

# 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 165 Years of Christian Witness in our Community this year. Merry Christmas and a Warm Welcome to any Newcomers or those Returning to our Church.*



**"The Fourth Sunday in Advent"**

**Sunday December 21, 2025**

**Minister: Rev. Thomas Mason MDiv**

**Please stand, if able, for the opening 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** Leslie & Annie

**Responsive Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle –  
Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Love**

Voice 1: An angel of the Lord declared, "God is with us"— this is the greatest gift of love.

**Voice 2: Yet even at Christmas, love is often measured by gifts and material things.**

Voice 1: But God's love can come through people: a king named David, a prophet named Nathan, and Mary and Joseph. In a baby, God's love was made real among us.

**Voice 2: Can we believe that God's love is revealed through people? On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of love, a light for our world.**

**(The candle of love is lit.)**

**Let us pray together**

**Living God, thank you for your deep and abiding love. May we see ourselves and others through your eyes, as we follow your way of love. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Hymn #119 Hope is a Star**

**Prayer of Adoration (Unison)**

Gracious and ever- present God, hear our prayer –  
May You restore us;  
May You let Your face shine on us;  
May You come to save Your people.

And we pray to God who is our shepherd;  
the God who made us and who loves us;  
the God who knows us by name;  
the God who believes in our worth and value.

So, restore us, loving God.

Restore us to an understanding of Your glory and creative power.

Restore us to an understanding that we matter to You.

Restore us to a belief that we are the people of Your flock.

This we pray with adoring and thankful hearts to our Godhead,  
ever three and ever one. **Amen**

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

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

We pray that you will accept our prayers.

Even when our human failings get in the way of our understanding  
of Your ways. When our human understanding gets in the way of  
Your truth. So, let your face shine on us.

Let us behold the smile of Your grace.

Let us feel the warmth of Your embrace, that we might know Your  
ways, and Your time, and Your purpose.

Having turned our backs on You, we turn towards You again.

And although we promised never to do things wrong, when it  
seems we never get it right, when we have failed again and tried  
to hide from Your gaze. You say to each one of us –

It is your face I want to see, not your back.

It is your humility I want to see, not the shake of your head.

It is your smile of recognition I want to see, not your worried  
frown. It is the wonder of your acceptance of salvation I want to  
see, and not you turning away."

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.

As we offer these prayers in Jesus' name who taught us to pray...

### **The Lord's Prayer (Unison)**

***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,  
the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen***

### **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.

#### **Scriptures: Psalm 80:1-3 (Responsive)** Reid

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** Isaiah 7:10-16 Johanna

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

#### **Hymn #136 The First Nowell**

**Play: “First Christmas Bystanders”**

#### **The Prayer of the People** Angela

#### **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 #153 Joy to the World**

## **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,  
May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you this day and forever more.  
**Amen.**

## **May God's Blessings Surround You Each Day**

**Minister's Vacation: December 30<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>.** Guest Preachers are Jeff Walther and Preaching Elder Angela Kirton. Please contact Marlene Lambie for emergency pastoral care which will be provided.

### ***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.***

## **"First Christmas Bystanders" Cast**

**Narrator:** June

**Mary's Friend:** Tillie

**Angel:** Isabella

**Mary:** Johanna

**Joseph's Cousin:** Reid

**Joseph:** David

**Villager:** Leslie

**Inn Keeper:** Linda

**Stable Hand:** Brad

**Servant:** Marlene

**Shepherd:** Reid

**Modern Christian:** Sylvia

**Cow:** Monroe

**Sheep:** Annie

**Donkey:** Angela



**The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

***Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches***

***Tel: 705-322-1411 Cell: 705-441-5525***

***Minister: Rev. Tom Mason***

***Church Office Open Sun to Wed 10:30am- 3pm***

***Clerk of Session: Marlene Lambie***

***Home: 705-322-1843***

***EPC Treasurer: Sharon Crozier***

***Home: 705-433-3422***

***20 Stone St.***

***Office Administrator: Deanna Nelson***

***705-322-1411 (Thurs and Fri)***