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JUST AS  
HE  
PROMISED

December 11, 2016

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



*Welcome!*

Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer on this 3rd Sunday of Advent! This morning we have the opportunity to learn from two extraordinary women. Elizabeth was drawing near to the end of her life and Mary was just transitioning from youth to adulthood. Both are experiencing unexpected and miraculous pregnancies. And both are exercising incredible faith and obedience in the face of challenging circumstances. I pray that by God's grace we would each learn to become more like this elderly woman and this young teenage girl in our response to God's presence in our lives.



Order of Worship

✦ Welcome and Prayer

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come 337



Musical notation for the first system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come". The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. Chord symbols D, A7, D, G, and A are placed above the treble staff.

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

Musical notation for the second system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come".

Musical notation for the third system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come".

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
 ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

Musical notation for the fourth system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come".

Musical notation for the fifth system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come".

room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

Musical notation for the sixth system of "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come".

and

Musical notation for the first system of the second hymn. Chord symbols D, D/A, A7, and D are placed above the treble staff.

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Musical notation for the second system of the second hymn.

heaven and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; based on Psalm 98  
 Tune: Lowell Mason, 1848

CM with repeats  
ANTIOCH

✦ God's Greeting (after which we greet each other)

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

(Henry Van Dyke)



Joyful, joyful, we adore you  
 God of glory, Lord of love,  
 Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
 opening to the sun above  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
 Drive the dark of night away  
 Giver of immortal gladness,  
 Fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
 Earth and heav'n reflect your rays.  
 Stars and angels sing around you  
 Center of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain  
 Flowey meadow, flashing sea,  
 Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
 Call us to rejoice in Thee.



(continued)



*(Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee continued)*

You are giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest.  
You our Father, Christ our brother,  
All who live in love are Thine,  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

### ✦ Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a reminder of the joy that is ours because God is faithful to all his promises: Jesus Christ is coming!



### ✦ Responsive Reading

**Leader:** The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

**Congregation:** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

**Leader:** Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

**Congregation:** And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing.

**All:** Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



## Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes 335

*Descant*

4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - oners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the wound - ed  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

prom - ised long! Let ev - ery heart pre -  
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal

arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song,  
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - bled poor.  
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

✦ **Prayer**

**Peace is Flowing Like a River**



Peace is flowing like a River  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.

Hope is flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.

Love is flowing like a river  
Flowing out of you and me  
Flowing out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.



✦ **Baptism Of Wylde Jacob James Gallant**

***Apostle's Creed Congregational Response to Baptism:***

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**One Generation Will Call to the Next**

*(Greg Scheer)*

We will extol You God and King  
And bless Your holy name  
Day after day we'll sing Your praise  
Forever and forever

One generation will call to the next  
Our God is good and His hand is strong  
All of the world sings His marvelous acts  
And our voice will join with theirs in the song

Great is the Lord  
In all His ways He's greatly to be praised  
Were we to search for endless days  
His greatness none could fathom

We contemplate the splendor of the world  
Your hand has made  
Far greater still the majesty we see in the Creator

Now may Your name be sung  
In ev'ry tongue in ev'ry place  
Singing the fame of Your great love  
In ev'ry generation



✦ **Children's Message**

✦ **Announcements**

✦ **Congregational Prayer**

✦ **Thank Offering: 1 - Ebenezer Ministries**

**2 - The King's University**

*(Children ages 3 - Grade 6 leave for Children's Church)*

✦ **Prayer**



✦ **Scripture: Luke 1:39-56**

**Mary Visits Elizabeth**

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

**Mary's Song**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors."

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

✦ **Message: *The First Christmas Carol***



✦ **Prayer**

**Joy has Dawned**

*(Keith Getty, Stuart Townsend)*



Joy has dawned upon the world  
Promised from creation  
God's salvation now unfurled  
Hope for every nation  
Not with fanfares from above  
Not with scenes of glory  
But a humble gift of love  
Jesus born of Mary

