



tpc

THORNHILL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
To Discover, Celebrate and Share God's Love

Sunday December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent
A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols
We Prepare for Worship

Praise Band

Preparing our Hearts

Look up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near.

Luke 21:28

Prelude: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

*Processional Hymn: *Creator of the stars of night* #111
(Tune 170)

Welcome and Community Life News

We Worship God

The Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. H. Vais

L.: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. We will hear in lessons from Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem us, his waiting people.

P: Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

L: Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.

P: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

L: But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

P: Let us humbly offer these prayers and praises to God, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

Lord's Prayer (*debts*)

Advent Candle Liturgy: **PWS & D, Advent 2 Insert** Led by members of
the Congregational Life Committee - Jessica Chapman & Julie Meek

***Praise Time: Christmas Offering**

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star
While angels sang to lowly shepherds
Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar
Hoping to find the child from Heaven
Falling on their knees
They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

*I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honour that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You*

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

*I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honour that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You (REPEAT CHORUS)
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You*

Words and music by Paul Baloche

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We Listen for God's Word

Children's Time

*Advent Hymn: People in darkness **#124**

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-8 Lorraine McBride
The prophet proclaims the good news to a nation of people in exile.

Choir Anthem: Comfort, Comfort, O My People David Johnson (1922-87)

Second Lesson: Jeremiah 23:5-6 Clare Mezes
The Lord promises to send his people a righteous king.

Choir Anthem: O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide David Bridges

Third Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-10 Heather-Ann Lowry
The Lord promises that the king will come to Israel in peace.

Solo: Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston (1905-87)
Sung by Zhenyi Li

Fourth Lesson: Haggai 2:6-9 George Meek
The prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.

Choir Anthem: Savior of the Nations, Come! Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-6 Deborah Kerner
The prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.

Solo: Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion Georg F. Handel (1685-1759)
Sung by Jewell Scott

Sixth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Jessica Chapman
The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

Duet: Annunciation Carol John Blackwell
Sung by Verna Nunez and Nicholas Gough

Seventh Lesson: Mark 1:1-15 Edmond Lee
Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

Advent Responsory: Rev. Dr. H. Vais

L: Judah and Jerusalem, fear not nor be dismayed.

P: Today and tomorrow, we will go out and the Lord will be with us.

L: Stand still and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.

P: Today and tomorrow, we will go out and the Lord will be with us.

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

P: Today and tomorrow, we will go out and the Lord will be with us.

Prayer:

O God, who makes us glad about the yearly expectation of your coming, grant that we, who with joy receive your only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may by grace and without fear behold him when he comes to be our judge on the last day. We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the People

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Doxology

#830

Dedication of Offering

We are Sent Out as God's People

*Musical Benediction: Go Now in Peace

*Charge and Benediction

Indeed, go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold tightly to that which is good; give no person evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, always rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn: *Lo! Christ comes with clouds* **#120**

Postlude: Savior of the Nations, Come Johann S. Bach (1685-1750)

**if you are able, please stand*

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Welcome

We welcome everyone who is worshipping here with us today. We hope that you feel comforted in our fellowship and that you leave here refreshed and inspired in your personal life. You

are invited to fill out a pew card.

**** **We welcome all children in worship. If you need to take a child out during the worship service, the service can still be heard in the lobby. For small children, we have a nursery in the Christian Education wing where the service can still be heard. Our ushers are available to assist you. Children must be accompanied by an adult relative.**

***Thank you to all who participated in today's service.
A special thanks to Garth Low and Dan Werning who prepared this service.
Thanks also to our soloists, and the choir.***

Please feel free to appreciate the Postlude at the end of the service!

If you do leave the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

The 2024 Offering envelopes are available in the lobby or contact the church office to arrange to get your envelopes.



The 2024 Presbyterian Wall calendars are available and can be purchased for \$10.00 each.

Please reserve yours today by calling your Administrator Nadine or Rev. Heather.



Hey Kids! Don't forget!

On Saturday December 16th

we are having a

Pageant Practice & Pizza Party!

Rehearsal for Cast ONLY – 5:00 p.m.

Games, Crafts & Pizza – All TPC youth 6:00 – 8:30

PLEASE reply to Rev. Heather if you are coming!

THORNHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Dr. Heather Vais

Director of Music Ministry: Daniel Werning

Church Office Administrator: Nadine Calfa

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Custodian: Delacey Graham

Duty Elder: Carolyn Adamson and Jessica Chapman

UPCOMING WEEK'S EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday December 10, 2023

9:45 – 10:30 am	Sunday Morning Discovery – Conference Room
10:30 – 11:00 am	Praise Band and Sunday School Pageant Practice
11:00 am	Worship Service – The Second Sunday of Advent A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

Tuesday December 12, 2023

1:30 pm	WMS Meeting - Zoom
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Saturday December 16, 2023

5:00pm – 8:30 pm	Sunday School Pageant Practice and Pizza Party – Fellowship Hall
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Sunday December 17, 2023

9:45 – 10:30 am	Sunday Morning Discovery – Paused until mid-January.
11:00 AM	Worship Service – 3 rd Sunday of Advent & Pageant
1:00 pm	TPC Youth to Evangel Hall

ESL Classes

ESL classes, with Jeannette Hallworth, Laura Culley and June Graham will end after Tuesday December 5, and will resume on Tuesdays starting January 9th from 10 am to 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Conference Room.

You are invited to Dan's Last *Sing Session!*

January 7, 2024

Christmas carols. Classic hymn forms and spiritual song versions. Why "carols" are oftentimes a little bit different from standard hymns and Psalms. Examples of various kinds of Christmas carols.

TPC Community Pantry

The pantry is open on Sunday mornings from 10:30 am onwards, and is located directly across from the Chapel in the back hallway.

If you or someone you know has a need during these challenging times, please help yourself.



Evangel Hall Christmas Dinner

Every year the TPC senior youth go to Evangel Hall with some youth leaders and the minister to prepare and serve Christmas dinner to the homeless and underhoused at **Evangel Hall Mission** in Toronto.

This ministry is only made possible by the generous donations of cash and food by our TPC members.

This year our youth will be serving dinner on **Sunday December 17.**

It is estimated we will need to feed close to **200 people.**
We pray you can support us again this year.

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

We are still in need of several food items.

Please see Jordan in the Lobby if you wish to donate food!

All food must be brought to the church on Sunday December 17.

Cash donations that are not used to purchase extra food will go directly to Evangel Hall.

Introducing....The Sock Tree



For many years, we have collected hats, mitts, scarves, etc. for Evangel Hall Mission. Because of restrictions on the items **ehm** is able to accept, we have decided to retire the mitten tree.

Instead, this year, we will be collecting men's and women's socks on the tree located just inside the front entrance of the church.

PWS&D Giving Tree



The Presbyterian World Service & Development Gifts of Change catalogue provides a unique opportunity to buy a gift that matters for those "impossible to buy for" people on your gift list.

Pick up a copy of the catalogue on the table in the foyer or visit on-line at:

presbyterian.ca/pwsd/donate

Feel free to place a gift tag on the Giving Tree to acknowledge your gift.

Hymn

Creator of the stars of night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, the Saviour of us all,
we pray, oh hear us when we call.

To you the labour pain was known
that made the whole creation groan,
until the time that you would free
your own in glorious liberty.

Old was the world that drew toward night;
you came, but not in splendour bright
as monarch, but the humble child
of Mary, faithful mother mild.

At your great name, Christ Jesus, now
all knees must bend; all hearts must bow;
all things in heaven your name shall bless.
All things on earth your power confess.

Come in your holy might, we pray;
redeem us for eternal day,
when all your judgements will be known
and power of darkness overthrown.

To God the Father, God the Son
and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
laud, honour, might and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Hymn

People in darkness

People in darkness are looking for light.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with blindness are longing for sight.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of love.

People with sickness are praying for health.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People in poverty want to have wealth.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days of the advent of hope.

People in trouble would like to be free.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People with arguments want to agree.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advance of peace.

People in sadness are trying to sing.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of joy.

Hymn

Lo! Christ comes with clouds

Lo! Christ comes with clouds descending,
Lamb of God for sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the Lord's triumphant train.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold thee
robed in awe and majesty;
we, who scorned and mocked and sold thee,
pierced and nailed thee to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long awaited,
see in glorious life appear!
All God's creatures freed from groaning,
sounds of liberation hear:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear.

Evermore let all adore thee
high on thine eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before thee:
thou shalt reign and thou alone.
Come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus; come, Lord Jesus!
Claim all glory for thine own.