

**Enter to Worship – Leave to Serve**  
**WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Prelude**                      The Nutcracker                      Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
**Welcome and Announcements**  
**Call to Worship**              Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace              (see insert)  
   Paula Morritt and Jovie  
**\*Hymn**                      Hope is a Star                      (printed)

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture:**                      Micah 5:2 & Luke 2:1-5  
**Words of Introduction and Appreciation**

*A Children’s Christmas Pageant “Nestor – the Long Eared Donkey”*  
At the North Pole Hot Chocolate Café  
In a Stable in Nazareth - Barnyard Banter  
Mary and Joseph come looking for a Donkey

**Carol**                      O Come, O Come Emmanuel    (printed)

On the Road to Bethlehem - Nestor’s long journey

**Carol**                      O Little Town of Bethlehem    (printed)

Looking for a place to Stay

**Carol**                      Away in a Manger                      (printed)

A baby is born in the Stable  
In a Field outside of Bethlehem

**Special Music**              The Sheep Song

**Carol**                      Hark the Herald Angels Sing    (printed)

The Angels appear to the Shepherds  
**The Angels Dance**        I’m an Angel, Ooooh  
A Crowded Stable - The Shepherds and sheep hurry to Bethlehem  
Nestor Sees A Camel (and 3 Wise Ones!)

**Carol**                      We Three Kings                      (printed)

God can use a long eared donkey and us too to bring Jesus to the world

**A Christmas Cheer**        Itty Bitty Baby

**Carol**                      Joy to the World                      (printed)

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND SERVICE**

**Offering and Offertory**    It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas        M. Wilson  
**\*Doxology**                      *What can I bring Him? Poor as I am.*  
   *If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb*  
   *If I were a wiseman, I would do my part*  
   *But what I have, I give Him,*  
   *I give my heart.*

**Prayer of Dedication**  
**Prayers of the People**

**\*Hymn**                      Go Tell it on the Mountain                      (printed)

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**                      March from The Nutcracker                      Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

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**Welcome!** Whether you are a long-time member or new to our congregation, we hope you feel welcomed and at home today. Today is Pageant Sunday – when our youngest members lead us in worship! Washrooms are located at the Mitchell Street entrance and the rear parking lot entrance. There is also a washroom in the CE Hall. Join us downstairs for coffee, tea, juice and treats. Thanks to Bill and Jean MacPherson’s team for providing this week’s coffee break, to the choir for providing ushers and to Dave Hawn who is on elevator/security

### Staff Emails

Minister: Rev. Mavis Currie [m.currie@knoxstthomas.ca](mailto:m.currie@knoxstthomas.ca)

Organist: Sandy Kazubowski-Houston [amadeusz.scherzo@gmail.com](mailto:amadeusz.scherzo@gmail.com)

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Church Phone 519-631-2414

[www.knoxstthomas.ca](http://www.knoxstthomas.ca)

**Church Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 9am – 1pm.

NOTE: The church is not open on Fridays in December.

**Sunday Kool:** Knox Sunday Kool normally runs from after the children's time until the conclusion of the worship service. Today, all of the children will be in the sanctuary for the pageant.

### Looking for....

**Worship Bags** for children aged 0-5, 5-12 years? They are in on the pew in the narthex (the space just outside the sanctuary where you receive a bulletin)

**A Bible to take to your pew?** They are located at every entrance to the sanctuary in the narthex. Ask an usher, if you don't see one!

**The Nursery?** The Nursery is located in the Christian Education Hall (the building adjacent to the main sanctuary). Go to the rear parking lot entrance. The nursery is located just off the large hallway that is off of this entrance.

**Copies of the latest edition of PCConnect (our denomination's newspaper) are available on the tables in the front foyer! Please pick one up!**

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One License # 729583-A      Valid: 12/19/2022-12/18/2023.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Christmas Eve at Knox** This year, December 24<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday. This means that we will be celebrating Advent 4 in the morning, with a carol sing service. In the evening, there will be the two Christmas Eve Services: a 6pm Family Service and an 8pm Traditional Service with Brass. Please join us for these meaningful services, as we celebrate the birth of the One who came to live and dwell among us, the baby born in a stable, who became our King.

**Church Library December Hours:** The Library will NOT be open on Tuesdays in December. Books for adults & children will be made available to be signed out in Rodney Hall following service today. The Library will be closed December 11th, and will reopen in early in the new year.

**Christmas ornaments!** Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Why not purchase a red Knox ornament for just \$10. Proceeds from the sale of these ornaments go toward our online ministry. These are on sale today in Rodney Hall.

**Three of a Kind Tickets on Sale today!** Tickets for "The Glory Days" concert are on sale at coffee time after church. The concert is Friday, February 23 @ 7:00 pm at Knox. Tickets are \$35 for adults, in advance, and \$25 for students. This is a great gift for any music lover on your Christmas list

**DONATIONS OF NEW OR LIKE NEW ITEMS FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S AUNT EDNA'S CHRISTMAS SALE FOR SUNDAY KOOL:** Please drop items off at the church in the CE hall during office hours (Monday – Thursday 9am – 12noon)

**Last chance in 2023!** Pickles & Jams, Meat Pies, Apple Pies, Cookie Tins, Gift Baskets. These items are being sold today in Rodney Hall following the service, so we can close the Tartan Bazaar books for 2023!

