

A Time Called ... CHRISTMAS SEASON

God has come among us. After centuries of looking up to find God, people looked down into a mother's arms to see the face of God. In becoming human, God shows absolute commitment to humanity and creation. Things can never be the same again. What can this event mean to me?

Historical Roots of the Christmas Season

In our Canadian reformed tradition, we have come to think of the time after Christmas Day as "the 12 days of Christmas," but this is a time known, in liturgical calendars, as Christmastide or Twelve Holy Days. And, of course, this season is best known popularly by that repetitive song which we love to hate – *The Twelve Days of Christmas*! This season leads us to Epiphany on January 6. These twelve days celebrate the Light that is entering the world.

Finding Meaning in the Tradition

In our homes, the Christmas season is usually a time of winding down and tidying up after the excitement of Christmas Day. So it is in the church. As we wonder at the birth of the Christ child, we reflect on the story's many surprises: a faithful pregnant virgin, a baby born in a make-do setting, and the announcement, not to monarchs, but to shepherds going about their everyday lives. Christmas reveals the mystery of grace and God's presence with us, coming unexpectedly and intimately. It takes more than one day, once a year, to reflect on these things. It takes a season. It takes a lifetime.

Questions for Personal Meditation

What questions would I like to ask God about the Christmas story? What is my favorite part of the Christmas story? How does Christmas challenge the idea that God is out there someplace? What part of Christmas most affects my faith?

FORGIVEN

TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE



KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Established 03rd May 1987

Minister:

Minister in Association:

Music Director:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Rev. Jeff Smith

Sarah Pottier

Sunday 29th 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” all verses and chorus

Welcome, and announcements:

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “What child is this?” **SB #56**

Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer:

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

Scripture: St. Matthew 1:18-25 NLT

Message: “Because of a baby, the status can no longer be quo!”

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession:

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

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

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “Unto us a boy is born” **BP #142**

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:

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

Events This Week: 29th December – 05th January 2025

Sunday: 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service

Wednesday: New Years Day

Sunday: 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service

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 November KEPC financials: It was pretty close to "break even" for the month and the November YTD shortfall was about \$11,500.

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 2025 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.

The Annual Congregational Meeting:

The elders have set that the annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday 16th February 2025 at 11:30 am, immediately following the 10:30 am worship time together. The annual meeting will be in-person ***Would all groups and people who do up a report please have them emailed to Barb Cook (mjblcook@outlook.com) by 26th January 2025*** so that we will have time to email and print the Report for the congregation, as well as have paper copies in your hanging files by Sunday 02nd February 2025.