

Pioneer Memorial - St. Columba
Grace Community
Two Churches - One Heart - One Community

eNews - Wednesday, November 27, 2024



Advent & Christmas Worship

We hope you will join Grace Community for worship this Advent and Christmas season!

- December 1: **Advent 1** - 11:00 a.m. joint service with Stoney Creek United Church at St. Columba.
- December 8: **Advent 2** - 9:30 a.m. joint service at Stoney Creek United Church. Children's Christmas Pageant. White Gifts will be received.
- December 15: **Advent 3** - 11:00 a.m. Worship at St. Columba. Light lunch after worship, followed by wrapping items for the Christmas Gift Baskets.
- December 22: **Advent 4** - 11:00 a.m. Worship at St. Columba.
- December 24: **Christmas Eve** - 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service with Communion at Pioneer.
- December 29: **First Sunday after Christmas** - 9:30 a.m. Joint Carol Sing Service at Stoney Creek United Church.
- January 5, 2025: **Epiphany Sunday** - 11:00 a.m. joint service with Stoney Creek United Church at St. Columba.

Sunday worship services at St. Columba will be shared on Zoom at **11:00 a.m.**
The **NEW** Zoom link is: 423-166-6412 and the password is: grace.

Minister's Message

Scripture: Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-33

The first Sunday of Advent each year offers scripture readings with apocalyptic overtones. Luke's gospel speaks of portents on earth and in the heavens that will announce the coming of the Son of Man. In this midst of this calamity, Jesus suggests that we look closer, for the incoming Kin-dom shall unfold almost imperceptibly...as a leaf budding out in the spring. Signs will appear all around us; some will be obvious and ominous, others will be hidden and hopeful. Which signs are we most likely to perceive? How will our perceptions shape our waiting?

See you at Christ's table this Sunday!

Mark



The Bible Study group will **NOT** be meeting this week!

Christmas Is Coming!

Grace Community will be preparing Christmas Gift Baskets again this year for young single mothers (or mothers-to-be) and their children in our community. There are two ways to support this project - you may make a financial donation or you can shop for a specific family. Donation envelopes will be available this Sunday. Gifts will be wrapped following worship on December 15. Watch the enews (or speak to Gilbert Chainey) for more information.



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In preparation for our return back to St. Columba, we are looking for individuals who could assist by bringing goodies for us to enjoy during coffee time after worship. A sign-up sheet is available for you to indicate your preference of dates. This will assist greatly in ensuring that this valuable time of fellowship occurs. Coffee, tea, sugar, milk, cream and juice will be provided so only the treats are needed. Your willingness to participate with this will be appreciated by everyone!

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

As settlers, we continue to benefit from the land and its gifts. As settlers, we must ask ourselves how or if we have shared and cared for the earth and its gifts. Facing the truth is hard. Truth must come before reconciliation.

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November 27, 2024.

Dear Members & Friends of Grace Community,

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another. "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15

It's quite an extraordinary thing when you stop to think about it. Every year at Christmas, all around the world, billions of people revisit Bethlehem to see, once again, "this thing that has taken place." Not in a physical sense, of course, but in a metaphysical sense... time and space are suspended, and it is as if we are also there on those hillsides with shepherds, and flocks, and angel chorus and starry skies. We hear again the ancient story and are transported to that night. That night. That night... foretold by the prophets when a ruler would come out of Bethlehem to feed his flocks... a root from Jesse who would redeem his people. That night, when "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." That night, of which Mary sang in revolutionary terms, "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly." That night, on which the angels announced "peace on earth." That night, when God unfolded a bold vision of a world newly born, and salvation in a new-born.

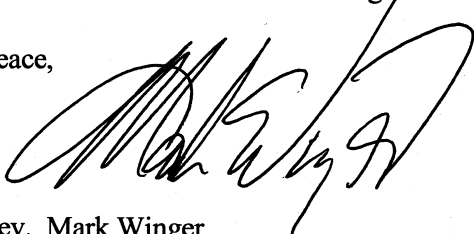
Not so many were there that night. His parents. Some lowly shepherds. The barn animals. Some foreign ambassadors came, but much later of course. Still, there were witnesses to what God was doing in the world.

And so, we join those first witnesses from two millennia ago. We also witness to "this thing that has taken place." And what has God made known to us? That Hope lights up the darkest of nights; that Peace is the promise to all; that Joy unites us in song; that Love is the final Word. But not all of us. Only those of us for whom God has made these things known.

In this Christmas season, your church invites you to remember God's grace, and give thanks for another wonderful year of witness in Jesus' name. Your church needs your ongoing generosity of time and talents so that we might continue to make known to others the love of God in Christ Jesus. Any special donation that you feel you are able to offer at this time would be most gratefully received, and with our deepest thanks. Please mark your cheque and envelope "Christmas".

May you, dear friends, be blessed as the shepherds were blessed. May you be heard to say, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place."

Peace,



Rev. Mark Winger
on behalf of your Church Council



HAMILTON CONCERT BAND

MUSIC DIRECTOR PAUL MCGOVERAN

AND

Voices in the Creek

MUSIC DIRECTOR ANDREW POAPS

Deck the Halls!



SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH 2024 @ 7 P.M.

Stoney Creek United Church
1 King St. W., Stoney Creek

Entry \$15
at door

Free for kids
under 13!

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Music Director Paul McGoveran



DECK THE HALLS

15
DECEMBER
7-9 P.M.

Entry \$15
at door
Free for kids
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St Andrew's United Church
479 UPPER PARADISE RD., HAMILTON
HAMILTONCONCERTBAND.COM

