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

Sunday December 3, 2023

The first Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of Holy Communion/Baptism/Reception of Members

We Prepare for Worship

Praise Band

Preparing our Hearts

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 15:13

Prelude: Fantasia on "Veni Emmanuel" Heathcote Statham (1889-1973)

*Processional Hymn: *Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel* #122

Welcome and Community Life News

We Worship God

The Call to Worship (see PWS&D insert) *lead by members of the Mission and Outreach Committee* Lorraine McBride & Percy Cooper

Choir Introit: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus David White (b. 1944)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

Minister: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Praise Time: **King of Kings**

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Refrain: *Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation

You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died **Refrain:**

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me **Refrain 2X:**

Words and music by B. Ligertwood, S. Ligertwood & J. Ingram CCLI

License #993446

We Listen for God's Word

Reception of new members and Baptism

Anthem: Gaudete (O Rejoice)

Anonymous, Medieval/Renaissance

Prayer for Illumination

Sheila Gault

Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-32

NT p. 50

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Signs of the Times

Rev. Dr. H. Vais

We Respond to God's Word

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN

Prayers of the People

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Doxology

#830

Dedication of Offering and Elements

Invitation to the Table

*Communion Hymn: *Draw us in the Spirit's tether*

#531

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

*The prayer opens with thanksgiving for creation and
for God's mighty acts throughout salvation history.*

The people join in the ancient song after these or similar words:

... we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful
praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*Prayers of thanksgiving continue for the work of Jesus Christ, his
life, death, and resurrection and for the institution of the Lord's
Supper. The people are invited to "proclaim the mystery of faith:"*

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*Thanksgiving continues for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The
presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked followed by a doxology and
the people say: **Amen.***

As our Lord taught us, we now pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done

On earth, as it is in heaven.

**Give us this day our daily bread and
forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
Forever. Amen**

The Breaking of the Bread

Distribution of the Elements

(If you are able, please come forward to receive the Sacrament.

Communion will be brought to those who remain seated and signal the Elder.)

All sing *Eat this bread*

Eat this bread, Drink this cup
Come to him and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, Drink this cup,
Trust in him and you will not thirst.

Prayer after Communion

*Closing Hymn: *Sleepers, wake!*

#127

We are Sent Out as God's People

*Charge and Benediction

*Musical Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen**

Postlude: Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates, Behold! The King

of Glory Waits

Richard Hudson (1924-2019)

** if you are able, please stand*

.....

Welcome

We welcome everyone who is worshiping 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.**

*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!*

Thank you to those who are assisting in today's service.

There is no Sunday School today.

Children will remain in church
and receive Communion with their families.

Welcome! **New Members**

Being received into our congregation today:

By Profession of Faith:

John Rumboldt
Shirin Shafiei

By the Sacrament of Baptism:

Nazaninleila (Nazanin) Hashemi
Morvaid (Mori) Rajabi Noghaddam

Welcome to our TPC family!



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

We invite all who profess Jesus as Lord
to receive the Sacrament.

This morning we will be inviting you to come
forward to receive the Sacrament.

If you have mobility challenges, please advise an
elder and we will bring communion to you.

ESL Classes

ESL classes, with Jeannette Hallworth and Laura Culley 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.

THORNHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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admin@tpchurch.net www.tpchurch.net

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 Elders: Norine Thomason and Sheila Gault

UPCOMING WEEK'S EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday December 3, 2023

9:45 – 10:30 am

Sunday Morning Discovery – **Cancelled for Today**

11:00 am

Worship Service – The First Sunday of Advent

The Sacrament of Holy Communion/Baptism/
Reception of Members

Tuesday December 5, 2023

10:00 – 12:00 pm

ESL Classes in the Fellowship Hall & Conference Room

Sunday 10, 2023

9:45 – 10:30 am

Sunday Morning Discovery – Conference Room

11:00 am

Worship Service – The Second Sunday of Advent



The 2024 Presbyterian Wall calendars

are available and can be purchased for \$10.00 each.

Proceeds of sales will go towards the Youth Fund.

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

Offering Envelopes

The 2024 Offering envelopes are available for pick up from the church.

You can also contact the church office to pick up your envelopes or arrange to have them delivered to you.



TPC's Annual Congregational Christmas Dinner!

