

## 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

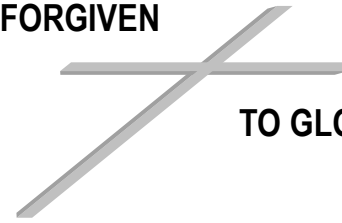
Advent is the time when Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We recall those who waited and prepared for a promised Christ child: the prophet Isaiah, Mary, his mother, and John the Baptist. We also think about God's promises that are yet to be revealed under the reign of Christ, in "the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



### KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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<https://www.instagram.com/kepc10/>

**Established 03<sup>rd</sup> May 1987**

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Minister in Association:

Rev. Jeff Smith

Music Director:

Sarah Pottier

**Advent 4, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 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 4** **NBP #119**

Welcome, and announcements:

**Advent Candle lighting liturgy:** **on screen**

**WOW Choir:** **“Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”**

*Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!*

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

Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer:

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

Scripture: St. Matthew 1:18-25 **NLT**

Message: “naughty or nice, bad or good?”

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

Prayer:

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

Doxology: **“In the bleak midwinter” vs 4** **BP #359**

Prayer of Dedication

**Praise: “It came upon the midnight clear”** **BP #144**

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

Benediction:

**Interpersonal Benediction: “Lord be glorified” vs 1, 3**

**SB #60**

**Worship & Sacraments Team: Prayer Requests**

Bernice Baum – at home

Gladys Brown – at home

Frank De Vries – at home

Ann Gray – Trinity Village

Doug Greenwood – Huronview LTC, Clinton

Frank Ingold – at home

Bob Kenzie – Sunnyside Home

Larry Mason – WRHS Midtown

Mary Master – A. R. Goudie LTC

Dolly McCormack – Court at Laurelwood Retirement Home

Marg & Terry McCorrison – Freeport Hospital, & at home

Curt Ryan – AgeCare West Williams LTC

Shirley Steinberg – Winston Park LTC

Dirk Vanderheide – at home

**Sunday School 2025 – 2026:**

Our regular bi-weekly Sunday School resumes on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

We are looking for more Sunday School teachers, helpers, or back-ups to join the team. 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: 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Sunday:** 10:30 am – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Worship Service

**Tuesday:** 12 – 5:45 pm – Music Therapy

**Wednesday:** 7 pm – Christmas Eve worship service

**Thursday:** **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!!!**

**Sunday:** 10:30 am – Worship Service

**Mission & Outreach Team:** The Mission and Outreach Team would like to thank everyone for the support of another successful Frozen Food Fundraiser. Together, we raised \$675.

**Leading With Care:** KEPC has been a Leading with Care congregation since its inception in 2004. However, we need to renew our understanding of this national church policy and our implementation of it in our congregation here in 2025/2026. Rob Gloin & Kerry Weir are spearheading this within our congregation.

**Offering Envelopes:** If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2026 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris at clemensc78@yahoo.ca. For anyone that has changed addresses, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

**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.

**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.**

**November financial update:**

There was a little over \$1600 surplus for the month which makes the YTD shortfall a little over \$11,000.

We'll look to achieve our financial goal of break even by the end of December. Thanks for your support of KEPC.

Finance & Stewardship Team