

Olivet New Church

Chatterbox

Volume 91 -- December 2022 -- Number 11

Immanuel, God With Us

A multitude of the heavenly host praised God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth, peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14). In advance the promised Child has been given a name: He was foretold to be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." As foretold in prophecies, God came to us and is with us. This is the greatest news because it is a spatiotemporally unprecedented incident.

The Lord has been present with us. He created Adam out of the dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; He saved Noah and his family from a destructive flood. He also delivered the children of Israel from their bondage, led them to the promised land, Canaan, and became their God. These descriptions represent the Most Ancient, Ancient, and Jewish Churches. These churches are pre-advent churches. Though the Lord is always with the human race, His advent was a remarkable incident, which changed the state of the church.

The Heavenly Doctrine for the New Church makes a distinction between the state of churches before and after: "All the churches that existed before the Lord's coming were symbolic churches. They could see Divine truths only in shadow. After the Lord's coming into the world, a church was instituted by Him that saw Divine truths — or rather was able to see Divine truths — in full light. The difference between these churches is like the difference between evening and morning. In fact, in the Word, the state of the church before the Lord's coming is called 'evening' and the state of the church after His coming is called "morning" (TCR 109).

The major reason for such a difference resulted from the different ways that the Lord was present with His people. Before the first advent, the Lord did not directly manifest Himself to the people; instead, the angels took the Divine role and appeared as the God before the people. This mediate manifestation through

an agency was replaced by His coming, and He could be immediately present with the people. It was possible because He put on Humanity by adding His natural degree to higher degrees, which existed as potential before He came, in the process of His birth on the earth.

The Lord's immediate presence established the Christian Church remarkably; the members of the church could worship the Lord without any representative means and interact with the Lord. The difference is described in Isaiah: "the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people, And heals the stroke of their wound" (Isaiah 30:26). The whole idea regarding such most powerful communication and presence could be implemented employing His taken Humanity; this was foretold in Isaiah, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name, Immanuel" (Isaiah 30:26; Matthew 1:25).

This prophetic announcement was given to the king of Judah, Ahaz, as a miraculous sign to comfort him in Jehovah while he was confronting the threats from Syria and Israel. This prophecy in a historical account and the connotation of it assured that the Lord would come when the holy city, Jerusalem, comes under attack. "Jerusalem symbolizes the church with respect to worship, and so also the church with respect to doctrine" (AR 880). In a spiritual sense, we are assured that the Lord would come to the world when the church and its doctrine come under attack so that He may protect them. The foretold Child was born and called Immanuel which is translated as "God with us."

The mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace came to us to be conjoined with us and to save us. However, we acknowledge that there are several ways we can be with the Lord from our own experiences, and such a possibility seems to be suggested in His name, Immanuel. The Hebrew word "immanuel" is composed of three different words, a preposition, im; a suffix, nu; and el, which means God; the significant preposition, im, has several meanings. It could mean with (in conjunction with), accompanying, against, as, before, beside, by (reason of), for all, from (among, between), in, like, more than, of, (un-) to (Strong's Hebrew: 5973).

These various meanings may represent the fact that we can be in a relationship with the Lord in accordance with our various states. We can be in conjunction with God, beside Him, or even against Him. Let us be mindful of the mode of our

relationship with the Lord in our anticipation of His coming. We'd better be in conjunction with Him as translated in Matthew.

Rev. Jon Lee

From the Pastor

As the Lord's Advent season is approaching, our hearts are uplifted. To help you properly celebrate this blessed season, Olivet also plans out several seasonal events, as well as Tableaux (thanks to Vanessa). Please check the Chatterbox calendar and announcements on Sunday's order of service so as not to miss any of them. Christmas readings will be ready for your pickup in the church lobby.

I also have something to offer—if you need solid moving boxes, please let me know! I feel like I offered the same thing at this time last year. I just moved into the main manse across the street from the church and enjoy unboxing.

