

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 3, Sunday 15th 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 3 and chorus

Welcome, and announcements:

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy: on screen

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “Good Christian folk rejoice” BP #124

Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer:

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

Scripture: St. Luke 2:1-20 NLT

Message: “Priceless!”

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession:

Children singing, and the visit of the Wise Men:

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “The first Nowell” BP #131

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

Benediction:

Interpersonal Benediction: “Sanctuary”

SB #44

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

Sunday School:

Dear Sunday school children and families,

The next Sunday school class is on White gift Sunday, December 15th. We are preparing for the children to sing a song or two for the congregation before the Wise men arrives with some good news.

The songs we would like for your children to practise are: Go tell it on the mountain and Joy to the world.

<https://youtu.be/UVX6to3OZsM?feature=shared>

<https://youtu.be/bQ8gE0L1524?feature=shared>

We truly hope you will be able to join us. Blessings from you Sunday School Teachers, Cathrine, Graham and Nicolene.

Our regular bi-weekly Sunday School resumes on Sunday 12th January 2025.

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).

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

The Mission and Outreach Team invite you to help share the spirit of Christmas with seniors living at Columbia Forest LTCC. On the Christmas tree, you will find snowflakes with items that are needed and appreciated. If you are able to help, please choose a snowflake and purchase the item for donation. Bring the unwrapped item back to KEPC by Sunday, December 15th, so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. *If purchasing edible treats, please make sure they are nut free.*

The Mission and Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for the generous donations for The Working Centre.

Together, we collected 87 pairs of socks, 33 pairs of gloves and mittens, 40 hats, 11 neck warmers, and 1 winter headband for people in need in our community!!

Events This Week: 15th – 24th December 2024

Sunday: 10:30 am – 3rd Sunday in Advent Worship Service with Three Wise Men; Non-perishable food items for the Food Bank; Sunday School; coffee & cake & conversation in the Gray Hall.

Monday: 7 pm – Elders meeting via Zoom

Tuesday: 12 – 1:30 pm – Music Therapy
6:30 – 8 pm – Sparks in the Gray Hall

Wednesday: 6:30 – 9 pm – Scouts in the Gray Hall

Thursday: 9 – 11 am – Sonshine Corner in the Gray Hall
4 pm – Caroling from the Church

Friday: 12 – 3:30 pm – Music Therapy
6 – 10 pm – New Life Youth Group in the Gray Hall

Saturday: 8 am – Men's breakfast at Knox PC Waterloo

Sunday: 10:30 am – 4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service

Tuesday: 7 pm – Christmas Eve worship time together

A festive poster for Christmas events at Crieff Hills. The top features the word "Christmas" in a large, elegant cursive script, with "at" in a smaller font below it, and "CRIEFF HILLS" in a bold, dark green, sans-serif font. The background is a light beige color, decorated with several green and red circular ornaments. At the bottom, there is a watercolor-style illustration of green pine branches with yellow and red star-shaped ornaments. A list of events is provided in a dark green, sans-serif font, and contact information is at the 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