**Looking for a December calendar?** You can find paper copies on the tables in the foyer. You can also access the church calendar, newsletter and the bulletin on the church website: [www.knoxstthomas.ca](http://www.knoxstthomas.ca). The calendar and newsletter are on the "Communications" page (under the "About" Heading). The bulletin is found on the worship page.

Today 10:45 am  
Today 11:30 am  
Monday 6:30 pm  
Tuesday 9:00 am  
Tuesday 6:00 pm  
Wednesday 9:00 am  
Wednesday 9:30 am  
Wednesday 10:00 am  
Wednesday 1:00 pm

Wednesday 6:30 pm  
Wednesday 10:30 am  
Thursday 11:00 am  
Thursday 1:00 pm  
Thursday 7:00 pm  
Thursday 7:30 pm  
Saturday 7:30 pm

Sunday 9:30-10:30am  
Sunday 10:30 am  
Sunday 11:30 am

**December 17th Ushers Organized by:** Worship Committee  
**Security:** Don Leitch **Coffee Break:** Wendy Thomson/Marg Metcalf Team

## NEEDED: Volunteers for December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> Required!

We are in need of a few people to help with greeting and ushering. If you are able to help, please sign up on the white board in Rodney Hall.

**6pm service on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> -- 2 Greeters needed:** one at the front door, one at the parking lot door (Arriving at Knox by 5:25pm and welcoming worshippers)

**10:30am service on Dec, 31<sup>st</sup> - 2 Greeters needed:** one at the front door, one at the parking lot door (Arriving at Knox by 9:45 am and welcoming worshippers)

- **6 ushers needed:** TWO arriving for 9:45am to distribute bulletins plus **FOUR** arriving for 10:30am, to help with collection.

## This Week at Knox

Children Led Worship  
Coffee Break (Rodney Hall)  
Embers (CE Hall)  
Golden K (Rodney Hall)  
Girl Guides (CE Hall)  
Kitchen Whiches (Kitchen)  
Indoor Playground (CE Hall)  
Finance Team – Budget (Minister's Study)  
Outreach Circle Cookie Tin Filling (R. Hall)  
Bring 3 dozen cookies!  
Scouts (CE Hall)  
Organ & Music (zoom)  
Book Worms  
Knox Knits (CE Hall)  
Choir (Sanctuary)  
A.A. The Winner's Circle (CE Hall)  
The Messiah at Knox - Featuring Choral Connection, conducted by Hugh Van Pelt, with orchestra Tickets: \$38/adult or \$25 for children under 12 years. Tickets are available at [choralconnection.ca](http://choralconnection.ca) or by calling Lucy Van Pelt at: 519-661-6902.  
Church Library is Open  
Advent 3 – The Candle of Joy  
Coffee Break (Rodney Hall)



## Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy – Advent 2 Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

Voice 2: "For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Voice 1: The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice.

Voice 2: Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves.

Voice 1: God's shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

**All: Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.**

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All: We light this candle to shine for peace.** (while lighting the candle of peace)

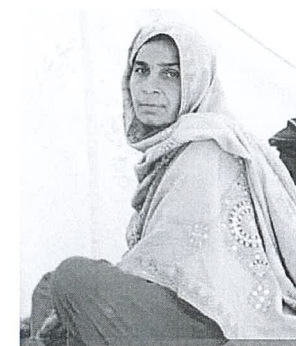
*Sing verse 1 and 2 of #119, Hope is a star*



## Noisy Offering!

On Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am service, we will be invited to bring any spare change to church for a "noisy offering". Keep your change with you on that Sunday, and during the Children's time, buckets will be passed for us to contribute toward Presbyterian World Service and Development's work!

Did you know that \$135 would provide food for one month to a family that has food insecurity? Talk about the gift of "peace of mind". Read below about the important work of Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).



*Hafiza Bibi is a single mother in Pakistan who lost her home, husband and daughter during a devastating monsoon season. Her husband was a farmer labourer, and the family relied on occasional charity from relatives. However, after the floods, no one was able to help them. One day, Hafiza and her family were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D through our local partner, Community World Service Asia, with help from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. This support allowed Hafiza to buy essential food items, offering her relief and the ability to provide food for her children.*

### **JOY TO THE WORLD**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive its King;  
let every heart prepare him room  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

### **GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a Holy light

#### **Refrain**

2. The shepherds feared and trembled, When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus. That hailed our Savior's birth

#### **Refrain**

3. Down in a lowly manger, Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation, That blessed Christmas morn

#### **Refrain**

### **Carols for Today's Service**

### **HOPE IS A STAR**

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

#### **Refrain:**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

#### **Refrain**

### **O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

1. Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lowly exile here, until the Son of God appear.

#### **Refrain:** Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.

2. Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and  
nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to  
go.

#### **Refrain**



### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering  
love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

### **AWAY IN A MANGER**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

### **HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful all ye nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic host proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! The herald angels sing "Glory to the new-born king"  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die  
Born to raise us all of earth, Born to give us second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king"

### **WE THREE KINGS**

We three kings of orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar  
Field and fountain  
Moor and mountain  
Following yonder star  
REFRAIN: O star of wonder, star of night  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceeding  
Guide us to thy perfect light  
Glorious now behold Him arise  
King and God and Sacrifice  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia  
Heaven to earth replies (REFRAIN)