



**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. 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**

## ***The 8 Beatitudes of Christmas***

## A Christmas poem by Paul Berchtold

1. *Blessed are you, poorest baby,  
You are the Kingdom of Heaven.*
2. *Blessed are your tears and crying,  
You are comforted by Mary.*
3. *Blessed are you, humble meek child,  
You are ruler over all lands.*
4. *Blessed your hunger and thirsting,  
To atone for sins. bring God to us.*
5. *Blessed, O giver of mercy,  
Who comes to you will receive it.*
6. *Blessed, purest holiest child,  
Who not only sees, but is, God.*
7. *Blessed, O greatest peacemaker,  
The first-born child of Father God*
8. *Chased, persecuted by Herod,  
You are Blessed King of heaven.*

This poem is an inspirational twist on the 8 Beatitudes, telling them back to the Child Jesus in meditation, prayer and praise.

A good way to appreciate this poem, is to compare each verse to the original 8 Beatitudes, the very first major public teaching of Jesus recorded in the bible, beginning what is known as *"The Sermon on the Mount"*.  
(Matthew 5:3-10)

Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church was founded in 1925 to continue the tradition of the Presbyterian Church in Canada when Knox Presbyterian Church voted to enter Church Union. This may be the first post-union congregation to have erected a building. Our Sanctuary was dedicated on July 19, 1926. We draw your attention to our windows designed by Christopher Wallis, and our organ, built by Gabriel Kney, both of London. The congregation has been ministered to by outstanding spiritual leaders, Dr. Frederick W. Gilmour, Dr. John Fleck, Dr. D. Glenn Campbell, Rev. Rod Ferguson, Rev. Karen Timbers and Rev. Kevin Steeper.

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Monday - Thursday

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# ELMWOOD AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

111 Elmwood Avenue East, London, Ontario N6C 1J4 Phone (519) 438-3492

# *The Nativity of our Lord*

## *December 25, 2025*



Minister: Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton

**Director of Music:** Bonnie Neaves

## Today's Organist: Paul Merritt

**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: Settings of Traditional Carols

Words of Welcome and Announcements

### We Gather To Worship God

Lighting of the Worship Candle

\*Call to Worship:

\*Hymn: **O come, all ye faithful**

# 159

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: **Unto us a child is born**

# 160

### Hear the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

### Hebrews 1:1-4

L: This is the Word of the Lord

**P: Thanks be to God**

Responsive Psalm: 96

### \*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. Amen.*

### St. John 1:1-14

L: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord,

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

\*Hymn: **Good Christians, all rejoice**

# 141

Sermon

### We Respond in Faith and Service

\*The Apostles' Creed (see front cover of the Book of Praise)

Prayers Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

**P: Hear our prayer**

### Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

# 564

**Sanctus, Mystery of Faith** (sung, see back cover of the Book of Praise)

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

Breaking of the Bread & Elevation of the Cup

**Lamb of God** (sung, see back cover of the Book of Praise)

Distribution of the Elements

Post Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn: **Joy to the world**

# 153

\*Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude: Joy to the World

M. Burkhardt

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

 Our thanks to Organist, Paul Merritt for his assistance with our worship service this morning.

*May you have the gift of Faith, the blessing of Hope, and the peace of His Love at Christmas and always.*