

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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

Elmvale Presbyterian Church celebrates 164 Years of Christian Witness in our Community this year.

A Warm Welcome to any Newcomers or those Returning home to our Church.



Sunday December 22, 2024 "The Fourth Sunday in Advent"

Minister: Rev. Thomas Mason M Div

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

Prayer before Worship:

Open to us, O God, the Good News written in the scriptures.

Open our hearts to recognize your presence with us.

Open our minds so that we may know your direction for us.

And may we say with Mary, "Let it be with me according to your Word." **Amen.**

Welcome & Announcements: Marlene Lambie, Clerk of Session

Call to Worship: Sarah Covey

Responsive Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle

Love See insert

Hymn #119 Hope is a Star

Prayer of Adoration: (Unison)

O God, our Saviour, with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day, for you look with favour on your people. You have done great things for us. You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things, and kept the promises made to our ancestors. Your mercy is known from generation to generation. And so, we praise and magnify your holy name and worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit. **Amen**

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

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

All (Unison): Although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against ourselves and against one another. We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies and how we treat others and your world. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...

The Lords Prayer: (Unison)

Assurance of Pardon: (Unison)

Hear and believe the Good News: our sins are forgiven and we are a new creation, the old life is gone, the new life has come; know that you are forgiven and have the courage and love to forgive others.

The Choir's Anthem Come, Christmas Child

Family Hymn #155 That Boy-Child of Mary

Family Time and Children's Church

Scriptures: Psalm 80:1-3 (Responsive) Sarah Covey

One: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you lead Joseph like a flock!

All: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

One: Stir up your might and come to save us!

All: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

The Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:46b-55

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Message: "For the Love of God" By Rev Tom

Hymn #379 – From Heaven You Came, Helpless Babe

The Prayer of the People Sarah Covey

Invitation to the offering

We make our offering this day with hearts full of love, filled with the hope and joy this season brings. Give knowing God's love will spread far and wide through what we offer in Jesus' name.

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love for you and signs of our willingness to share that love in the world around us. Bless our lives as well as our gifts, so that we may be a blessing to others for the sake of the Christ Child, our Saviour and our friend. **Amen**

Hymn # 110 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Benediction

Go into the world in Love. Be of good courage.
Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak.
Help the afflicted. Love God and one another follow Christ,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Christ and Spirit,
be among you and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Walk with the Lord

Congregation Announcements (See Insert)

**** **Cantata Tonight at 7pm** ****

138 Mitten Tree donations were divided & delivered to Salvation Army, Rosewood & Elmvale Food Bank. Approximately \$1200 was donated for our Christmas family. "Needs" were purchased with the majority being clothing. On behalf of Worship and Nurture I would like to thank everyone for their donations to provide a joyous Christmas for many families.

Knox, Flos and Elmvale Presbyterian Bible Study Group – Advent Bible Study on Mon Dec 23 at 2pm

Pray this Week... We pray for you and your family.

We ask you to hold in your hearts and pray for anyone who may be sick, for those feeling lost or lonely and for those who need the healing and encouraging presence of Jesus Christ in their lives at this time.

We pray for peace throughout our troubled world, for the people of Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.

We pray for our Church and Presbytery, and for all people of Faith, that they may be guided by the Spirit of Wisdom, Truth, Love and Peace that brings to us, tolerance, understanding and compassion for All.

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you.

