

# Chalmers

The United Church of Canada



*Annunciation* by Fra Beato Angelico (1395 - 1455) from The Cortona Altarpiece 1432

## The First Sunday of Advent

This is the irrational season when love blooms bright and wild.  
If Mary'd been filled with reason, there'd have been no room for the Child.

Madeleine L'Engle

**10:30 am December 3, 2017**

**Children:** Spirit Alive with Hope Yen and Joy Yen.  
Children participate in Advent craft activities.

**Hearing Assists and Large Print Bulletins** available from Greeters

**Song Books** VU *Voices United* MV *More Voices*

**Ringers Off** electronic devices. Thank you.

**Prayers of the People** Prayer requests for persons ill (with permission) and for global, national and local concerns may be left at the Prayer Desk at the south back wall of the sanctuary. These will be brought to the Communion Table with the Offering and included in the Prayers.

For millennia indigenous people have inhabited this land. We gather on the shared territory of the *Anishinaabek* and *Haudenosonee* Peoples, grateful for their historic stewardship.

# The Story and Music of Advent

Ordinary

David Melhorn-Boe

## COMMUNITY LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Advent Wreath

Stacey Andrews

### The First Light of Advent - The Light of Surprise

David Evans

One The flame catches and surprises the dark.  
All **As we hear the Sacred Story anew  
May we be caught this day by Surprise!**

*Stand Carol VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel verses 1, 2, 6, 7*

## PRAYER OF THE HEART

### Messengers of Surprise

Luke 1: 5 - 2: 40

#### The Birth of John The Baptist Foretold

**Luke** In the time of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren. They were both well along in years. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty, and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the Temple to burn incense. When the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. An angel appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw it, he was startled and gripped with fear. The angel said to him

Doug Reid

**Gabriel** "Do not be afraid Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you. Many will rejoice because of this birth, for he will be great in the sight of God. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. He bring back to God many of the people of Israel. He will go in the Spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for God."

Douglas Smith

**Zechariah** "How can I be sure of this?  
I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

**Gabriel:** "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. Now, you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."

**Luke** Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, wondering why he stayed so long in the Temple. When he came out he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision, for he kept making signs to them, but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed he returned home. After this Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion.

Rosalie Armstrong

**Elizabeth** "God has done this for me. In these days God has shown me favour and taken away my disgrace among the people."

## The Annunciation

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

**Luke** In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a young woman pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. Her name was Mary.

#### *Annunciation Part I*

She met the day as days before – a cup of milk, a crust of bread, bare feet upon the clean-swept floor. She planned her day as days before – the empty jug, a tattered rug, stray threads within a cluttered drawer. Then Gabriel outside the door.

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**Luke** The angel went to her and said,

**Gabriel** "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! God is with you."

**Luke** Mary was greatly troubled at these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her,

**Gabriel** "Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son. You are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end."

**Mary** "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

**Gabriel** "The Holy Spirit will come upon you. The power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age. She who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

## Annunciation Part II

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus.*

How can this be, this quiet gentle grace that visits us within a word,  
a welcome, or embrace ...? Katie Henderson

**Mary** "I am the God's servant. May it be to me as you have said."

*Song of Mary* - C. McDade

**Women of the Choir**

**Mary, when they took away your earthly love  
and made your Child born of holy man above,  
Tell, me Mary, what were you thinking?**

**Men of the Choir** **Mary, when they always pictured you with child,  
did your spirit ever cry for something free and wild?  
Tell, me Mary, what were you feeling?**

**All Women** **Mary, when they cast your body into stone  
to stand in church cold and all alone,  
Tell, me Mary, did you think of fighting?**

**All Men** **Mary, when they taught you how to kneel and pray,  
did you want to stand and look straight into your day?  
Tell, me Mary, did you think of rising?**

**All Women** **Mary, when they took your woman-self away  
and made you keeper of virtue to this day,  
Tell, me Mary, did you think of speaking?**

## Annunciation Part III

All shall be well, and all shall be well. Within this grace the promise  
and the blessing dwell—Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

## The Visitation

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Solo VU12

*She Walked In The Summer*

Margaret Moncrieff

**Luke** At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting the baby leaped in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed

**Elizabeth** "Blessed are you among women. Blessed is the Child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that you should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what God has said to her will be accomplished."