Sounds of wonder fill the sky  
With the songs of angels  
As the mighty Prince of Life  
Shelters in a stable  
Hands that set each star in place  
Shaped the earth in darkness  
Cling now to a mother's breast  
Vulnerable and helpless

Shepherds bow before the Lamb  
Gazing at the glory  
Gifts of men from distant lands  
Prophecy the story  
Gold a King is born today  
Incense God is with us  
Myrrh His death will make a way  
And by His blood He'll win us

Son of Adam Son of heaven  
Given as a ransom  
Reconciling God and man  
Christ our mighty Champion!  
What a Saviour what a Friend  
What a glorious mystery  
Once a babe in Bethlehem  
Now the Lord of history



## ✦ Parting Blessing

### The Trees of the Field

(Steffi Rubin, Stuart Dauerman)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace  
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you  
There'll be shouts of joy  
And all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
The trees of the field will clap their hands  
While you go out with joy

(repeat)

*We are glad you are here today! Please join us for coffee, tea, juice and fellowship after the service.*



*Coming Up @ Ebenezer*

Monday	7:00 pm	Friendship
Wednesday	10:00 am	Coffee Break and Story Hour
	7:00 pm	Cadets
Thursday	11:30 am	Seniors' Christmas Lunch
Sunday (Dec 18)	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting
	10:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent
	7:00 pm	Candlelight Service

**Christmas and New Year's Services:**  
*Advent Services - December 11, 18 @ 10:00 am*  
*Candlelight Service - December 18 @ 7:00 pm*  
*Christmas Day Service - December 25 @ 10:00 am*  
*New Years Day Service - January 1 @ 11:00 am*



**SENIORS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH** - We will be having our annual Seniors' Christmas Lunch on Thursday, December 15. Please come at 11:30am, we will start with some singing, share our lunch, and have a special Christmas program. Feel free to invite friends! Please RSVP to the church office, 780-986-4119. If you would like to help, please call the church office. Thank you!

**A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS** - If you missed the Piatta Forma Singers last night here at Ebenezer, they will have a song service at St Peter's Lutheran Church tonight at 7pm.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE COOKIES** - We encourage bakers in our congregation to bring cookies and squares, etc. to share after the Candlelight Service (Dec 18 @ 7pm). Please bring them to church that morning so we can prepare them on trays before the evening service. Thank you!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** - there will be no classes for all ages on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Enjoy these special days with your families!

**CHURCH SIGN** - Admin committee is looking at designing a more visible sign for the church. If you have ideas of what that should look like please contact Jim or anyone on the admin team. Thank you.

**CADETS** - are putting together the 2017 Cadet Calendar! Please call or email the church office with any corrections or additions that need to be made from the 2016 calendar. Thank you!

*MORE Ebenezer Announcements on next page!*

## Church Family

Congratulations to **Glen and Christine H** on the birth of their daughter, **Evelyn Joni!** A little sister for Levi, Lily, Jackson, and Nella. We rejoice with you and your families in this special blessing!

Please remember in prayer those who are struggling with illness and those who are recovering from surgery. We pray God's peace, comfort, and healing for you all.

Please remember in prayer **Mrs. Jane P** in Extencicare, Leduc.

## Deacon's Corner

**1<sup>st</sup> Offering - EBENEZER MINISTRIES** - This offering is used to cover the day-to-day expenses of the church, fund the various ministries at Ebenezer, cover the salaries of staff, and contributes to the ministry shares that we are committed to as members of Classis Alberta North and the CRC Denomination.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offering - THE KING'S UNIVERSITY** - Providing university education that inspires and equips learners to bring renewal and reconciliation to every walk of life as followers of Jesus Christ, the Servant-King. They aspire to flourish and grow as a university community faithful to the biblical vision of the restoration of all things in Jesus Christ, characterized by creative teaching, passionate learning, rigorous scholarship, compassionate care, and joyful service. For more info see kingsu.ca

**Next Week - OUR MISSIONARY FAMILIES** - One of the missionary families we support in our church are the Geisterfers, based in Honduras. Each year we commit to giving \$3000.00 towards their ministry work. For more info about their missions, please visit the Christian Reformed World Missions website.

