

A Time Called ... ADVENT

When children say, "I can't wait for Christmas," they convey what it means to live in Advent. With joy they are waiting for an event that is good, that has been promised, and is now hidden from sight. Children do manage to wait. One way they do this is by sharing in the many preparations for Christmas. Waiting and preparing are the themes of Advent for adults as well. But when did Advent begin? And what can it mean in your life?

Historical Roots of Advent

The *calendar year* may begin on January 1, but for Christians the Christian year begins with Advent – four weeks before Christmas. Advent is the beginning of a cycle of time that celebrates the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

The church has observed an Advent season for over 15 centuries. It may originally have been a time of instruction for people who were preparing to be baptized on January 6, on Epiphany. History reveals Advent traditions of varying lengths, but our waiting time is now the four Sundays before Christmas.

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

Advent is the time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We recall those who waited and prepared for a promised Christ child: the prophet Isaiah, Mary, his mother, and John the Baptist. We also think about God's promises that are yet to be revealed under the reign of Christ, in "the age to come" or "the day of the Lord." Advent is oriented in both the past and the future.

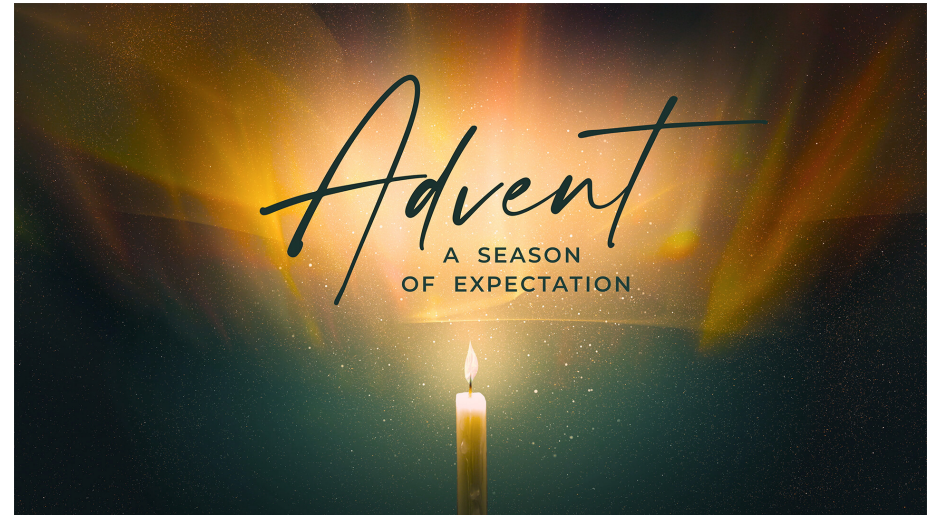
As we get ready for the birth of Jesus and for the promise that Christ will come again, we use gifts of spiritual preparation: worship, prayer, singing, Bible study, fellowship (Christmas parties!), and service to others.

Questions for Personal Meditation

What am I waiting for? Who am I waiting for? How am I preparing? What gives me joy in this season? What might I discover from that?

FORGIVEN

TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE



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Established 03rd May 1987

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Minister in Association:

Rev. Jeff Smith

Music Director:

Sarah Pottier

Advent 1, Sunday 01st December 2024 10:30 am

The Church of Jesus the Saviour

Celebrates the Good News

of God's Love for the World

Made Manifest in Jesus His Son

as we learn to share Christ's Love with everyone

Celebrating the Truth of the Presence of God – Alleluia!

Call to Worship:

Praise: “Hope is a star” vs 1 and chorus

Welcome, and announcements:

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy: on screen

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “Hark the glad sound” BP #110

Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer:

Celebrating the Truth of God's Word! - We are Listening!

Scripture: St. Luke 2:1-20 NLT

Message: “The hope of Christ reminds us we are not forgotten!”

Celebrating the Truth of God's gifts to us – We Are Accountable

Celebrating the Sacrament of Christian Baptism

The family comes to the front of the sanctuary

The Presentation by elder: Susan Gascho

The Invitation:

Vows of Renunciation and Affirmation:

Questions to the covenant community: “Do you, on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Jordan Alcide and Robin Kibunja, by word and deed, with love and in prayer, encouraging them and their parents to follow Jesus Christ and to be faithful members of His Church?”

Congregation: “We do!”

Affirmation of our faith: The Apostles' Creed

(on screen)

Prayer:

The Act of Baptizing

Declaration and Welcome:

The Blessing

Minister: “Holy God, surround, hold, and fill Jordan and Robin, that they may daily increase in the fruit of Your Holy Spirit, using their giftedness to serve Jesus Christ our Lord now and forever.”

Congregation: “Amen!”