**Luke** Mary sang

**Stand VU 899**

*Song of Mary*

*Magnificat* Luke 1: 47 – 55

## The Birth of John the Baptist

**Luke** When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Neighbours and relatives heard that God had shown her great mercy and they shared her joy. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. They were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said,

**Elizabeth** "No! He is to be called John."

**Choir** "There is no one among your relatives who has that name."

**Luke** They made signs to his father to find out what he would name the child. He asked for a writing tablet. To everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed. He began to speak praising God. The neighbours were filled with awe. Throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it.

**Choir** "What then is this child going to be?"

**Luke** God's hand was with him. His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied.

**VU p. 900**

*The Song of Zechariah*

Luke 1: 68 - 79

*Sung Refrain* **God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.**

One Blessed be the God of Israel

**All Who has come to the people and set them free**

One Who has raised up for us a mighty saviour

**All Born of the house of the servant David.**

*Sung Refrain* **God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.**

One You, Child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,  
For you will go before God to prepare The Way

**All To give the people knowledge of salvation  
By the forgiveness of sin.**

One In the tender compassion of God  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us

**All To shine on those who sit in darkness  
In the shadow of death  
To guide our feet in the Way of Peace.**

*Sung Refrain* **God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.**

**Luke** The child grew and became strong in spirit.  
He lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

## The Nativity

### The Birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### The Shepherds

**Luke** There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel appeared to them. The glory of God shone around them. They were terrified. The angel said to them,

**Gabriel** "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Christ. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger."

**Luke** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to all people."

**Stand Carol VU 44** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

**Luke** When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to one another,

**Choir** "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which God has told us about."

**Luke** They hurried and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word of what had been told them about this child. All who heard were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had been told.

**Stand Carol VU 38** *Angels We Have Heard On High* **verses 1, 3, 4**

## The Presentation

### Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

**Luke** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to God (as it is written in the Law, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to God"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law - "a pair of doves and two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Christ.

**Luke** Moved by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple courts. When the parents brought the Child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, he took him in his arms and praised God. The Child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary,

David Melhorn-Boe

**Simeon:** "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. A sword will pierce your own soul too."

**Choir with Solo** *The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)*

**Luke** There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the Temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the Child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. The Child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon him.

### PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

*Extra*

David Melhorn-Boe

### MEDITATION

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*stand* Carol VU 9

*People Look East*

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

by Joyce Rupp

May you give and receive love generously.  
May this love echo in your heart  
like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.  
May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ.  
May the honour given the Babe of Bethlehem  
be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.  
May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.  
May it be a foundation of courage for you  
when times of distress occupy your inner land.  
May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children  
be awakened within you.  
May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation  
of whatever you too easily take for granted.  
May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened  
as you gather around the table of festivity and nourishment.  
May you keep your eye on the Star within you and  
trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.  
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and  
visit the One who offers you peace.  
May you bring this Peace into our world.  
May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart  
and visit the One who offers you Peace.

*Sung Gloria*

***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*Extraordinary*

David Melhorn-Boe

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra." - Jimmy Johnson

## **Talents Shared**

Our thanks to:

**Greeters:** Molly Hutchinson, Janice Moncrieff

**Liturgical Animation Team:** Jan Elliott, Katie Henderson, Faye Irving,  
Rosalie Armstrong, Katharine Smithrim (Chair), David Melhorn-Boe,  
Rev. Drew Strickland

**Sound Tech:** Shannon Dickson

**Counter:** Barb Laidlaw

**Hospitality:** PreService: Heather Faris

PostService: Don Carter, Gerald McGrath



## Today

- **2018 Offering Envelopes** are at the back of the sanctuary for pick up. Please notify the Church Office if yours are not there, or if you would like to have Offering Envelopes, or if you would like to give through Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Please email: <envelopesecretary@chalmersunitedchurch.com> Please Note: Some Envelope numbers have changed. Check for new number.
- **11:45 am: Hilliker Preaching Lectureship Committee** meets in Church House.

