

# Order of Worship: Sunday, December 1, 2024

## First Advent

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: Advent is a season of waiting; looking back we remember God's people waiting for the Messiah to come. And looking forward we wait for Jesus to come again. Waiting can be a discipline, in a good and productive way. How are we at waiting? Fasting is another way of waiting and it too can be a good and productive discipline.

Prelude

Welcome

Call to worship

Lighting the Advent Candle: **Isaiah 64:1-9 (NIV)** Masuma

*Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before You! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make Your name known to Your enemies and cause the nations to quake before You!*

*For when You did awesome things that we did not expect, You came down, and the mountains trembled before You. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.*

*You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember Your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, You were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on Your name or strives to lay hold of You; for You have hidden Your face from us and have given us over to our sins.*

*Yet You, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, You are the potter; we are all the work of Your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all Your people.*

Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #504 HWB - Have thine own way

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: **Luke 2:25-38 NIV**

*Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,*

*Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You may now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

*The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about Him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."*

*There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.*

Hymn: #174 HWB - Blest be the God of Israel

Scripture: **Matthew 6:16-18 (The Message)** Donna

*"When you practice some appetite-denying discipline to better concentrate on God, don't make a production out of it. It might turn you into a small-time celebrity, but it won't make you a saint. If you 'go into training' inwardly, act normal outwardly. Shampoo and comb your hair, brush your teeth, wash your face. God doesn't require attention-getting devices. He won't overlook what you are doing; He'll reward you well.*

Message: *Fasting as an Advent discipline ~ Pastor Jim*

Hymn of Response: #218 VT - Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Sharing and Congregational Prayer  
Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #212 VT - Comfort, Comfort, O My People  
Benediction

Anointing with Oil  
Postlude

Pease join us downstairs for sermon discussion/coffee time.

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**Announcements**

**\*\*\*The Annual Advent Ecumenical Prayer and Song service is on Sunday, Dec 1st.** We will be celebrating with our Christian brothers and sisters from the Mennonite, Lutheran and Salvation Army churches. **Please join us at St. Agatha RC Church at 6:30** when the Salvation Army musicians will begin our service with an instrumental prelude. Scripture, prayers and hymns will begin at 7pm. Following the ecumenical service, everyone is invited to continue our fellowship as we gather for coffee/tea and treats in the church hall. Treats will be provided by the St. Agatha RC Parish this year.

**Pastor Jim is bringing 6-7 pieces from his workshop** [boards, bowls, life edge pieces] which are available by donation for potential Christmas gifts. All donations will be sent to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

**From Canadian Mennonite:** With the Canada Post strike, your December print issue will be delayed. Sign up for digital delivery to get it by email on November 29. CM sends an email each Friday and attaches a PDF copy of the magazine once per month. Contact Lorna at [office@canadianmennonite.org](mailto:office@canadianmennonite.org).

**Wilmot Ignited Christmas Choir** will be performing at three events over the Christmas season:

1. Sunday, December 1, 7:30 pm - Christmas Chorale Concert hosted by Steinmann Mennonite Church, all are welcome
2. Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm - WI Christmas Program at Nithview Home auditorium
3. Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am - Joint WI service at Wilmot Mennonite Church, featuring the WI Christmas Choir

**Students of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** invite you to their annual **Christmas Concert** to be held at Rockway on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 7:30 pm**. For more information, please visit our [concert webpage](https://rockway.ca/events/christmas-concert/). All are welcome. URL for Concert Webpage: <https://rockway.ca/events/christmas-concert/>

## **Silver Lake Mennonite Camp Winter and Spring Retreats Registration Opens December 1 at**

**12pm:** Come to Silver Lake in 2025 for fun camp experiences! On the calendar are... Fathers & Kids Retreat (Jan 17-19), Women's Retreat (Jan 31-Feb 2), Winter Camp for Grown-Ups (Feb 28-Mar 2), Staff Alumni Retreat (Mar 21-23), Music Retreat (Mar 28-30), Family Camp (May 16-18). Go to [slmc.ca/retreats](https://slmc.ca/retreats) for more info. **Summer Camp:** Registration for overnight camp and day camp opens February 1 at 8am. Outtrip registration opens Jan 7 – sign up before Jan 30 to get \$100 off! Visit [slmc.ca/summer-camp](https://slmc.ca/summer-camp) to have a sneak peek at the 2025 schedule.

**Lebanon Emergency Response.** With the escalating violence in Lebanon, people's lives are in danger and the need for basic necessities is great. MCC partners have mobilized in central Lebanon and Beirut to help, providing meals, hygiene items, bedding, health services, hot meals and psychosocial support for children. Every donation made by Canadians to a Humanitarian Coalition member is matched to a maximum of \$3 million until November 3, 2024. MCC participates in the Humanitarian Coalition through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Donate today 888.622.6337 [mcc.org/lebanonemergency](https://mcc.org/lebanonemergency)

### **Upcoming Worship Services:**

Dec 1: Pastor Jim – Anointing with oil at end of service  
Dec 8: Pastor Jim  
Dec 15: Robert Mann  
Dec 22: Pastor Jim - Potluck to follow the service  
Dec 24: Christmas eve service

**This year's Wilmot Ignite long weekend services** are as follows:

Dec 29: hosted by Wilmot

### **Future events**

**\*Thanks to all who helped in the spring cleaning of the foyer, office and sanctuary!**

**The basement cleaning is on hold until construction of the ramp is completed.**

Dec 1, 7 pm.: First Advent Joint service at St Agatha Roman Catholic Church  
Dec 10: Christmas Caroling. It will be on Tuesday, Dec 10th @ 6:15pm starting at Clare Dietz's place of residence (Highview). The plan will be to go to Sheryl & Gail's in Waterloo followed by Donell & Judy's, Wayne & Floris in New Hamburg.  
Dec 22: Christmas potluck and then carolling at church.