

# Order of Worship: Sunday, December 22, 2024

## Fourth Advent

9:30 am – In-person worship

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: We've looked at a couple spiritual disciplines in this season of waiting: fasting and confession. After times of waiting and anticipation are over then there can also be a time for celebration. But have you ever thought about celebration as a discipline? Who needs to be prepared or to practise celebrating? We might be surprised!

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship

Opening prayer

Advent Candle Lighting and Reading: **Psalms 150** (MSG) Wayne L

*Hallelujah! Praise God in His holy house of worship, praise Him under the open skies; Praise Him for His acts of power, praise Him for His magnificent greatness;*

*Praise with a blast on the trumpet, praise by strumming soft strings;*

*Praise Him with castanets and dance, praise Him with banjo and flute;*

*Praise Him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise Him with fiddles and mandolin. Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD! Hallelujah!*

Opening Hymn: #201 HWB Hark the herald angels sing

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

Hymn: #265 VT Angels from the Realms of Glory

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20 (NIV) Floris - *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests."*

*When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.*

*When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.*

Message: *Preparing to Celebrate ~ Pastor Jim*

Hymn of Response: #212 HWB O Come all ye faithful

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #189 To us a Child of hope is born

Benediction

Postlude

There won't be sermon discussion today.

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### **Announcements**

**In 2025 the Anabaptist movement will be 500 years old.** Anabaptist World Fellowship Sunday is January 19th, 2025. Wilmot Ignited Churches will gather for a celebration service that day at Mannheim Mennonite Church. **Our congregation decided in December to take part in that service and not have a service at St Agatha.**

**All are invited to a service of Christmas Carols on Sunday, December 29th** at Wilmot Mennonite Church at 10 am. The service will include the Wilmot Ignited Choir as well as music from the children of Nith Valley Mennonite Church. We will be collecting food items or financial donations for the Wilmot Resource Center. Make cheques out to the Wilmot Resource Center or you to your congregation. **There will not be services at the other Wilmot Ignited Churches on the 29th.**

**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).

**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.

**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 22: Pastor Jim – Caroling after the service, then the Potluck. Service starts at 9:30 am

Dec 24: Christmas eve service 7 pm

**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 carolling after the service, followed by a potluck.