I hope to see you all on fun occasions and at services. I wish you all heavenly peace and joy!

Rev. Jon Lee

From the Principal

Interested in knowing what is happening at the school on a weekly basis? Join our Olivet Weekly email list and have the newsletter delivered to your inbox! If you would like to be added to the list you can send an email request to office.assistant@olivetnewchurch.org or you can call the main office.

Laura Hill from Carmel New Church School was at Olivet for a couple of days this fall to provide formal teacher observations for both Kim Parker and Kamila Zuk as part of the regular scheduled assessment process. Sheila Daum was also here this fall to provide John Treptow's assessment observations. In the first three years of a teacher joining the General Church Teacher Career System, the teacher works at an apprentice level and is required to have two scheduled professional observations per year for those three years. Once this has been completed, the teacher applies to move to the career level and their scheduled observations are completed once every three to five years. Kim Parker is currently in her third year

of apprentice teaching. Kamila and John are both in their second year of apprentice teaching.

Britt Wilson was also observed this fall by Greg Henderson. Greg, who formerly held the position of principal for the Bryn Athyn Church School, has, this year, started working in the position of Assistant Coordinator of New Church Schools at the Office of Education in Bryn Athyn. He now works with Rebekah Russell, who is the Coordinator of New Church Schools. Scott Daum has fully retired from the Coordinator position and Rebekah has replaced him in this role at the Office of Education. Greg was able to travel to Olivet last month to complete Britt's scheduled formal teacher observations, and in the same visit he led some professional development for all the full-time faculty. Greg was very pleased to return to Olivet. The last time he was here was 20 years ago when he was in teacher's college in Bryn Athyn. He did what was called a "mini-practicum" for Bryn Athyn College where he spent a week at Olivet, observing and student teaching. It was a requirement designed to prepare teacher candidates to teach in a multi-grade classroom. It is pleasant how these things come full circle.

Laura Braam



Invitation to the **Children's Christmas Party**

Date: Sunday, December 4, 2022

Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (After the Children's talk of the 10:30 am church service)

Location: Olivet Church hall

Activities: Christmas cookie baking and craft

Food: Pizza and drinks will be provided.

RSVP to main office by Thursday, December 1, 2022

Men, you are invited to the
Sons' Christmas Turkey
Dinner & Carol Sing



Date: Friday, December 9, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Olivet Church hall

Cost: \$20.00

RSVP to Jay Brown at jay.brown.jay.brown.jay@gmail.com



Invitation to the
Ladies' Christmas Potluck Dinner Party

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2022

Location: Olivet Church hall

Come at **5:30 pm** if you want to do a Christmas craft (small \$5.00 fee requested to cover expenses). Potluck dinner will be at **6:30 pm** with a Christmas Carol sing-a-long to follow.

Please bring a dish to share and a gift to donate to the Women's Habitat shelter for women and children. Gifts that are useful to this shelter are toiletries, winter gear (hats, gloves and scarves) and non-perishable food items.

Contact people: Naomi Reid (416-503-4945) & Katherine Jutras (647-346-6644)

Invitation to the High School & Middle School Discussion and Christmas Baking Event

Date: December 11, 2022
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm
Location: Olivet Church
Food: Free Pizza and Drinks



Discussion led by Rev. Jon Lee
Cookie baking led by Naomi Reid & Katherine Jutras
RSVP (to let us know you can attend) to:
Rev. Jon Ui Lee (pastor@olivetnewchurch.org or 416-239-3054)
or Naomi Reid (naomi_er001@yahoo.ca or 416-503-4945)



You are invited to attend the Olivet Christmas Tableaux & Potluck Lunch

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2022

Tableaux Service Time: 10:30 am
Location: Olivet Church
Potluck lunch to follow. (Please bring a dish to share.)

AGM

Thank you to all who were able to attend Olivet's Virtual Annual General Meeting in October. We appreciate your interest and participation. As I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, balancing preferences and safety is not easy, and that is why the board chose the virtual route. The hope is soon Olivet may have the technology to host in-person meetings that can allow virtual attendees to participate too!

