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November 27, 2016

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



Welcome!

Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer! This morning we begin our Advent series entitled, "Just As He Promised." We'll be thinking together about the time when God Himself kept His promises and became a man and entered into the drama of His creation. Below is a quote from Dorothy Sayers to help us be amazed again by the incredible birth that happened so long ago in Bethlehem.

"The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever staggered the imagination of man. The plot pivots upon a single character: Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, who was in fact and in truth, and in the most exact and literal sense of the words, "the God by whom all things were made" and he was also in every respect a genuine living man. That means that for whatever reason that God chose to allow humans to rebel and suffer and be subject to sorrow and death—at least He had the honesty and courage to take His own medicine. He has asked nothing of creation that He has not gone through Himself... from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death.

"Christianity is the story of the time when God was the underdog and got beaten, when He submitted to the conditions He laid down and became a man like the men He had made, and the men He had made broke Him and killed Him. This is the terrifying drama of which God is both the victim and the hero. If that is dull—then what, in heaven's name, is worthy of being called exciting?"

Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos* (1949)

Order of Worship

✦ **Welcome and Prayer**

✦ **Call to Worship**

Revival *(Robin Mark)*

As sure as gold is precious and the honey sweet,
So you love this city and you love these streets.
Every child out playing by their own front door
Every baby laying on the bedroom floor.

Every dreamer dreaming in her dead-end job
Every driver driving through the rush hour mob
I feel it in my spirit, feel it in my bones
You're going to send revival,
bring them all back home

I can hear that thunder in the distance
Like a train on the edge of town
I can feel the brooding of Your Spirit
"Lay your burdens down, Lay your burdens down".

From the Preacher preaching when the well is dry
To the lost soul reaching for a higher high
From the young man working through
his hopes and fears

To the widow walking through the veil of tears
Every man and woman, every old and young
Every father's daughter, every mother's son.
I feel it in my spirit, feel it in my bones
You're going to send revival, bring them all back home

I can hear that thunder in the distance
Like a train on the edge of town
I can feel the brooding of Your Spirit
"Lay your burdens down, Lay your burdens down".

Revive us, Revive us,
Revive us with your fire!



✦ Responsive Reading

Leader - Wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope.

Congregation - My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.

Leader - O Israel hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

Congregation - Wait for the Lord; be strong, let your heart take courage.

All - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

✦ Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light this candle as a reminder that the hope for our salvation does not come from our own hands, but from Jesus Christ. The reason we have hope in all circumstances is because God always keeps His promises.



Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 329

4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

by thine all suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.
 from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1744

Tune: Psalmodia Sacra, 1715; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861; desc. John Wilson, 1983.

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87 87

STUTTGART

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

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord (David Evans)

Be still for the presence of the Lord
 The Holy One is here
 Come bow before Him now
 With reverence and fear
 In Him no sin is found
 We stand on holy ground
 Be still for the presence of the Lord
 The Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord
 Is shining all around
 He burns with holy fire
 With splendor He is crowned
 How awesome is the sight
 Our radiant King of light
 Be still for the glory of the Lord
 Is shining all around
 (continued)



(Be still for the Presence of the Lord continued)



Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place

✦ **Time of Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

Reader #1: *Promise Made - Isaiah 9:7* - Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Reader #2: *Promise Kept - Luke 1:32-33* - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

Cornerstone

(Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name



Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When Darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.

✦ **Children's Message**

✦ **Announcements**

✦ **Congregational Prayer**

✦ **Thank Offering:**

- 1 - Ebenezer Ministries**
- 2 - Days for Girls Leduc Team**

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



✦ Scripture: Luke 1:5-25



The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

¹⁹The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

✦ Message: Promise Kept - *Zechariah and Elizabeth*

The reason we have hope is not because God always does what we want or expect. Sometimes He doesn't. But we have hope because we trust that God loves us and will always ultimately do what is best. And one reason we trust God is because He has proven Himself to be faithful to His Word. The story of Zechariah and Elizabeth and their unlikely son provides a hope-giving reminder to us that since God has been faithful to keep His promises in the past, He will be faithful to keep His promises in the future too.



