

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

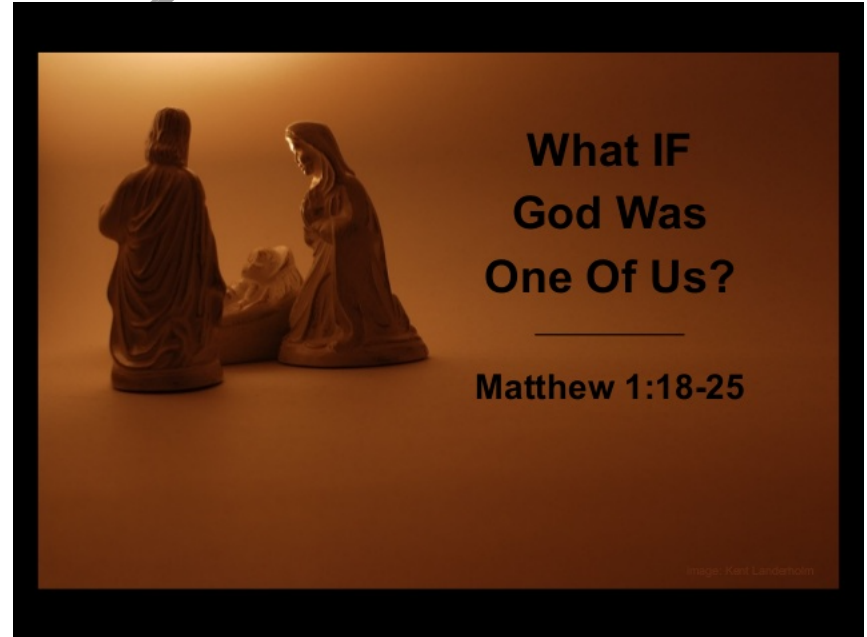
In our homes, the Christmas season is usually a time of winding down and tidying up after the excitement of Christmas Day. So it is in the church. As we wonder at the birth of the Christ child, we reflect on the story's many surprises: a faithful pregnant virgin, a baby born in a make-do setting, and 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.

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:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Minister in Association:

Rev. Jeff Smith

Music Director:

Sarah Pottier

Sunday 28th 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” (all verses) NBP #119

Welcome, and announcements:

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. Matthew 2:1-23 NLT

Message: “All through Jesus, God's plan continues!”

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: “Joy to the world” BP #134

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 McCorriston – 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 18th 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

Annual Reports - In order to prepare the Annual Report for the congregation we ask that anyone who leads an activity in the church please submit a summary of activities. Please forward reports to Barb Cook at mjbcook@outlook.com by Sunday 01st February 2026, in order to have the annual report ready for the congregation ahead of the Annual Meeting, on Sunday 22nd February immediately following the worship service. The Annual Report will be distributed electronically, and a few paper copies will be available.

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 as of 21st December.

But in light of the next announcement, we are overwhelmed with thanksgiving!! Thanks for your support of KEPC.

Finance & Stewardship Team

Special Financial Donation to KEPC:

We received a surprise special donation notification this week, via a contact from the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) & we wanted the congregation to know.

The generous donation was made by an individual in the amount of \$30,000!

This is truly a totally unexpected Christmas blessing for KEPC and we should all praise God for His care and blessings of our congregation!

Finance & Stewardship Team

Presbytery Visitation to KEPC:

On Sunday 11th January 2026 representatives from the Presbytery will be visiting our congregation by attending and taking part in our worship service. Following the service, the visiting team will meet casually with members of the congregation, including the minister and session members. All members and adherents are invited and encourage to attend and participate. It is the intent of the Presbytery to check on the general health of each congregation, including ours, and to affirm and strengthen the faithful ministry of the congregations within the Presbytery.

