Order of Worship: November 28, 2026

10:00 am – In-person worship

1st Advent

Pastor: Jim Brown

Worship theme: The season of Advent, the season of remembering those who waited for the Messiah to come, the season to remember that we are waiting for Jesus to return is now upon us. And of course because Jesus came, we know and have experienced many things. During this year's Advent season let's remember some of the things, "Because Jesus came, I know."

Prelude

Welcome & Call to worship
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (NIV) Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and He rules with a mighty arm. See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young.

Lighting of the Advent candle
Opening prayer

Opening Hymn: #176 HWB - Comfort, comfort, O my people

Affirmation of Faith

Prayer of Confession/Affirmation

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-23 (NIV) This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

Hymn: #172 HWB - O come, o come, Immanuel

Scripture: **Ephesians 2:13-22** [The Msg] Minnie
Now because of Christ—dying that death, shedding that blood—you who were once out of it altogether are in on everything. The Messiah has made things up between us so that we're now together on this, both non-Jewish outsiders and Jewish insiders. He tore down the wall we used to keep each other at a distance.

He repealed the law code that had become so clogged with fine print and footnotes that it hindered more than it helped. Then He started over. Instead of continuing with two groups of people separated by centuries of animosity and suspicion, He created a new kind of human being, a fresh start for everybody. Christ brought us together through His death on the Cross. The Cross got us to embrace, and that was the end of the hostility.

Christ came and preached peace to you outsiders and peace to us insiders. He treated us as equals, and so made us equals. Through Him we both share the same Spirit and have equal access to the Father.

That's plain enough, isn't it? You're no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You're no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what He is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now He's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.

Message: Because Jesus came - I know I belong ~ Pastor Jim

Hymn of Response: #178 HWB - Come Thou long expected Jesus

Sharing and Congregational Prayer

Announcements

Offering

Closing Hymn: #275 VT - O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

Benediction

Postlude
Please join us downstairs for congregational discussion/coffee time
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Announcements

Hidden Acres General Meeting - December 1, 1921 Line 37, New Hamburg, ON, N3A 4B5 519-625-8602 www.hiddenacres.ca Hidden Acres is hiring. We are looking to fill a part-time,year round housekeeping role as soon as possible. For more information visit www.hiddenacres.ca or contact Brent at brent@hiddenacres.ca or 519-625-8602

YOU ARE INVITED- Lifted Voices Concert “Christmas Meets Us Today” Tuesday, December 1, 2026, First Mennonite Church, 800 King St. E, Kitchener, 2 pm in the Sanctuary
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Featuring: Lifted Voices women's singing group,Audience Hymn Singing, Present-day stories from community agencies. Refreshments to follow. Free Admission with optional opportunities to support community programmes financially. Bring a friend. No tickets needed
During King St. closure, access parking via Weber St. and Stirling Ave, going through the parking lot behind the Trends for Men clothing store. # 7 bus stops are at Charles and Stirling in both directions.

GivingTuesday is on December 1st, and this year, Tri-County Mennonite Homes (TCMH) is bringing our community together for *Building a New Nithview*. With your support, we can reach our fundraising goal. See poster at back for more info.

Save the Date! Saturday, December 5. Wilmot Ignited Advent Women's Retreat at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. More information to follow in the coming weeks.

Rockway's Music Department invites you to attend their annual Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 8 @ 7 pm at Rockway. Visit rockway.ca/events for more information.

Sunday, December 13, 7:00 pm at Nith Valley Church - you are welcome to celebrate the Christmas season with an informal Carol Sing. We will have a variety program with lots of singing, featured groups and instruments. A freewill donation will be taken to support Wilmot & Wellesley Resource Centre Food Bank.

Upcoming speakers:
Nov 29: Pastor Jim 1st Advent
Dec 6: Pastor Jim
Dec 13: Pastor Jim
Dec 20: Pastor Jim – Potluck lunch
Dec 24: 7 pm Christmas eve service

Events
Dec 9: Christmas caroling