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JUST AS HE PROMISED

December 4, 2016

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Welcome!



Good morning and welcome to Ebenezer. Our theme for Advent this year is, "Just As He Promised." This morning we will be hearing again the story of the time when the angel Gabriel told young Mary about the special job God had for her. And we will consider how the birth of Jesus fulfilled a very specific promise that God had made to David many years earlier. May our hearts be blessed, nourished and comforted as we think on these things together.



Order of Worship

✦ **Welcome and Prayer**



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.

✦ **Responsive Reading:**

Leader: The steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Congregation: Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Leader: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

ALL: I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



✦ **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

We light this candle as a reminder that it is because of God's love for the whole world that He promised to send a Saviour to atone for the sins of His people. God kept that promise by sending Jesus Christ to take on flesh and dwell among us.



Amazing Love (You are my King)
(Chris Tomlin)

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted, You were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again

I'm forgiven because you were forsaken
I'm accepted, you were condemned
I'm alive and well
Your spirit is within me
Because you died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be?
That you, my king, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor you
Amazing love how can it be?
That my king would die for me
Amazing love I know it's true
It's my joy to honor you
In all I do
I honor you

You are my king
You are my king
Jesus, You are my king
Jesus, You are my king

Amazing love, how can it be?
That you, my king, would die for me
Amazing love, I know it's true
It's my joy to honor you
In all I do honor you



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

We Worship and Adore Thee

We worship and adore Thee
Bowing down before Thee
Songs of praises singing
Hallelujahs ringing
Hallelujah Hallelujah
Hallelujah Amen!



O Come, All Ye Faithful



Descant

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 God of God, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;
 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye bright hosts of heaven a - bove:
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 "Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

O come, O come,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others
Tune: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised.
Descant © 1947, Hymns Ancient and Modern, Ltd.

irregular
 ADESTE FIDELES

✦ **Mighty Power Singers:** O Come O Come Emmanuel
 Peace, Peace

✦ **Baptism Of Willis P**

Congregational Response to Baptism (when prompted):

We confess to you, our God, and before one another that we have sinned greatly, in thought, word, and deed. We have offended your holiness. We have failed to love our neighbor. We have followed the devices of our own hearts, and have spurned the promptings of your Spirit. Through our own fault, we have deserved your judgment.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.
 Amen.





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!



✦ **Children's Message**

✦ **Announcements**

✦ **Congregational Prayer**

✦ **Thank Offering: 1 - Ebenezer Ministries**
2 - Seafarers' Ministry

✦ **Mighty Power Singers** *(sung during the offering)*

Christmas Medley and Glory Hallelujah

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

✦ **Prayer**

✦ **Scripture: Luke 1:26-38**

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

(continued)





(Luke 1:26-38 continued)

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

✦ **Message: Promise Kept: Jesus the Son of David**

✦ **Prayer**

O Magnify the Lord

(Melodie and Dick Tunney)

O magnify, O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!
O magnify the Lord, O magnify the Lord,
and may His name be lifted high for ever!

O worship Him, O worship Christ the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!
O worship Christ the King;
and may His name be lifted high for ever!

King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
may His name be lifted high for ever!

O magnify, O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt His name together!
O magnify the Lord, O magnify the Lord,
and may His name be lifted high for ever!



✦ **Parting Blessing**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

(Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Baptiste Calkin, Mark Hall, Dale Oliver)

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men

And the bells are ringing, like a choir they're singing
In my heart I hear them “Peace on earth, good will to men”

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

But the bells are ringing, like a choir singing
Does anybody hear them? “Peace on earth, good will to men”

Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor does he sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men

Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men

And the bells are ringing, like a choir they're singing
And with our hearts we'll hear them “Peace on earth, good will to men”

Do you hear the bells they're ringing? The life the angels singing
Open up your heart and hear them, “Peace on earth, good will to men”

Peace on earth, peace on earth
Peace on earth, Good will to men

We are glad you are here today! Please join us for coffee, tea, juice and fellowship after the service. The mighty Power Singers will be singing a few songs immediately after the end of the service. You may stay and listen if you wish!



Church Family

Roger G had hip surgery Monday. He came home Wednesday and is doing well. Please pray for his continued healing and patience during his recovery.

Gord and I would like to thank all of you for your support of love, prayers, hugs and cards during the last month. Nov. 21 would have been John's 61st birthday and today we are in Golden as Tara (John's only child) at the time of reading should be married - Dec. 3. Tara was very close to her "daddy" and they were pretty excited for the big wedding day. But life goes on and the tears dry up (I hope). We thank God for the communion of brothers and sisters in the Lord to help us carry each other's burdens. *-Jan & Gord W*

Thank you for all your help at the church in creating an amazing service for Heather. Thank you - *Stu, Justin and Jordan H*

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

INSPIRATIONAL BOOK AND MEDIA SWAP - Please help yourself today to the selection of gently used inspirational books and media on the tables by the office. Any items left over will be donated to Second Glance. Thank you!