Presentation by Susan Gascho

The Welcome: (Minister and congregation together) “Come grow with us into Christ Who is our Lord. There is one Body, and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, Who is above all, through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Praise: “The (Aaronic) Blessing” on screen

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

Doxology: **“In the bleak midwinter” vs 4 BP #121**

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “Come Thou long-expected Jesus” BP #114

Celebrating the Truth of our Going Forth – We Leave for Ministry

Benediction:

Interpersonal Benediction: “Sanctuary” SB #44

December Seniors Event:

Date: Wednesday 11th December 2024

Event: Annual Senior's Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch & Caroling

Time: 12 noon

Venue: in the Gray Hall

Worship & Sacraments Team: Prayer Requests

Frank De Vries – at home
Frank Ingold – at home
Jackie Greenwood – at home
Bob Kenzie – Sunnyside Home
Mary Master – Conestoga Lodge
Dolly McCormack – Court at Laurelwood Retirement Home
Marg & Terry McCorriston – at home
Julie Phoenix – Southbridge London Long Term Care Home
Curt Ryan – AgeCare West Williams LTC
Shirley Steinberg – Winston Park LTC
Dirk Vanderhide – at home
Glen Verheye – at home

Mission & Outreach Team:

Christmas Clothesline:

Through this month of November, we will be accepting donations of new adult size socks, mittens, gloves, and hats in support of The Working Centre to help people locally in need. The last day to bring in donations is December 1st. Thank you for your support. M&O Team

Sunday School:

We have bi-weekly Sunday School this school year, 2024/25. The dates for Sunday School this fall are: **December** 01, & 15. We are looking for more Sunday School teachers, helpers, or back-ups to join the team permanently but also specifically to help with the younger group. If interested, please contact Cathrine (gcejtaylor@gmail.com), Nicolene (nclemens7@yahoo.ca) or Johnson (srikanthjohnson@gmail.com). We are thrilled to share and grow with the children this year. Peace and Joy, Cathrine and Nicolene

From the Finance Team: options for financial giving to KEPC:

- 1) **Canada Post:** send your offering envelope in an envelope addressed to the Church: 10 Zeller Dr, Kitchener, ON, N2A 4A8
- 2) **E – transfer:** This involves using your online banking application using the e-transfer option & sending the transaction to the Church email: kepc@golden.net
- 3) **PAR: pre-authorized remittance.** This is set up once and an amount is withdrawn from your bank account monthly until you choose to stop it or change the amount. Contact Chris Clemens clemensc78@yahoo.ca and he can set you up.
- 4) **Tithe.ly** on our website, (click on the menu “Donate Now”) and donations can be through your Visa, Mastercard, or Debit.
- 5) The locked, **black box** on the wall of the sanctuary by the main doors for your offerings.

Thank-you for your ongoing and prayerful support of the mission and ministry of KEPC.

Thank you for your faithful support of KEPC finances. Here are the October KEPC financials: It was pretty close to "break even" for the month and the YTD shortfall remains about \$12,500. Thanks for everyone's financial support as we strive to reach our year-end financial goals.

Offering Envelopes: If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2024 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris. For anyone that has changed addresses, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

Thank-you, from the Finance & Stewardship Team.

Grocery Cards:

We are participating in the grocery gift card program in our Region. If you would like to purchase grocery gift cards for the PC group of stores, and/or the Metro group of stores, please speak with Barb Cook, Rob Gloin, or Emmie Richardson. They are available every week. For each card we sell we receive a small amount back from the Community Charity Services.

Presbyterian Breakfasts:

On the third Saturday of every month Knox Presbyterian Church holds a men's breakfast starting at 8 AM sharp. There is always lots of coffee / tea, side bacon, scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, and jam, orange juice, and of course homemade fruit salad.

All who identify as male are welcome and encouraged to join in with like-minded people who enjoy good food and the fellowship of other Christian males. After our meal, we adjourn to an upper room and hear what our guest speaker has to say. Looking forward to seeing all of you and please encourage other males that you know to come out and join us. To be sure that we have the right amount of food to serve, we would appreciate hearing from you to know if you actually are coming or not.

Our next breakfast at Knox Presbyterian Church is December 21st. You are encouraged you to exercise your vocal cords because this is the time of year when we will be singing Christmas Carols

Events This Week: 01st – 08th December 2024

- Sunday:** 10:30 am – 1st Sunday in Advent Worship Service with baptism; Sunday School; coffee & conversation in the Gray Hall.
- Tuesday:** 9:30 – 11:30 am – Zoom Bible Study group
12 – 1:30 pm – Music Therapy
6:30 – 8 pm – Sparks in the Gray Hall
7 pm – Worship & Sacraments Team meeting in the McLean Fireside Room
- Wednesday:** 6:30 – 9 pm – Scouts in the Gray Hall
- Thursday:** 9 – 11 am – Sonshine Corner in the Gray Hall
- Friday:** 12 – 3:30 pm – Music Therapy
6 – 10 pm – Youth Group in the Gray Hall
- Sunday:** 10:30 am – 2nd Sunday in Advent Worship Service

A festive poster for Christmas events at CRIEFF HILLS. The title "Christmas at CRIEFF HILLS" is written in a mix of cursive and bold sans-serif fonts. The poster features a list of events, contact information, and decorative elements like holly leaves and berries at the top and bottom.

Christmas
at
CRIEFF HILLS

- Wreath Making November 28
- Christmas Market December 8
- Christmas Lunches December 10 & 11
- Christmas On-Farm Dinner December 13
- Lantern Labyrinth Walk December 21
- Christmas Tea at Dove House December 22
- Advent Quiet Days in Dove House December 4,11,17

Check the website for details or contact Scott
events@crieffhills.com
519 824 7898
www.crieffhills.com