

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

Pastor Joan DeVries

Dec. 17, 2017

Welcome to Fellowship Church! Today we are celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent, and seeing a different side of God from the Old Testament (OT). Sometimes people have thought of the God of the OT as the God of vengeance and judgement, while Jesus in the New Testament is the embodiment of the love of God. In this week's scripture from Hosea, we see instead a God who loves deeply as we open the Advent gift of Love.

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

Welcome

Please stand as you are able...

Song: **"O Come, All Ye Faithful / Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"**

Call to Worship

Song: **"Blessed Be the God of Israel" LU 67 vs. 1, 2**

Opening Prayer, God's Greeting & Mutual Greeting

WE LIGHT THE FOURTH CANDLE OF ADVENT

Please be seated...

Song: **"Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth"** duet

Congregation joins at end for one verse of "Little Drummer Boy." Children & those involved in the Advent lighting ceremony come forward at this time.

Reading & Lighting of Candle

Testimony: Love

Prayer

Children leave for Sunday school

Song: **"Prepare the Way" LU 58 Sung 3X**

Call to Confession & Prayer of Confession

Song: **"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" LU 56 vs. 1, 3, 4**

WE OFFER GIFTS AND PRAYERS

Offerings: 1. Church Fund (white envelope) 2. Christian Horizons (yellow envelope)

Offertory Video: World Renew Gift Catalogue

Prayers of the People & Prayer for Illumination

GOD SPEAKS & WE RESPOND

Scripture: Hosea 11: 1-11 (pages 896-897)

Message: Opening the Gift of Love

Prayer of Application

Please stand as you are able...

Song of Response: **"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" LU 351 vs. 1, 3, 4**

WE LEAVE TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD

Blessing

Closing Song: **"My Soul Cries Out/ Canticle of the Turning" LU 69 vs. 1, 4**

Upcoming Christmas/New Year's Services

-Next weekend we have two services. On Sunday morning, **December 24th, at 10 am** we will have a **Christmas Eve** service of drama and song, ending with candle lighting. Pastor Joan will tell the story from the perspective of Mary. This would be a great service to invite along friends, neighbours and family.

(Please bring goodies to share at our Dec. 24 & 25 Coffee Socials. For the benefit and peace of mind of those with allergies or food sensitivities please label any homemade item you bring to church.)

-The following day, **Christmas Day, December 25th, we will have a service at 10:30 am** where we consider heaven's viewpoint as recounted in the book of Revelation.

-Then on **Sunday December 31** we will have an **Old Year's/New Years' service at 10 am** with communion (coming forward). We are pleased to welcome as guests members of Bloordale United Church.

Our Fellowship in Prayer

-We pray for students and teachers who are in a busy season at the close of a semester.

-We pray for those who are travelling this holiday time.

Sunday Mornings

OFFERINGS	Today:	1. Church Fund (white env.)
		2. Christian Horizons (yellow env.)
	Dec. 24	2. World Renew
	Dec. 25	2. Faith Formations
	Dec. 31	2. Salvation Army

Community Events

HAVE YOU MADE PLANS FOR SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 2018? No plans, then join The Lighthouse in participating in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in Scarborough. The Lighthouse is looking for 100+ walkers to walk for The Lighthouse and celebrate its 50th year anniversary by raising over \$25,000. For more information you can contact Rob at 416-802-5943 or rob@lighthousecentre.ca. Come and join the celebration with your family, church or youth group by supporting The Lighthouse through this walk.

JOHN KNOX CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Brampton. Mark your calendar for our upcoming Christmas Program featuring the JKCS bands followed by the musical "The Bethlehem Project" on Thursday, December 21st. The Matinee begins at 1:15pm and the evening performance will begin at 7:00pm. 82 McLaughlin Road South. Hope to see you there.

-Looking for something for the whole family to do on Boxing Day? John Knox Christian School - Brampton is holding its 25th Annual Boxing Day Hockey Tournament at the Vaughan Iceplex. There will be family skating from 10am-2pm, face painting, games, prizes and more. If you are interested in signing up your Hockey team to compete in the tournament, please email us at hockey@bramptonjkcs.org or call the school at 905-451-3236.

-Maybe Hockey isn't your thing? Plan to come out to our Annual Golf Tournament on May 12. This year it will be held at the Lionhead Golf and Country Club in Brampton and will be followed by our Gala Dinner and Auction. Watch our website or Facebook page for registration and ticket information.

TIMOTHY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL invites you to our Christmas Program “The Pathway of Promise” at Covenant Reformed Church, 265 Albion Rd. Thursday, December 21st at 7pm. Join us for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the program. We look forward to celebrating our Saviour’s birth together.

YOUNG ADULT WINTER RETREAT: on January 26-28th. at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock! This year, we will focus on the theme “Culture”. Be sure to register by January 11th to receive the Early Bird rate. For more info and to register, visit our Facebook page “Young Adult Winter Retreat” or email ya.retreat.team@gmail.com. We hope to 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

LIGHTHOUSE NEEDS: We are always in need of egg cartons and plastic bags to pack fresh foods for our food bank clients. It is a fun and easy way to help out our neighbours in need. Drop off your egg cartons and plastic bags today!

WORLD RENEW GIFT CATALOGUE - Stand in the Gap with World Renew this Christmas - God’s power is made visible in His son Jesus Christ, who stood in the gap to offer us salvation. Give a powerful gift to someone in need this Christmas – one duckling, a flock, or a whole barnyard filled with animals. Find these and other life-changing items at worldrenewgifts.net. A catalogue was placed in your mailslots earlier this month.

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!?