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
Prophesy 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

Jesus, Hope of the Nations

(Brian Doerksen)

Jesus hope of the nations
Jesus comfort for all who mourn
You are the source of Heaven's hope on earth

Jesus light in the darkness
Jesus truth in each circumstance
You are the source of Heaven's light on earth

In history You lived and died
You broke the chains You rose to life

You are the hope living in us
You are the rock in Whom we trust
You are the light
Shining for all the world to see

You rose from the dead conquering fear
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near
Jesus our hope living for all who will receive
Lord we believe

(repeat song)

We are glad you are here today! Please join us for coffee, tea, juice and fellowship after the service. Our friends from the McMan Home will be serving cupcakes and goodies as a thank you for helping them reach their fundraising goals and to celebrate their new van!



Church Family

Congratulations to **Justin V and Carlee M** on their engagement! Their wedding is planned for August 15, 2017 in Lacombe. We pray God's blessing on you both as you prepare for this special day!

Dear Ebenezer, my sincerest thank you to you all for the lovely and delicious lunch and tea you served at my mother's memorial service. You did an awesome job! Many thanks also for the use of Ebenezer Church in lieu of Ottewell Church. It is a beautiful facility. God bless you richly for your time given to make mom's memorial service so pleasant!

-Kindest regards, **Ada B** (Johanna L's daughter)

Dear Ebenezer thank you for all your help and for holding such a lovely funeral for our mother and grandmother.
- **The B Family**

Jenny H moved into Salem Manor (room 32B) this past Wednesday. Please pray she will settle into her new surroundings quickly and enjoy her new home. Thank-you to everyone who visited her in the hospital and hope you will continue visiting at Salem, as she loves visitors.

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

REFUGEE UPDATE - With the help of committee members, Samaan and Rima A are settling into their new home in Edmonton, as well as dealing with all the logistics required as newcomers to Canada. They are excited to visit our church and worship with us today! Please take this opportunity to introduce yourself, and extend a warm Alberta welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - On Tuesday, November 29th we will be having a congregational meeting for our whole church family. The GEMS Counsellors will be providing dessert, coffee and childcare (see ad below) as a fundraiser for their convention registration fees. Please arrive at 7pm for dessert, the meeting will start at 7:15. The agenda is: 1)7:00--Dessert Service 2)Musical Worship 3)Budget Discussion 4)New Website Presentation 5)Update on GEMS 6)Update on Small Groups 7)Outreach Discussion 8)Q&A time 9)Close.

PARENTS - Do you need someone to watch your kids during the Congregational Meeting? All kids are invited to come in their Pajamas to a Pajama Party during the meeting! With the help of some of the older GEMS we'll play some games, get creative and have a snack. When they get tired we'll watch Veggie Tales until the meeting is over and they'll be ready for bed when you get home. Freewill donations accepted for childcare and dessert.

INSPIRATIONAL BOOK AND MEDIA SWAP - at the congregational meeting. Please bring your gently used inspirational books, CDs, or DVDs to share and swap with "new-to-you" items. Any items left over after the swap will be donated to Second Glance. Thank you!



GEMS POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER - All poinsettia orders are due today! They arrive this Thursday, Dec 1. You are encouraged to pick up your poinsettia between 3 - 4pm Thursday or during office hours on Friday. Thank for your support of our GEMS club!



PARKING LOT - Until the ground is thoroughly frozen, we will need to make more space in our parking lot. Please be sure to park efficiently so we have room for visitors! Thank you!

BAPTISM - Next week, Lord willing, we will witness the sacrament of Baptism as Jon and Janna P bring their son to be baptized.

MUSTARD SEED DINNER - As a congregation, we have been asked to help with the annual Christmas turkey dinner for the Mustard Seed in Edmonton. This dinner will be held on Sat. December 10. Around 500 people are expected to enjoy this meal. After the service next Sunday, Dec 4, you will have the opportunity to donate and help cover the cost of the materials and food. Any extra money will be forwarded to the Mustard Seed. If you would like to help serve and cleanup at the Mustard Seed, or cook veggies at our church before hand, please let Joyce D or Margaret T know. Your donation, help, and prayers are appreciated. Thank you.



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!

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Tonight	7:00 pm Genesis Bible Study
Monday	7:00 pm Friendship
Tuesday	7:00 pm Congregational Meeting (<i>see announcements</i>)
Wednesday	10:00 am Coffee Break and Story Hour 7:00 pm Cadets
Sunday (Dec 4)	9:15 am Weekly Prayer Meeting 10:00 am Second Sunday of Advent and Baptism

Christmas and New Year's Services:

Advent Services - November 27, December 4, 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 @ 10:00 am

Deacon's Corner

1st 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.