## The Season of Advent and Christmas

### Tuesday Dec. 5

- **Noon: Book Discussion Group**, on *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan, meets in Church House. Brown bag lunch.

### Wednesday Dec. 6 St. Nicholas Day .

- The Women of Chalmers will be distributing the Homemade Christmas Cookie Trays.

### Thursday Dec. 7

- **Noon: Weekly Lunch** in MacCallum Hall. All welcome. **\$7**. Contact Jane MacEwen 613-546-3905 if you have not yet attended.
- **1:30 pm: Centering Prayer** Circle at Church House.
- **7pm: Choir Rehearsal** in MacCallum Hall.

### Tuesday Dec. 12

- **11:30 am:** The next luncheon meeting of our **Two Church Lunch and Learn Group** (formerly the Joint Men's Group but now a non-gender-specific group) will be at Mino's Village Restaurant, 1762 Princess St. Our guest will be **Ron Lirette**, Executive Director of Hospice Kingston. The title of his talk is "A Compassionate Community That Celebrates Life." Everyone from Sydenham St. UC and Chalmers UC is invited to attend. Individuals on call lists will be contacted by team captains. Others wishing to attend and/or to have their name added to our call list, contact Meikle Turner <meikle\_irish@yahoo.com> 613-542-7744 or *before 5 pm Sunday, Dec. 10*, to ensure that adequate accommodation can be arranged at Mino's. The cost for lunch, incl. tax and gratuity, is \$22 per person (a \$20 bill plus a toonie, please).

### Friday Dec. 15

- **Noon: The 2 Church Just Lunch Christmas Buffet** gathering will be at Dox Restaurant in the Kingston Waterfront Holiday Inn. Register in advance with Meikle Turner 613-542-7744 <meikle\_irish@yahoo.com>

### The Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

- **10:30 am: Christmas Eve Service**  
The Sacred Story and Carols, Communion and Candlelight
- **4 pm: Christmas Nativity Play and Carols** for all ages.
- **7 pm: Christmas Eve Service**  
Readings and Carols at Sydenham Street United Church.

## **The Inter-Church Refugee Partnership**

Chalmers Representatives: Monika Holzschuh Sator, Mary Davis Little

**The ICRP is happy to announce the sponsoring of our 5<sup>th</sup> Syrian household - a family of six with four children, currently in a Refugee Camp in Lebanon.** The family is from the Government's pre-approved list, and should be arriving in 4 - 8 weeks.

To contribute, contact:

Anya <hagemana@econ.queensu.ca>,

Mary <davislittlem@gmail.com>, or call Monika 613-541-3939

Seeking:

- Mattresses - Twin and Queen (new)
- Mattress protectors: Twin (waterproof) and Queen
- Fitted Sheets and Blankets for twin beds, new Pillows
- Crib with mattress
- Infant Car Seat and Booster Seats (new or less than three y-o)
- Tools for family toolkit - screwdrivers, wrenches, flashlights
- New Vacuum Cleaner

## **The Joint Steering Committee**

Planning and Coordinating Shared Ministry for 2018

**For information** contact Chalmers members of the Committee.

**Chalmers:** Lynne Clarke <clarkelc@icloud.com>  
Juliet Huntly (Co-Chair) <jhuntly6@gmail.com>  
Bob Little <rlittle@cswan.com>  
David Spooner <dspooner@cogeco.ca>

**SSUC:** Kenn Doerksen, Lynn Freeman, Bruce Hutchinson,  
James Leake, Barbara Parker, Ruth Wilson (Co-Chair)

**Chalmers and Sydenham Street United Church congregations will begin worshipping together at Chalmers 10:30 am Epiphany Sunday January 7, 2018.** We will be alternating between our two sanctuaries on a monthly basis, with Worship services moving to SSUC in February.

