

ANTHEM: "We Are Waiting" By Jay Althouse

THE MESSAGE: "Christmas Commotion"

CLOSING HYMN VU 1 O Come O Come Emmanuel

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

L: Enter this Advent with hope. Enter this advent with patience. Enter this Advent prepared. May your waiting be meaningful and the presence of our God surround you. Bear God's hope to this world, like one candle. Amen

CHORAL BLESSING

God Be With You, until we meet again
ccli#262153

Emmanuel Thanks our Advent Candle
Lighters: The Shantz Family

Some liturgy and prayers adapted from
the Gathering (2017-2018)

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Thursday 1:30pm- 4:00pm
Friday 1:30pm – 6:00pm

Office Administrator: Melissa Yau

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**LAWRENCE ARMSTRONG
BURSARY
&
WILLIAM & IRENE EWART
BURSARY**

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for a bursary, please take a flyer at the back of the church. There is also information available on the bulletin board in Ottawa Hall and in the office.

**Application Deadline:
December 31, 2017**



**Completing the New Testament:
Week of December 3, 2017
Revelation 13-16**

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EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH
ADVENT 1 WORSHIP SERVICE
December 3, 2017

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

L: The hope of the Lord is all around us

CONG: Often in the midst of unexpected places

L: And in times of stress and expectations we may be surprised

CONG: As the true wonder of this season is revealed to us

L: the hope of the Lord is around us!

ALL: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your renewing hope.

1ST ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* verse 1

L: Today we light the candle of hope.

P: Wise ones from the East, where are you going? Can we go too?

FAMILY: We have seen an amazing star. It shines brighter than any other star. We are going to follow this star and see where it takes us. We think it will lead us to a child who will soon be born, a child of God who will change the world. We have faith that God will show us the way. We have great hope that our quest will be successful. And yes, you can come with us.

P: Thank you, Wise ones, for your faith and your gift of hope. We will join you on this Advent adventure.

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* refrain
(The first candle is lit)

HYMN VU 29 Hark the Glad Sound

OPENING PRAYER

L: God of Advent Hope, we gather here in this place, open to the ways that you touch our lives, aware of the moments that you help us on our journey, and thankful for the times that you show us the path to take as your people.

ALL: We confess that waiting is difficult. We want to be comfortable in this festive season – to eat and drink and be merry. We close our eyes to the suffering of others, and we ignore the pain in our own hearts. We are afraid of the dark. We want only to see the light. Forgive us for closing our eyes to that which we do not want to see. Give us eyes that can perceive the great need for hope within our community. Give us eyes to see the deep need of our own souls for hope. Give us reason to be clear about our faith, and shine your light of hope upon us, Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN VU # 365 "Jesus Love Me verses 1-2

CELEBRATING LIFE EVENTS

(Birthdays & Wedding Anniversaries)

Birthday Song - Happy birthday to you, to Jesus be true. May God's richest blessings descend upon you.

Anniversary Song – Bind Us Together - Bind them together Lord, bind them together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind them together Lord, bind them together Lord, bind them together with love.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(as the children leave for Sunday School)

OFFERTORY: VU 31 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

OFFERTORY DEDICATION

Hope flows from our fingers as we bring our gifts today: Hope for the world, hope for the future, hope for all who live in need. Bless these gifts and all gifts in this season, O God of perfect hope. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

VU617 I Love You God, Who Heard My Cry

L: Merciful God, the signs of our times are not good. We gather in your presence aware that the earth groans in pain.

P: We thank you for your comforting and transforming presence in times and places of suffering, fear, and darkness; and for your promise of life beyond death and hope beyond fear.

L: As the longest night draws near, comfort those who walk in darkness and direct those who have lost their way.

P: Wherever people are overwhelmed by the demands of this season, let them hear your still small voice above the clamour and catch a glimpse of your light in the darkness.

L: Today, we remember that the days leading up to Christmas are difficult for many.

P: We pray for those who are hungry. Alert us to the ways that we can set a feast for those in our community and beyond whose cupboards are bare.

