

## Dates To Remember

<b>Dec. 24</b>	Christmas Eve worship 7:00 p.m.
<b>25</b>	Christmas worship 10:30 a.m.
<b>30</b>	Hospitality Breakfast 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. (Fleck Hall)
<b>Church office will be closed Dec. 22 through Jan. 1, 2024</b>	

**NOTE:** Some of these dates and times are subject to change.



### Fleeing Home: Am Salama's Journey

Am Salama fondly reminisces about the life she and her family led before the war struck.

Earlier in 2023, a political crisis unfolded in Sudan, and tensions flared, triggering a widespread exodus of people toward South Sudan and neighbouring countries.

At 35 years old, Am Salama and her husband were thriving as farmers who also owned a small restaurant in Fudain, East Darfur. In their bustling town, the restaurant generated enough income to support their six children.

However, when the war erupted, their lives took a drastic turn.

Fearing for the safety of herself and her children, Am Salama made the difficult decision to flee to South Sudan. Her husband had to remain behind to care for his blind mother, resulting in the separation of the entire family.

The journey to safety was full of challenges for Am Salama. Along the way, she was robbed of the little money and clothing she had managed to take during their escape. Additionally, she encountered numerous hardships, including frequent illness, making the already strenuous journey even more overwhelming.

Am Salama and her children found safety at the Wedwil Refugee Camp, where the family received food assistance, provided by Canadian Foodgrains Bank members, with support from PWS&D. She shares that her family wouldn't have survived without the food assistance.

In addition to food assistance, shelter, education, and health care, there remain pressing needs in the camps. Your support is ensuring that the many people who call the camps home will be able to access these essential resources.

*Stephanie Chunoo, PCC Communications Assistant*

<https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/fleeing-home-am-salamas-journey/>



**PCC Daily Prayer** – Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us.



Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Monday – Thursday

111 Elmwood Avenue E., London, Ontario N6C 1J4

Phone: 519-438-3492 Hall: 519-438-3491

Email: [contact@elmwoodchurch.ca](mailto:contact@elmwoodchurch.ca)

Website: [www.elmwoodchurch.ca](http://www.elmwoodchurch.ca)



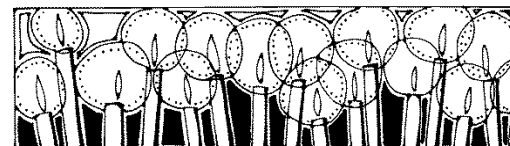
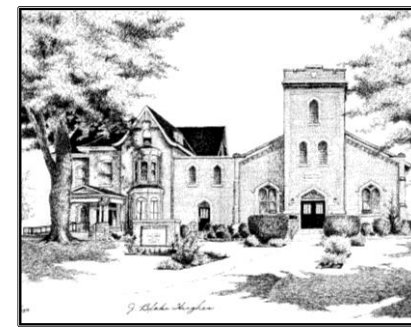
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Community**



**Caring**

**Christ**



Third  
Sunday  
in Advent

**December 17, 2023**

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton

Music Director: Bonnie Neaves

Organist Emeritus: Bert Van der Hoek, ARCCO

*Welcome!*

Our mission as a congregation, with the Holy Spirit as our guide, is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world, and to fulfill our responsibilities to God and our neighbours.

An offering can be made in one of the offering plates upon entering or leaving.

*If able, please stand where indicated with an \* asterisk.*

Prelude: Advent Reflections

*Anne Krentz Organ*

Violin: Jillian Yang

Words of Welcome and Announcements

### **We Gather To Worship God**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

\*Call to Worship

\*Hymn: **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

**# 115**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

**P: Christ, have mercy upon us**

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

Prayer for the Day

**P: Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

L: The Peace of Christ be with you all

**P: And also with you**

\*Hymn: **Prepare the way, O Zion**

#129

Anthem: Advent supplication

Hal H. Hopson

Baritone: Alistair McGhee

## Hear the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading: **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11** (pgs. 801-r, 724-w, 603-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

**P: Thanks be to God**

Responsive Psalm: **126**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** (pgs. 1270-r, 1148-w, 961-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

**P: Thanks be to God**

**St. John 1:6-8, 19-28** (pgs. 1137-r, 1027-w, 862-NRSV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord,

**P: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

\*Hymn: **Comfort, comfort you my people**

# 113

Sermon

Anthem: People, Look East!

Arr. Malcolm Archer

## We Respond in Faith and Service

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

**P: Hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

\*Hymn: **Herald! Sound the note of judgement**

# 117

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: King of Glory

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Violin: Jillian Yang

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**Please note:** *No photos or filming permitted without the express permission of the participants involved. Thank you.*



**Stewardship Moment:** the only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord  
*J.L. Kraft – founder of Kraft Cheese Corporation, philanthropist*



**Welcome Visitors!** - Thank you for worshipping with us today, at *Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church*. You have enriched our community and we hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. Please feel free to remain after the worship service and join us in Fleck Hall for refreshments. You may wish to visit us on the web at [www.elmwoodchurch.ca](http://www.elmwoodchurch.ca) to learn more about us and what opportunities are available for personal spiritual growth and service to others. If you are not an involved member of a faith community, but seeking one, we invite you to return here any Sunday for worship and fellowship.

**If you would like to speak to the minister**, or have him visit, you are very welcome to be in touch with him. Please contact the church office 519-438-3492 or email [afullerton@elmwoodchurch.ca](mailto:afullerton@elmwoodchurch.ca)



Our sincere thanks to violinist, Jillian Yang for sharing her talents with us during our worship service this morning.



**Today Is Food Bank Sunday** – The need is great. Donations are very much appreciated! Donation basket located in the Narthex.

**Annual Report time is fast approaching.** The 2023 written and financial forms have been emailed to the group and committee leaders. If you require hard copies of these forms, please contact Karen in the church office.

**Completion date is January 14, 2024....or earlier please!** If you are not the person responsible for the completion of these forms, please ensure they are directed and received by the appropriate person. Thank you!



For the month of December, we will continue with our usual collection of hats, mitts and gloves for The Boys & Girls Club and we will also continue to collect men's socks for The Men's Mission. Thank you for your generous givings!  
*Your Mission Committee*

**Ark Aid Mission Top Winter Needs:** underwear (long, thermal, regular), razors, chapstick, hand warmers, socks, blankets, sleeping bags, hats, mitts, scarves, flashlights & batteries, tarps, winter boots, backpacks, reusable bags, deodorant. For more information including specific needs and volunteer opportunities follow @Ark Aid London on Facebook. Donate: [donate@arkaidmission.com](mailto:donate@arkaidmission.com) or at [www.arkaidmission.com](http://www.arkaidmission.com)

**Give a gift with meaning!** - The **2023-24 Gifts of Change** - catalogue supports marginalized communities across Canada and around the world. Not only is giving a gift from this catalogue unique, but you can be sure your gifts will be used to carry out life-changing programs that are responding to the needs of people affected by poverty, hunger, natural disasters and conflict. Catalogues available in the Narthex and church office.

**Send a Gift of Hope card** - Make a gift in the name of a friend or family member and a card will be sent acknowledging the donation. When you complete your online donation, enter their name, address and a brief message. You may also call the PWS&D office at 1-800-619-7301 ext. 291 and they will send them a card on your behalf. Your loved ones will be honoured to know that they inspired your generosity.