**The Joint Worship Committee is seeking to engage a full-time Supply Minister for January,** or as soon as possible thereafter. See the Joint Worship Committee's full report on [chalmersunitedchurch.com](http://chalmersunitedchurch.com).

Printed copies are available at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday, and at the Church Office Monday to Thursday.

CUC: Barb Fletcher, Susan Irving, David Spooner.

SSUC: Lynn Freeman, Rosemary Thoms, Eileen Woloshyn

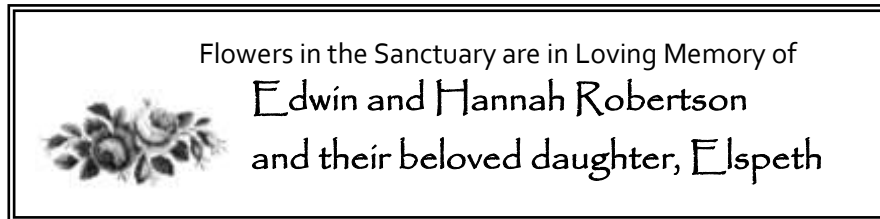
### Community Pastoral Care

Please refer persons in hospital or care facility, ill at home, needing contact or a *Thinking of You* card, to Rev. Drew Strickland 613-546-3263 (ext. 226), cell 613-876-0118 <[drew.strickland@chalmersunitedchurch.com](mailto:drew.strickland@chalmersunitedchurch.com)>

### Flowers

#### Wishing to donate Flowers for the Sanctuary for a Sunday Service?

To offer flowers in memory or in honour of a loved one, contact Isabel McLeod 613-546-2809.



### Benevolent Fund

**Donations needed** of shampoos, conditioners, soaps, toothbrushes, toothpaste. Any size, new or opened, is welcomed by our Tuesday visitors. Please drop them off at Church House, or at the back of the Sanctuary.

### Outreach Committee

The Martha's Table Dinner sponsored by Chalmers' Outreach Committee has been rescheduled from December 21<sup>st</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### Property Committee

#### New Storm Windows for MacCallum Hall

Since the building of MacCallum Hall in the 1920's, its exterior windows have served us well. They have now been replaced by custom-made windows - a project gratefully completed after four years of development. A \$2000. Heritage Grant and the generous pro bono work of Heritage Architect Bruce Downey, helped off-set the \$30,000. approximate cost, to be paid from Chalmers' funds managed by our Board of Trustees. If you wish to contribute toward the cost of this much needed upgrading of our Chalmers facility, the Coordinating Council of Elders encourages you to make a donation using your Offering Envelope, or a pew envelope, denoting *MacCallum Hall Windows*. Thank you.

### Truth and Reconciliation Working Group

**Minister of Justice Jody Wilson-Raybould has announced that the Government of Canada is supporting Bill C-262**, an Act to ensure that the Laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Debate at second reading is this Tuesday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> in the House of Commons. It is essential to reinforce with Members of Parliament the importance of their support.

For information and documents, visit [adoptandimplement.com](http://adoptandimplement.com)  
#pushingtothefinishline! #passbill262

## Staff

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**The Rev. Dr. C. Wayne Hilliker** MINISTER EMERITUS

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613-542-9012 <ifbrand.sma@sympatico.ca>

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**Live Online** at [chalmersunitedchurch.com](http://chalmersunitedchurch.com) Sundays 10:30 am

[Facebook.com/chalmersunited](https://www.facebook.com/chalmersunited)

**Church House Office:** Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 am to 4 pm

Fridays: administration only. Emergencies only please.