MUSTARD SEED DINNER - As a congregation, we have 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 today 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.



GEMS POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER - Poinsettia Orders are in! - If you ordered a poinsettia please be sure to pick it up today in the library. Thanks for your support of our GEMS club!

A CONCERT FOR CHRISTMAS - The Piatta Forma Singers, along with the Black Gold Community Band, are holding a concert here at Ebenezer December 10th at 7pm. They will also have a song service at St Peter's Lutheran Church on the Sunday, Dec 11th, at 7pm.

BAPTISM - Next week, Lord willing, we will witness the sacrament of Baptism as Angellica and Shane G bring their son, Wylde, to be baptized.

THANK YOU - Thank you to everyone who supported the GEMS Counsellors' Dessert Night and Bake Sale. We made a great start on our fundraising for Convention! We truly appreciate your support!



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!

GENESIS BIBLE STUDY - Will be postponed until January 8. See you then!

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

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.

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!

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!

Coming Up @ Ebenezer

Monday	7:00 pm	Friendship
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Youth
Wednesday	10:00 am	Coffee Break and Story Hour
	6:45 pm	GEMS
Thursday	7:30 pm	Private Function
Friday	4 - 10:00 pm	Private Function
Saturday	11:00	Mustard Seed Meal Preparation
	7:00 pm	Piatta Forma Choir Concert
Sunday (Dec 11)	9:15 am	Weekly Prayer Meeting
	10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent and Baptism

Christmas and New Year's Services:

Advent Services - 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 - 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.

Next Week - 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

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.

A THEOLOGY OF STAR WARS - Anyone in your family excited about Rogue One: A Star Wars Story coming out soon? Some of the sharpest thinkers on theology and pop culture explore key themes in the seven previous films in "A Theology of Star Wars," an ebook from Think Christian. Simply sign up to receive Think Christian articles by email and the ebook is yours! Learn more at thinkchristian.net/starwars.

HOLY LAND LEARNING TOUR - Walk where Jesus walked and meet His people living in this area today on a Holy Land Learning Tour from August 8-18, 2017. To learn more and see a sample itinerary, visit crwm.org/HolyLand

LIVING THE 8TH FIRE: CIRCLE 7 - Our final Circle will be a time of understanding God's incredible grace to His peoples of all races and how we can live out the gospel message of restoration and reconciliation. If you have been unable to attend these sessions this fall, there will be an opportunity again in the spring, and we hope to see you then. Come join us tomorrow night, Dec. 5th, at 7 pm at the Edmonton Native Healing Centre (11813 -123 St). For further info please contact Jesse Edgington at yournadc@gmail.com or Lucinda Klapwyk at klapwyk@yahoo.ca

GOSPEL BEGINNINGS: MATTHEW - Have you ever wondered why the four gospels tell the same story different ways? Join the conversation as we anticipate Christ's birth by studying Matthew 1 to discover why this gospel begins with a long list of family names. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING IN LEIPZIG, GERMANY - On June 23-28, young people between the ages of 18 and 28 will meet the world prior to the General Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. If you fall within that age bracket and are interested in meeting other Reformed young people for Christian fellowship and an exploration of what it is like to be a disciple of Christ in our unique contexts, visit <http://youth.wcrc.eu/> for more information.

AVAILABLE FREE IN THE DIGITAL LIBRARY - "Celebrating the Milestones of Faith" is available free to all in the CRC through the Digital Library (crcna.org/Library). This inspiring book helps you and your church identify faith milestones and celebrate them together.



Y'NOW JESUS ... I CAN REMEMBER WHEN THIS TOWN WAS SO SMALL THAT ONE COULDN'T EVEN FIND A HOTEL

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Ushers: Dennis P. Ruby P, John T

Next Week: Dennis V, Andy Z, Marilyn Z

Greeters: Jason & Yoka T

Next Week: Henk & Mennie S

Coffee Duties: Matt & Leanne K, Wim & Jenny R, Tamara D

Next Week: Gerard & Wendy B, Jon & Janna P, Andrew V

Worship Team: Marianne & Team

Next Week: Grace & Team

Projection & Audio: Nicole & Mike

Next Week: Jamie & Matt

Serving Elder: Harold H

Next Week: Evan S

Nursery: Supervisor - Carol W

Next Week: Supervisor - Carol W

Infants: Carol W, Jordan V, Levi M

Infants: Caroline V, Gea T, Lois D

Toddlers: Dan M, Elizabeth D, Ivan T

Toddlers: Michelle K, John W, Damien B