**WIDOWED LUNCH BUNCH** - Because of the busy-ness of the season, there is no Widowed Lunch Bunch this month. We will meet again in January. Thank you to all who have supported this social occasion.

**CADET BOTTLE DRIVE** - The cadets are once again hosting their annual bottle drive *January 6*. Please keep your bottles for this important cadet fundraiser! Money raised will go toward helping our cadets attend the Camporee in South Dakota in July.

**SOUND & PROJECTION TECHS NEEDED!** - Are you looking for a way to serve the church and not sure where? Do you like to sit and press buttons? Well maybe this is for you!! We really need more volunteers who are willing to be trained to run our sound board or projection for Sunday services and other special events. Please call the church office or talk to one of our techs if you can help!



**CRAFT RETREAT** - Our next 'crafting retreat' is right around the corner...Thursday, December 29th and Friday, December 30th at the church. We will be starting on Thursday morning at 9:00 am and go till about 9:00 pm. On Friday, we will start again at 9:00 am and will finish up by 9:00 pm again. You can craft (scrapbook, knit, weave, sew, quilt, crochet, embroider, etc.) for both days, one day, partial days - whatever works for you! We will have lunch and supper on both days so please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can prepare accordingly. If you have any questions and/or would like to help with set up and food preparations, please contact either Wendy T or Freda MO.



## NOTES FROM COUNCIL:

Further to a discussion at the recent congregational meeting about the use of video/cameras during the church service... Council recognizes that there are special occasions in the life of our church for which many people would like a lasting memory to share with family and friends. That said, we would like to ask that if you would like to videotape or take photos of these occasions, it is done so discreetly and we would like to specifically request that no "panning" of the congregation be included in any video taping and no large group photos of the congregation in general. We would like to (as much as possible) respect people's individual privacy around these activities. We truly appreciate that memories are important not just for families but for our church records as well!

A recent council discussion also focused on children participating in the Lord's Supper. If you have a child that is ready to take this step in their faith journey then we rejoice with you! Pastor Jason and the elders would like to invite anyone interested in beginning to participate in Lord's Supper to come have a chat so that we can walk alongside of you as you make this important decision."

Please note that our New Year's Day service will be at 11:00 a.m. For those of you who may be expecting family or friends to be visiting that day, please note the time change!

**REMINDER: WORLD RENEW GIFT CATALOGUE** - invites you to give the BEST GIFTS EVER to people living with poverty and hunger this Christmas - You can help a family with a filter for clean water to drink, help a child get the food they need to grow well with a nutrition kit, or help a disaster survivor find shelter and restoration. Get your copy of the all-new World Renew gift catalogue online at [worldrenewgifts.net](http://worldrenewgifts.net), or find one on the Deacon's table!



## Thank You to Our Volunteers

**Ushers:** Dennis V, Andy Z, Marilyn Z

**Next Week:** Ted K, Andrew V, Howard O

**Greeters:** Henk & Mennie S

**Next Week:** Dick & Judy O

**Coffee Duties:** Gerard & Wendy B, Jon & Janna P, Andrew V

**Next Week:** Dennis & Ineke V, Warren & Carrie T, Jason & Yoka T

**Worship Team:** Grace & Team

**Next Week:** Alice & Team

**Projection & Audio:** Jamie & Matt

**Next Week:** Wes & Pete

**Serving Elder:** Evan S

**Next Week:** Jim T

**Nursery: Supervisor** - Carol W

**Next Week: Supervisor** - Laura A

**Infants:** Caroline V, Gea T, Lois D

**Infants:** Josh K, Michelle O, Caylie K

**Toddlers:** Michelle K, John W, Damien B **Toddlers:** Laura A, Jon L, Isaac M