Come share the joys of the Christmas season with us and spread some cheer! We will gather on **Saturday December 9th at 5:30pm** for a Congregational Christmas dinner, The meal, provided by the Congregational Life Committee, will feature turkey pot pies for a suggested donation of \$10. Anyone is welcome to bring a dessert.
Sign up at the table in the lobby.



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.



Christmas Assistance Program 2023

We are grateful for the many years that TPC has supported the Thornhill Christmas Assistance Program.

Families in need will be provided with gift cards for grocery stores again this Christmas season.

You can help by donating in your weekly envelope and marking "Christmas Assistance Program" on the "Other" line or by dropping your donation off at the church mail slot.

Contact Sharon Miron for further information at sharonmiron24@gmail.com.



The Mission & Outreach Committee is grateful for the incredible response from the congregation to our launch of the TPC Community Pantry.

Presently the pantry is full, and **we are asking for a temporary suspension of donations.**

The pantry is for anyone who has need in these challenging economic times.

If you or someone you know needs something, the pantry cupboard is located in the back hallway, directly across from the Chapel and is open from 10:30 am onwards each Sunday morning.

This project is on a trial basis. The committee will keep the congregation updated regarding any changes to pantry availability.

Thanks to everyone for making this possible!

You're Invited

On Sunday December 3, at 3:00 p.m.
the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada
invites you to

**A Service of Repentance, Healing, and Hope:
*the Presbyterian Church in Canada's apology for
its part in racism in Canada.***

Rev. Dr. Heather Vais and the Rev. Dr. John Vissers
will be reading the apology.

The service will be held at 3:00 p.m.
St. Timothy Presbyterian Church
106 Ravenscrest Dr., Etobicoke, ON

The service will be livestreamed and the link is in
the body of the worship email.

A Christmas Choir Opportunity!

Add your Voice and join the choir for Christmas Services

If you're interested in being part of this great opportunity,
contact Dan Werning directly after church OR
danieljwerning@gmail.com Tel: (905) 601-1530

Attention Sunday School Students, Teachers, and Parents!

Just a reminder that there is no pageant practice
or Sunday School this Sunday
as it is Communion Sunday.

(Please keep learning your parts though!)

Sunday Dec 10:

10:30-11:00am practice with praise band

11:00-12:00pm church and pageant practice

12:00-12:30pm hymn practice with Dan Werning

And of course, we will be having pageant practice
and fun night on **Saturday Dec 16 from 5 pm-8:30pm**
and then the pageant on **Sunday December 17**
(arrive at church at 9:30am).



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 if you are coming!

We need numbers for food orders!!



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.**

The need is even greater this year as it is estimated we will need to feed close to **200 people** as opposed to the usual 100.

We pray you can support us again this year.

Our present needs include:

Cash donations	10 - 12 cooked turkeys
10 - 12 hams	10-12 bags of potatoes
16 bags of veggies	200 Rolls/buns
25 Pies	14 cans cranberry sauce
18 cans gravy	24 boxes of stove-top stuffing
4 pounds of butter	1 large tub of Margarine

Sign up to donate at the table in the Fellowship Hall.

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

Hymn

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel

Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. ***(Refrain)***

Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go. ***(Refrain)***

Oh come, thou Branch of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. ***(Refrain)***

Oh come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery. ***(Refrain)***

Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight. ***(Refrain)***

Oh come, desire of nations, bind
All peoples in our heart, one mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease
And be thyself our source of peace. ***(Refrain)***

Hymn

Draw us in the Spirit's tether

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together,
you are in the midst of them.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Touch we now your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather
in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the Father
break the bread and bless the cup:
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving,
we would be disciples true.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Live, O Christ, in all we do.

Hymn

Sleepers, wake!

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us,
the shout of rampart-guards surrounds us:

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:

“The time has come, O maidens wise!

Rise up, and give us light;

the Bridegroom is in sight.

Hallelujah!

Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing;

her heart with joyful hope is springing;

she wakes and hurries through the night.

Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious

in strength of grace, in truth victorious:

her star is risen; her light grows bright.

Now come, most worthy Lord,

God’s Son, Incarnate Word.

Hallelujah!

We follow and heed your call

to come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;

let saints and angels sing before you,

as harps and cymbals swell the sound.

Twelve great pearls, the city’s portals:

through them we stream to join the immortals

as we with joy your throne surround.

No eye has known the sight,

no ear heard such delight:

hallelujah!

Therefore we sing to greet our King;

forever let our praises ring.