2nd Offering - DAYS FOR GIRLS LEDUC TEAM - The Days for Girls mission is simple: creating a more free, dignified and educated world through access to lasting feminine hygiene products. We help girls gain access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene, vital health knowledge, and income-generation opportunities. All of this is possible thanks to a global alliance of 670+ chapters and teams, companies, governments, NGOs, and passionate people just like you. So far we've reached 400,000+ girls in 100+ nations. You can help us reach the rest. For more information go to daysforgirls.org

Next Week - SEAFARERS' MINISTRY - The Ministry to Seafarers of the Christian Reformed Church is a Vancouver-based organization dedicated to caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of seafarers visiting the port of Vancouver. The ministry exists to be a seafarer's advocate and first line of support, to lend both a sympathetic ear and a helping hand, and assist in providing a safe, relaxing place that all seafarers can call their home-away-from-home.

COFFEE WITH PASTOR JASON - Due to different holidays and events happening over the next several weeks, coffee time with Pastor Jason will be postponed until January. We look forward to seeing you again then!

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!

EVENING IN BETHLEHEM - 6th annual Evening in Bethlehem Dec 2-4 at Calvary Baptist Church of Wetaskiwin (4910 Northmount Drive). Bring a non-perishable donation for the Wetaskiwin Food Bank. For more info, see their poster on the bulletin board or call 780-352-3818, thank you!

SPECIAL ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES - Looking for more meaning in the midst of a busy Christmas season? This Advent, ReFrame Media offers a special email devotional series just for you. With daily devotions and encouragements from Today, Family Fire, Groundwork, and the fun of Kids Corner, we designed it to help your whole family experience the true wonder of Christmas, the coming Christ. Subscribe at ReFrameMedia.com/Advent.

THE LORD'S SUPPER - Communion, Lord's Supper, Mass, Eucharist...it's one sacrament known by many names practiced in varying forms. Join us as we study Luke 22, John 6 and 1 Corinthians 11 to discover why Christians believe it's an essential means of receiving Christ and experiencing his presence. Never miss an episode; subscribe for free weekly email notifications and listen now at GroundworkOnline.com.

LIVING THE 8TH FIRE: CIRCLE 6 - This circle will focus on the key implications of the Prime Minister's 2008 apology: "that all Canadians are called to participate in the journey of reconciliation" As image bearers of a God who has called each one of us to be reconciled with Himself let us extend the hand of grace to our Indigenous neighbours. Come join us tomorrow night, Nov. 28th at 7 pm at the Edmonton Native Healing Centre (11813 -123 St). For further info please contact Jesse Edgington at journadc@gmail.com or Lucinda Klapwyk at lklapwyk@yahoo.ca

EMBRACE CHARITY - 3rd Online Christmas Auction is now live. Bid on some great Christmas gifts with 100% of the bid amount going to our chosen children's charities: Hope Mission's Brightwood Ranch, Watoto & cbm Canada. Items include: A Galaxy Tablet, Fairmont Hot Springs Condo for Spring Break, Earl's Dinner for 6, Laugh for Life tickets, McDavid Jerseys, Citadel Theatre Tickets for A Christmas Carol & 3 other plays, Children's Toys, Amsteam Carpet & Furnace Cleaning Certificates, 2 Night stay in a Tipi in the Mountains, Camera Equipment, Home Made Mocha Gebakjes (Pastries). To View Auction items, please visit: www.32auctions.com/EC2016 For more information or to donate an item or service, please contact info@embracecharity.ca or 780.200.9935. www.embracecharity.ca

ADVENT STARTS TODAY - Starting November 28, World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice will share a daily devotional series for Advent 2016 called The Things that Make for Peace, to orient your Christmas season. To sign up, go to crcna.org/advent.

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12-18-1997

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Ted K, Andrew V, Howard O

Next Week: Dennis P. Ruby P, John T

Greeters: Fred & Linda K

Next Week: Jason & Yoka T

Coffee Duties: Scott & Jody K, Gezinus & Bea M, Norm & Grace H

Next Week: Matt & Leanne K, Wim & Jenny R, Tamara D

Worship Team: Alice & Team

Next Week: Marianne & Team

Projection & Audio: Wes & Pete

Next Week: Nicole & Mike

Serving Elder: Glen H

Next Week: Harold H

Nursery: Supervisor - Lisa K

Next Week: Supervisor - Carol W

Infants: Brent K, Teena V, Kaija M

Infants: Carol W, Jordan V, Levi M

Toddlers: Tammy M, Roy V, Wikus K

Toddlers: Dan M, ElizabethD, Ivan T