L: We pray for those who are grieving. May we be patient companions to those in deep mourning.

P: We remember those who are or feel alone; soften our hearts and open our eyes and make us good neighbours.

L: We pray for those who feel like the world is ending; whose homes and lives have been uprooted by fire, flood, storm, illness, and death.

P: Steady us amid the upheaval and remind us that you alone are constant. Heaven and earth may pass away, but you are the source of everlasting life and hope. There is no power greater than yours and no love stronger.

L: Hear us as we offer prayers for those near and dear to us. My prayer is...

L: Gracious God, by your hands you formed our bodies and knit together our inward in your image and breathed breath and life into us, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and renew us from within, so that we may abide in Christ and He in us.

ALL: Amen

WORD

Preparing to Listen to the Word

VU 662 Lead Me, God

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Last reader: These are words from the scriptures we love

CONG: Thanks be to God.



Friday, December 15th
Starts at 6:00pm

Sign up in Ottawa Hall for hosts and participants in this year's Progressive Dinner. A fun and delicious night when we travel to each other's homes throughout the evening, enjoying appetizers, dinner and conversation. Participants contribute a dish to the dinner. We all join together for dessert. See the bulletin board in Ottawa Hall to add your name, and you will be contacted about which home you'll visit and what to bring.

You must sign up to be involved in this event – see you on December 15th!

Mary Dagenais



RUTH BYRNES GIFTING TREE

Starting **Dec. 3rd** there will be a tree at the back of the church. We ask that you place either on or under the tree donations of mitts, gloves, hats, scarves as well as socks, T shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, or personal hygiene items. These things will be divided and sent to both the Women's Help Centre and Street Help Homeless Centre.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Order forms are available **today**

for Poinsettia Plants.

You can purchase the plants in memory of a loved one or just as a donation. All funds go towards the Sunday School program. They will be presented at the White Gift Service on December 10th.

The poinsettias are \$10 each.



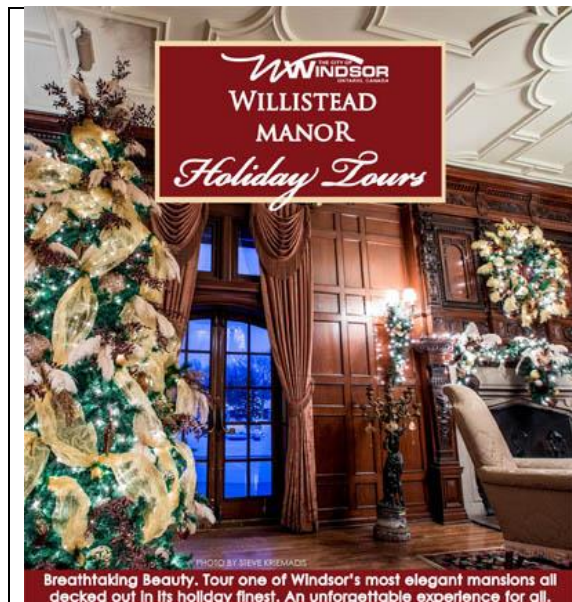
Happy Birthday during the Month of DECEMBER:

Bonnie Chandler
Katrina Constantine-Lagacé
Eileen Ewing
Heather Perissinotti
Steve Richardson
Gloria Riehl
Cathy Shanahan
Winnifred Smith
Lois Thurgood
Ethyn Totten

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:
Belford & Pat Burke**



DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER



WILLISTEAD MANOR HOLIDAY TOUR

Come join us on a tour of the beautiful Christmas trees/decorations inside Willistead Manor, **Sunday, December 17th** after the Cantata service. The tour is not very long but you are welcome to walk around for as long as you like. The 'SILVER BELLS' bell ringers will be there to entertain from 1:30pm -3:30pm. Please bring a brown bag lunch and then we will gather up and head over to Willistead Manor. **Cost: \$5.75 /adult or \$4.75/senior** (to be paid for at the door). We can provide car pooling if necessary. Please sign up in Ottawa Hall.