

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
22 Queen St. E. Elmvale, ON, L0L 1P0



"Elmvale Presbyterian Church is a Christian Community where everyone is welcome sharing God's love through worship, music, prayer, teaching and outreach."

A Warm Welcome to any Newcomers, please let us know you're here and join us for Coffee after Worship.

"The First Sunday in Advent" - Sunday December 1, 2024



"The Church is not the Steeple but the People"

Minister: Rev Tom Mason

Please stand for the entry of the Bible if you are able.

MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION BEFORE WORSHIP

Spirit of God, move within and among us today, to open God's Word, read and proclaimed, for us. Guide us to your truth and help us discern and understand your Word, pointing us to Christ, your Living Word.

Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Marlene Lambie, Clerk of Session

CALL TO WORSHIP – The Lighting of the Candle of Hope
Kirton Family

First Sunday in Advent – HOPE.

One: As we enter the season of Advent, we remember God's call to seek justice in the world God loves.

All: We come longing for a brighter future for all.

One: We light the first candle of Advent, a symbol of God's hope, which shines in the darkness.

(Light the candle of hope)

One: May the light of this candle ignite a fire within your people, who are often afraid or hesitant to work for change.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to walking with those who are oppressed and marginalized. May our actions reflect your hope, which transforms your world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Hymn #119 Hope is a Star – the First Verse Only.

OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION, CONFESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF ADORATION (unison)

God of love,
you come to your people to dwell with us. You come with power to transform all things. You come with promises to make all things new. You come with signs of your deep love for the world. You come, and your truth breaks into our lives shattering lies and half-truths, setting your people free. Your coming is our hope, and so, we offer you our praise and prayers in gratitude and anticipation. Come into our lives again, O God, and show us how to hope in the face of all that is

discouraging, for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh, Jesus Christ, your promise and our desire. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

“Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sins and the sins of this world.”

Surprising God,
forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendor and for when we abandon hope and expect for the same old thing in the same old way. Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up and our carelessness with your world and each other. Awaken us to your holy, hopeful presence so we may watch and wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ. Move in us and in all your creation to bring forth new life, while we wait with hope in your grace and goodness. As we pray in the strong name of Jesus...

...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, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid but rejoice in the God who comes to us.

Hymn #114 – Emmanuel, Emmanuel (2xs)

FAMILY TIME: Mitten Tree, Food Bank collection & Advent Family Project

Anthem: Bow the Knee

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25:1-5 (responsive) Kirton Family

One: To you O LORD, I lift up my soul.

All: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

One: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

All: Let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

One: Make me to know your ways O LORD;

All: Teach me your paths.

One: Lead me in your truth, and teach me.

All: For you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE: “Why Hope?” by Rev Tom

Hymn #786 O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Prayers of the People Kirton Family

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The first Sunday in Advent celebrates God’s gift of hope. So we offer whatever we have to share, knowing our gifts can spread hope in the world God loves by touching lives in Jesus’ name.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Doxology #79 praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of hope, we offer you our gifts, knowing you can do with them more than we can ask or imagine. Bless what we offer as signs of your love at work in your world, and as symbols of the hope we share in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Friend. **Amen.**

Hymn #137 Born in the Night

GOD SENDS US OUT INTO THE WORLD

THE BENEDICTION

May God, who is the ground of hope, fill you with joy and peace as you lead the life of faith until, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you overflow with hope. (Romans 15:13). **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Go now in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Walk With the Lord

Sermon Notes



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