

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Stratford

Minister: The Rev. Mark Wolfe Music Director: Earl Clark

Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 10:30 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

WE APPROACH GOD

Carol Sing:

Il est ne
Infant Holy
What Child is this
Angels we have heard on high
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Performed by Praise Band

Welcoming and Sharing (10:25 am)

***Entry of The Word** (please rise)

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: Come away from haste and frantic busyness.

All: This is the season for quiet waiting and watching.

Leader: Receive God's mercy and strengthen your hearts.

All: A Saviour is coming! God's Love is near.

Leader: Come before God now with praise and singing.

All: Our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.

***Hymn # 410:** Joyful, joyful we adore you

Prayer of Adoration and Confession:

These things we pray through him who taught us to pray saying...

The Lord's Prayer (Trespases)

Assurance of Pardon

The Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

The Wray Family

***Hymn # 121:** Long ago, prophets knew

Children's Message:

Anthem "Mary's Little Boy Child"

Praise Band

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

This Week at St. Andrew's

Monday Nov. 25 9:30 am Flower Guild
7:00 pm Foundation
Tues 7:00 pm Session
Wednesday 5:30 Community Meals
Thursday 4:30 (doors open) Messy Church
7:00 Choir
Friday 6:00 pm 3F's
Sunday 10:25 a.m. Announcements
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship
Coffee Time: Session

UPCOMING AT ST. ANDREW'S

Flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are placed in loving memory of David Wray (Dec. 14, 2015) and Carol Burgess (Jan. 8, 2018) by Joan Wray and Leonard Burgess.

Children Only Shopping Day:

The final tally has been done and this year's Children Only Shopping Day raised \$812.20! This total will be split - 50% to St. James Food Bank and 50% to PWS&D Maternal and Child programs. Thank you everyone who helped in any way to make this event such a success!

Celebrate Recovery is hosting its annual **Christmas Morning Brunch**, 9:30am at Elgin Missionary Church - a time to enjoy God's gifts of food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are aware of anyone who will be alone on Christmas Day, please bring them along! No cost.

There is mail for you in the box at the back of the church on the table. Please take a look before you leave. Thanks.

Memorial Tree Service is Sunday December 15 at 7:00 pm.

Sign up sheets for Meals on Wheels are available in McCullough Hall covering Tuesdays and Thursdays December 3rd to December 24th. No delivery Dec. 26th

Thought for Today

The Prophet of the Most High will be the Lord's forerunner, to prepare his way and lead his people to a knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins.

St Luke 1:76-77

Welcome, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the worship of God. May God give us a special blessing by being together to share the life-giving Word. Following worship, join in fellowship downstairs. The notices on this sheet will keep you informed of the life of the congregation from day to day, as well as offer prayers for your daily devotions. Thanks for being part of the church family

Opportunity Sheet

Prayer and praise opportunities

- For Chris, Lloyd, Susan, Margaret, Marilyn, Wanda, Eva Dorothy, Carol, Ernie and those known to us who are in need of prayer for any reason, that prayer lifted will be prayer heard, and that prayer heard is answered by almighty God

Worship and Pastoral care opportunities

Prayer or visit request cards are available in the narthex.

Want to Ride the Bus to Church! Call the Church Office, 519-271-5668 by Thursday! Arrangements will then be made for you.

Mission and Stewardship Opportunities

Mission Moment:

Understanding the past to light the way forward

The Rev. Robinson Christian is a Doctoral student and a pastor in the Church of North India, a PCC partner. While researching material on the impact of the colonial legacy on preaching in India today, Robinson came across the Rev. Dr. Sarah Travis of Knox College in Toronto, author of "Decolonizing Preaching." Robinson and Sarah began to correspond, and International Ministries invited Robinson to study in Toronto for two months. This is what mission is all about. Together we learn from the past, and God illumines a new understanding today. As partners in the Global Church, how can we not engage in these challenging conversations, learning from one another how God works through us?
Presbyterians Sharing supports partnerships

Stewardship Thought for today:

It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.

David Steindl-Rast (1926-), Catholic Benedictine monk

Prayer for Illumination:

Almighty God,
you have made us and all things to serve you.
Prepare our hearts for the coming of your rule.
Come quickly to save us from fear and doubt,
and instill in us your peace,
which passes all understanding,
for we ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Scriptures Readings: Genesis 1:27
Psalm 25:1-11 (Refrain 1)
Romans 6:20-23
Matthew 20:25-28

Sermon : "Redeemed "
-The Rev. Mark Wolfe-

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

***Hymn # 651:** Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Prayers of the People

Offertory: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella"
Praise Band

***Doxology #661** "We give Thee but Thine own"
We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.
Ushers come forward with offering at the beginning of singing this verse.

***Offertory Prayer**

Ushers then present the offering to speaker.

***Hymn # 115:** Hail to the Lord's Anointed

***Benediction**

***Parting Hymn**

"Go In Love"

Go in love; have no fear.
God will guide you, He is always near.
Go in Love; take His hand.
God will hear you, He will understand.
May His light forever shine upon you;
may His peace be always in your heart.
Go in love; face each day, God will lead you,
He will show the way, Go in love and live in faith,
Amen

Postlude: "Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Praise Band