

FELLOWSHIP CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
www.rehobothfellowship.com 416-622-9647 CCLI # 11332175

Pastor Joan DeVries

Nov. 26, 2017

Welcome to Fellowship Church this last Sunday in November. Today we are starting an Advent series called "The Gifts of Christmas" as we anticipate celebrating the coming of Jesus into our world. Each Sunday the children will unwrap one gift, we will light one candle on our Advent wreath, and hear someone share a brief testimony of God at work in their lives. Today we celebrate God's gift of comfort as proclaimed to his people through the prophet Isaiah long ago. There will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Please stay if you can.

FIRST ADVENT SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:00 A.M.
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Welcome

Please stand as you are able...

Opening Worship: **"Come All You People, Praise Our God" LU 495;**
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LU 70 vs. 1,2,4,5

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

God's Greeting & Mutual Greeting

WE LIGHT THE FIRST CANDLE OF ADVENT

Song: **"Comfort, Comfort Now My People" LU 59** - children, and those participating in the lighting of the Advent wreath, may come forward during the last verse of this song

Please be seated...

Lighting of the Candle

Children may leave for Sunday school.

Testimony: Comfort

Prayer

Song: **"Prepare the Way" LU 58 Sung 2x**

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession & Prayer of Assurance

Please stand as you are able...

Song of Forgiveness & Thanksgiving: **"For the Glories of God's Grace" LU 677 vs. 1, 2, 5**

Please be seated...

WE OFFER GIFTS AND PRAYERS

Offerings: 1. Church Fund (white envelope) 2. Denominational Shares (yellow envelope)

Special Presentation: St. James Food Bank - PowerPoint Presentation

Prayers of the People & Prayer for Illumination

GOD SPEAKS & WE RESPOND

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11 (page 714)

Message: *The Gifts of Christmas: The Gift of Comfort*

Prayer of Application

Please stand as you are able...

Song of Response: **"I Am Not My Own"**

WE LEAVE TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD

Blessing

Closing Song: **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LU 477 vs. 1,2,4**

Sunday Mornings

A BAKE SALE! Over the last few weeks the Sunday school students have been discussing some of Jesus' parables about living out our faith, and who is our neighbour. In response to this, as well as in line with Fellowship's Directional Proposals to be more outward facing and responding to the needs of the community around us, the Sunday school students will be holding a bake sale on December 3 after church in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your toonies and loonies to purchase individual items for \$1.00 or a small plate of goodies for \$5.00. The money raised will be used to purchase \$10 Walmart cards for 12-18yr olds who visit the St. James Food Bank in the month of December. This date coincides with the date of the church's second offering for the St. James Foodbank. Thank you for your support!

OFFERINGS Today: 1. Church Fund (white env.)
2. Denominational Shares (yellow env.)
Dec. 3 2. St. James Food Basket

Calendar of Our Upcoming Events

ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER: will be included in the Dec. 3 bulletin. If you have an event you would like included please contact the church office by noon on Thursday, Nov. 30.

COFFEE BREAK – This coming Wednesday we will celebrate Christmas altogether. There will be singing and Bible readings. Please join us at 9:30 a.m., beginning with coffee and snacks. Next week Tuesday, December 5, at 6 p.m. we will have our annual Christmas potluck dinner. All ladies are invited to join us.

Community Events

TDCHRISTIAN: 2000 Candles Tickets Now on Sale: 2000 Candles is a joyous, funny, moving, and musical celebration of over 2000 Christmases. You may have seen it when it was produced by the Christian theatre company Brookstone Performing Arts. See it live on stage at TDChristian High School from November 30-December 1 at 7 pm. Tickets in advance are only \$8 for students, \$15 for adults, or \$13 and \$20 at the door. To reserve your tickets, simply send an email to playtickets@tdchristian.ca.

TDChristian Christmas Concert- TDChristian High School's annual Christmas Concert is a wonderful family tradition. Come hear our jazz band, concert band, praise team, and choir celebrate our saviour's birth. It's Thursday, December 14 at 7 pm, see you there!

Guest and Member Information

ALLERGIES: Some of our members are highly allergic to peanuts and tree nuts, e.g. cashews, almonds, hazelnuts, pecans, etc. **Please don't bring peanuts, tree nuts or anything containing these items to the church. Thank you.** (For the benefit and peace of mind of those with allergies or food sensitivities please label any homemade item you bring to church.)

ANY CONCERNS WITH THE CHURCH BUILDING: Contact any member of the Committee of Administration.

CHILDREN: Kids Bulletins are available. Nursery is provided.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: for guests (or members who may have forgotten theirs) are available at the entrance beside the guest book.

HEARING ASSIST DEVICES are available. They are located on the shelf in the church office.

IF YOU ARE AWAY FROM CHURCH due to illness, vacation, etc. and you wish to have the bulletin emailed to you, please advise the Ministry Coordinator.

MINISTRY COORDINATOR is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9a.m. to noon p.m. **The bulletin deadline is noon on Thursday.** Church email: rehofellowcrc@bellnet.ca. **OR 416-622-9647.**

Miscellanea

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL SERIES - Looking for more meaning in the midst of a busy Christmas season? This Advent, ReFrame Media offers a special email devotional series just for you. With daily devotions and encouragements from Today, Family Fire, Groundwork, and the fun of Kids Corner, we designed it to help your whole family experience the true wonder of Christmas, the coming Christ. Subscribe at reframemedia.com/advent.

POSTION OPENING - The Christian Reformed Church in North America has an opening for a full-time Senior Administrative Assistant in our Burlington office. Visit www.crcna.org/jobs for a complete description, or to apply, complete an online application, attaching a current resume and cover letter by December 1, 2107.

PREPARE YOUR HEART: - Starting December 4, 2017, World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice will distribute a free email devotional to your inbox during Advent. Don't let Christmas presents overtake the Christmas Presence. Sign up to receive reflections on Christ's incarnation and daily presence in our lives with Immanuel, Incarnate, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through Christmas Day. Go to crcna.org/advent to sign up today!

WORLD RENEW GIFT CATALOGUE - IN YOUR MAILSLLOT - This Advent season, you can stand in the gap with people in need by following Jesus into the lives of the poor through the World Renew 2017-2018 Gift Catalogue. Have fun together while giving gifts that are meaningful and powerful in this world and the next by helping people who live in scarcity to embrace the fullness that God intends for them. You can also check out the gift catalogue online at worldrenewgifts.net.

www.crcna.org/Canada - The website for the Christian Reformed Church Ministry in Canada. If you want to understand and be resourced for ministry in Canada, check out www.crcna.org/Canada. Join The Network (www.crcna.org/Network) to find blogs, discussion topics, ministry Q&A, church jobs, and much more!?