

Order of Worship: Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Advent

10:00 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: At the first Christmas, Jesus was born in a nation under strict rule by a powerful emperor. Today we still have nations under strict rule by powerful politicians. My recent journey as a scientist to one such nation — China — provided me with some lessons for the context of the first Christmas, for my own faith, and perhaps for the larger Christian community.

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Opening prayer

Advent candle lighting and reading: Gary B

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (NIV)

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, He has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

“I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame.

At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the LORD.

Opening Hymn: HWB #212 O come all ye faithful

Scripture: **Isaiah 12:2-6** (NIV)

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD Himself, is my strength and my defense; He has become my salvation. ”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: “Give praise to the LORD, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

Hymn: HWB #172 O come O come Immanuel

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-7** (NIV) Gary B

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Message: *A Scientist in China ~ Robert Mann*

Hymn of Response: HWB #195 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: VT #275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Benediction

Postlude

Please join us downstairs for sermon discussion/coffee time.

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**Announcements**

**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 this event over the Christmas season:

1. Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am - Joint WI service at Wilmot Mennonite Church, featuring the WI Christmas Choir

**Silver Lake Mennonite Camp is seeking** a Fundraising & Communications Manager. This is a permanent, half-time, hybrid position in Kitchener. If you would like to inspire and engage SLMC's generous community, read more at [slmc.ca/about/board-of-directors](http://slmc.ca/about/board-of-directors) and apply soon! **Winter and Spring Retreats Registration**

**Now Open:** Come to Silver Lake in 2025 for fun camp experiences! 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](http://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](http://slmc.ca/summer-camp) to have a sneak peek at the 2025 schedule.

**The holiday season is usually a time of joy** and celebration in gathering with family and friends. However life's circumstances can get in the way of all that joy whether it be sickness, a death in the family or grief of any kind. This season is hard for those who are hurting. You are not alone. A Longest Night service is a gentle and reflective service for all who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Please join us on Saturday Dec. 21, 2023 at 4:30 p.m at Trinity Lutheran Church, 23 Church Street, New Hamburg.

**Wilmot Family Resource Centre Community Christmas Dinner**, Wed. December 25, 12:00 noon, Steinman Mennonite Church. See poster for more details.

**The administrator at Shantz Mennonite Church** will be concluding her roles sometime in January so they will be looking to replace her. See poster for attached job description for this position.

**Exciting News! The New MCC Meat Cannery is ready!** *Saturday, January 18, 2025 from 1:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., 65 Heritage Dr., New Hamburg* After months of hard work and anticipation, the MCC Meat Cannery in New Hamburg is complete—and it's time to celebrate! **Join us for the grand dedication event.** Explore the new facility. Discover the life-changing impact of MCC's canned meat around the world. Enjoy delicious refreshments and appetizers. No need to RSVP—just come as you are and be part of this special moment. For details, visit [mcc.org/meat-cannery-dedication](http://mcc.org/meat-cannery-dedication).

**Join our comforter knotting blitz!** *January 25, 2025, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the MCC Hub, 65 Heritage Dr, New Hamburg.* Enjoy hot beverages, great company, and the joy of giving. No experience needed - knotting comforters is fun for all! Go to [mcc.org/events](http://mcc.org/events) for more info.

**Rockway Mennonite Collegiate** proudly presents their all-school musical, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, February 27 - March 1, 2025. Tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.rockway.ca/events](http://www.rockway.ca/events). We look forward to welcoming you and your family into Wonka's world of Pure Imagination!

### **Upcoming Worship Services:**

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 22: Christmas potluck and then carolling at church.