Team: Adeline's Team and Sunday School**

**Welcome to Service**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles (During opening prayer)**

**Prayer**

**All:** Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit we invite your presence into our worship this morning and consecrate this time to you. Be glorified in the preaching, in the singing, our praying and our meditation on your word. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen

**The Grace**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** and also with you.

**Prayer of the day: Second Sunday of Advent**

**All:** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for you only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**ADVENT VIDEO – Skit Guy's - Advent Preparation**

**Traditional Advent Prayer**

*Leader:* O Lord Jesus, Christ, You are God's Wisdom coming from the mouth of the Most High God. You fill all creation, and with strength, order all things.

**Congregation: Come be our wisdom and teach us the way of prudence.**

**L:** O Lord of Might and Ruler of the House of Israel. You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Mt. Sinai.

**C: Come with an outstretched arm and rescue us.**

**L:** O Root of Jesse, you stand as an emblem before all people. In front of you the rulers of the world are struck silent. To you all the nations will bend their knees and acknowledge that you are Lord.

**C: Come quickly and deliver us.**

**L:** O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel. You open and no one can close, you close and no one can open.

**C: Come and redeem all prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.**

L: O Dawning Light, Splendour of God's Everlasting Brilliance.

**C: Come bring light, understanding and hope to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.**

L: O King of all the nations, ruler that they long for, Cornerstone, uniting all people.

**C: Come and save us all, for you created us, forming us out of clay.**

L: O Emmanuel, God with us. Our King and Lawgiver, Anointed of the Nations and their Saviour.

**C: Come and save us O Lord Our God.**

### **Brief Order for Confession**

P: Gracious God,

**All:** have mercy on us. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, show us at this time what we should confess to you:

Silence

**All:** Lord God forgive us these sins and renew us in heart, body and mind. Amen

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**All:** Amen.

### **ADVENT HYMN - In the Bleak Midwinter SBH #36**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

As we light this candle darkness disappears  
Blue or Purple, pink or white, comfort through the years.  
Hope and peace, rejoicing, we celebrate God's love  
Jesus came to save us, live with him above

Heaven cannot hold him, Nor the earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

## **Nativity Program Portion**

### ***A Prophecy. From the book of Isaiah, Chapter 9 NIV***

For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

### ***A Prophecy of Bethlehem from the book of Micah, Chapter 5 NIV***

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.  
His times of coming forth are from long ago,  
From the days of eternity.”

### **Hymn: Oh Little Town of Bethlehem LBW #41 CONGREGATION SINGS**

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893  
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

### ***The Angel Gabriel visits Mary. Luke Chapter 1 NIV***

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

### **HYMN: The Angel Gabriel WOV #632**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BELLS - One Verse CONGREGATION SINGS Verse 1**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,  
"most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham  
Arr C 1955 E.H. Freeman, LTD., ren. 1983, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

## ***An Angel of the Lord Speaks to Joseph from Matthew, Chapter 1 NIV***

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin will be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

**HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LBW #34**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BELLS - One Verse CONGREGATION SINGS**

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum Koln, 1710; tr. John M Neale, 1818-1866, alt  
Tune: French processional, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.

## ***Mary & Joseph Go to Bethlehem. A reading from the book of Luke, Chapter 2 NIV***

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

And all the people were on their way to register for the census, each to his own city....

Now Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was betrothed to him, and was with child.

### ***Jesus is Born; Luke, Chapter 2 NIV***

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

## ***An Angel of the Lord Speaks to the Shepherds; Luke, Chapter 2 NIV***

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And so the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**Hymn: Away in a Manger LBW #67**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGNS AND SINGS**

## ***All the Angels of Heaven Rejoice; Luke Chapter 2 NIV***

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased.”

**Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High LBW #71**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL BELLS- One verse CONGREGATION SINGS**

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their joyous strains  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo  
Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Text: French Carol; tr. "Crown of Jesus" 1862  
Tune: France Carol

### ***The Shepherds Set Out to Find the Savior. From the book of Luke Chapter 2 NIV***

When the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let’s go straight to Bethlehem, then, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen Him, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it were amazed about the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

**Hymn: Silent Night LBW #65**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS AND SIGNS SILENT NIGHT**

### ***Wise Men Come Seeking the King of the Jews, from the book of Matthew, Chapter 2 NIV***

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”....

After hearing the king, the magi went on their way; and behold, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on ahead of them until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was to be found. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Hymn: Oh Holy Night**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS with ACTIONS CONGREGATION STANDS and SINGS**

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need— to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

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## **Sunday School Program Finished**

### **HYMN: Joy to the World *LBW #39***

#### **CONGREGATION PLAYS BELLS- One Verse CONGREGATION SINGS**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt

## **[Return to main service](#)**

### **Meditation: Pastor Bart**

## **Offering Hymn: The Angel Gabriel WOV #632 Verses 2 – 4**

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham  
Arr C 1955 E.H. Freeman, LTD., ren. 1983, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

## **Offertory Prayer P.68 LBW**

**P:** Blessed are you.

**C:** O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your Goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Prayers for the Family of God**

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in Heaven...

