

PRESTON MENNONITE CHURCH

“Being transformed by and extending God’s love
through worship, hospitality and service”

Sunday December 18 at 9:30 am

Advent 4 – Do not be afraid



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We acknowledge that our church is located on the traditional lands
of the Neutral, the Anishinaabe, and the Haudenosaunee peoples.

Worship Service, December 18 @ 9:30 am

Worship Leader: Chuck Simmons; Song Leader: Laverne Martin
Pianist: Katherine Rochester; A/V Technician: Chris Brown

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: VT #241 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Call to Worship: see insert

Opening Prayer

Advent Candle Lighting: see insert

Hymn: VT #210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel (v 1&4)

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Hymn: VT #258 Love Has Come

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME?

Bible Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Message: Do not be afraid Danielle Raimbault

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

Hymn of Response: VT #210 O Come, O Come, Immanuel

Moment for Missions: Compass Refugee Centre, Birthday Offering

Prayer Time

Offering

SENDING

Announcements

Sending Hymn: VT #840 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Blessing

Postlude

Next Sunday: Merry Christmas! No service but don't forget the Christmas Eve service at 3:30pm on December 24.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **What Gospel story intrigues you?** The next sermon series will be on the Gospel story and we want YOU to choose which stories are preached on! Email your favourite/challenging/ least favourite/loved Gospel to Danielle or KyongJung by December 23.
- **Lectio Divina Prayer meeting** Thursdays from 1 to 2pm. This week's scripture is John 7:25-31. The Zoom link is [here](#).
- The **office will be closed** from Dec 25 to Jan 2. First day back at Preston will be Jan 4.
- **From PCRC:** As you know Preston and Wanner are continuing our covenant for another two years. Also, our pastors' current contracts are up at the end of July and a review for renewal of contracts needs to be completed at least six months prior to the end of the contracts. Therefore, PCRC will be doing annual reviews with Danielle and KyongJung in January. We will be giving them feedback and thinking about the coming two years. We would like to hear your feedback as well. Words of encouragement, appreciation and ideas for improvement are welcome. If you have feedback to share, please email Barb Duncan (biduncan13@gmail.com) by January 6, 2023.
- **Fairview Mennonite Home** has been recognized as one of Canada's top 50 workplace cultures. Quite an honour and a reputation to keep living up to. Congratulations Fairview!
- **The next edition of the Preston Post** will be coming out in January! The theme of this Post is FAMILY. *Share with us your favourite family photos and tell us stories about your family!* Photos, articles, poems or quotes of any subject are always welcome! Submissions are due by January 13 to danielle.pwchurches@gmail.com or drop off in Danielle's mailbox.

EVENTS BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

- **Rockway Reflections**, Winter 2022 edition can be viewed [here](#).

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

People: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world

Leader: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God's loving gift to us—the gift of the Christ Child.

People: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is the center of our lives and our celebrations.

Leader: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God's eternal Love.

**People: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift.
AMEN.**

Candle lighting Liturgy

Leader: We cry out for restoration, we call upon God to give us life.

**People: Do not be afraid, says the Lord. I have promised to be
with you.**

Leader: As we hold fast to God's promise, we light this candle as a
sign of our joy.

All: Bring your restoration to your people, we pray. AMEN.



CHRISTMAS EVE: A Traditional service of lessons and carols at 3:30pm. Bring your favourite snack and stay for fellowship and refreshments. Fairview bus will pick up at 3pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP AT HOME: You are invited to pick up a worship sheet by the bulletin board to use for a simple quiet Christmas Day worship time at home. There are also some candles to borrow for those who don't have one at home. May you be blessed with joy and peace in celebrating a quiet Christmas morning.



Christmas Giving Ideas 2022

Many people are struggling and our donations can help ease the burden. Here are some suggestions.

1. Fill the Mitten tree in the front lobby with warm hats, scarves and mittens.
2. Make a financial donation to Porchlight Counselling and Addiction Services, Cambridge. (formerly Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries), which provides mental health support for residents of the Recovery houses. Designate "Porchlight" on your offering envelope.
3. MCC brings ideas for comfort and joy in the 2022 Gift Giving Guide. Please see the bulletin board by the library books.