## **Benediction**

**Announcements:** (See Care email for more details and additional announcements)

## **Closing Hymn: Lo How a Rose LBW # 58**

Lo, how a rose is growing. A bloom of finest grace;  
The profits had foretold it: A branch of Jesse's race.  
Would bear one perfect flow'r Here in the cold of winter  
And darkest midnight hour.

The rose of which I'm singing, Isaiah had foretold.  
He came to us through Mary Who sheltered him from cold.  
Through God's eternal will This child to us was given  
At Midnight calm and still.

This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear  
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people  
From earth's dark night of sin

O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, Who triumphed o'er our foe;  
Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven And into endless day.

© Text: Elisabeth Ehrenborg-Oosse, Barnsanger, 19<sup>th</sup> cent; tr, Joel W. Lunden, b. 1918  
Tune: German folk tune, 1823

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **Week at a Glance:**

Wednesday – 10:00 AM Prayer time in sanctuary

Small Group Ministries – Various times during the week. Please contact Florence Toth or the church office for details.

### **Month in Advance:**

December 10 – 10:00 AM – Sunday School Christmas Pageant

December 13 – 10:00 AM – Grandparenting and the Faith

December 17 – 6:00 PM – Christmas Blues Dinner

December 23 – 8:00 AM – Men's Breakfast

December 24 – 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Services

December 25 – 10:00 AM – Christmas Day Service

### **The Season of Advent**

The Advent season is a four-week period before Christmas in which we celebrate with anticipation the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The origin of "advent" is from the Latin word *adventus*, which simply translates as "coming" or "arrival." May you find time to slow down this season – say "no" to the things that distract you from Jesus and say "yes" to the gift that God wants you to experience.

### **Journey to Bethlehem**

As part of the daily devotional advent series, our children have drawn pictures and written poems to the Christ child. Make sure to stop by our mural downstairs each week to see their pictures on the surrounding doors. Watch the mural come to life as we approach Christmas. This goes with the daily advent devotional that comes to your e-mail each weekday. You can also access the videos directly at <https://saintpeters.ca> Thanks to Diana Scott and Art Zoethout for creating this painting.

**Sunday School Christmas Program - *Behold Your King!*** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the 10 am.

*Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. - Luke 18:16*

Once again, meet **your King** in the age-old story, as a grandfather's gift brings the nativity characters to life before your eyes! Join the children of our congregation in an interactive time of song, signing and bells. Is someone on your heart? Bring them, and your best singing voice!

### **Christmas Blues – December 17 @ 6 PM**

Do you someone who is grieving the loss of some special this Christmas? Perhaps it's their first Christmas without this person. Invite them to Christmas Blues, an evening of remembering, fellowship and care. Let Tim know in the office if you will be attending or bringing someone to the evening.

### **Christmas Eve Candle Light Services – December 24**

We are blessed to have three pastors to lead our Christmas Eve services: Pastor Bart at 4 PM, Pastor Paul at 7 PM, and Pastor Rick at 10 PM (Holy Communion). Because the 4 PM service is usually very full (to overflowing) with visitors and young families, we encourage people to come to either to the 7 PM or 10 PM if it is convenient.



## **Christmas Day – December 25**

Enjoy the quietness of Christmas Day as we celebrate the incarnation. Pastor Rick will be reflecting upon the question *Is Less More?* as he digs deeper into John 1:1-3. We will also celebrate Holy Communion.

## **Holiday Grief**

Pastor Rick will be sharing some thoughts at the upcoming Cochrane Christmas Candlelight Service to be held this Wednesday, December 4 starting at 6pm at the Cochrane Funeral Home.

Come and light a candle in remembrance of the special person you are missing, and come together as a community supporting one another during this time when grief is part of the holiday season.

RSVP your attendance by calling 403-932-1039 or emailing [Cochrane@piersons.ca](mailto:Cochrane@piersons.ca)

## **Youth Committee**

We are looking for volunteers to join a youth committee. If you are interested talk to Pastor Bart.

## **Learn Guitar**

The last three months we have run guitar classes after church. We would like to do the same in the New Year, starting over at very beginner level and aiming at grade 4 children and up to and including adults. This is a group class, not private lessons, and we just learn basic chords and strumming, but it's free. Some kids can have troubles playing guitar, others have no troubles. But if you are interested, talk to Pastor Bart..

## **Pray for St. Peter's**

Please remember to keep praying for the church, our pastors, leaders, members and their families.