The board welcomes feedback and encourages communication from the Olivet community, so don't hesitate to reach out!

Condolences

Recently, two women who were both in their nineties who have long been associated with Olivet Church passed away. Joan Eaton, mother to Mary Sue Mueller and grandmother to Lindsay (Hyatt), Andreas and Julia Mueller went into the other world on October 23. Corona Carswell, mother of Catherine, passed away on November. While we hadn't seen them in person for a while, we know that they will be sorely missed by their families and friends. Godspeed!

Volunteer (Still) Needed

The position of **Assistant Treasurer** still needs to be filled. This is a two-year position leading to the position of Treasurer. It takes about two years to learn about the whole Olivet financial cycle and processes, but it is not as onerous as in the past. Olivet now has a bookkeeper, payroll company, and a comptroller to assist the Treasurer. Ideally, the total commitment would be for seven years, two as Assistant Treasurer and five as Treasurer. Our current Treasurer would like to be able to retire in about two years' time. This role cannot be hired out. Without a Treasurer, it is very difficult to pay employees. Please contact Jerry Jutras for more information.



Thank You, Olivet!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the wonderful parting gifts we received! The lovely quilt (organized and crafted by Karen Cooper) is a great addition to our home, and we appreciate all of the messages. The Home Depot gift card has come in handy as we find things that need fixing or that we need as we settle into our house.

Last weekend, thanks to you, we had a wonderful 48-hour getaway to downtown Toronto, staying at the lovely Omni King Edward Hotel. We enjoyed the underground

PATH and, despite the rain, walked the streets, checking out the various Remembrance Day wreaths at various places. We explored the fabulous ROM

until our feet were sore! The St. Lawrence Market was a lot of fun. We bought some bread to bring home and some fresh croissants that we later ate by City Hall, sharing the crumbs with a flock of birds. Nathan Philips Square was busy with people taking pictures by the TORONTO sign. We didn't get to see the famous Canada geese in the Eaton Center as they were not on display while renovations are taking place. It was lovely to see things decorated for Christmas and there were lots of people out shopping! We again followed our map and the PATH and found our way back to our car, exactly 48 hours from when we had arrived.

Thank you for a really great gift! We appreciate all of you so much and look forward to maintaining our many friendships. We are getting to know our way around Guelph and you are welcome to come see us at 29 Dunkirk Ave!

We hope you enjoy the stained-glass piece, which was made by Jim Barry, with the title "Stability." That is our hope for Olivet going forward.

With love and gratitude, Michael and Gwenda

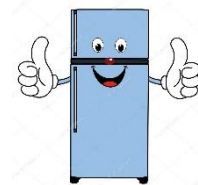
Belated Baby Announcement

(Your *Chatterbox* editor realized that she had not submitted an announcement to herself.) Claire and Andrew Hurd welcomed their third daughter, Cassidy Patience Hurd, on August 17, 2022. Her sisters and parents are enamoured with her and the whole family hopes to visit Olivet soon.

Freezer/Refrigerator Cleaning Completed

The appliances are now ready for our upcoming Christmas events, a joyous wedding and the new year! Thank you to everyone (in particular staff) for your cooperation and understanding.

Erik Parker



December Anniversaries

Denis and Sharene Young: December 4, 40 years
Dr. Basil (and Marnie) Orchard, December 15, 61 years

(Adri and) Mieke Braam: December 19, 53 years
 Andrew and Claire Hurd: December 30, 11 years

Now because conjugal love is the fundamental love of all good loves, and because ... it is engraved on even the smallest aspects of a person, it follows that its delights surpass the delights of all other loves, and also that it gives delight to these other loves according as it is present and at the same time united with them. — CL 68

Worship Service Volunteer Schedule

(Click on the image to enlarge.)

Service Date	Usher	Chancel	Organist	Sunday School 1 (Age 3 - Gr. 2)	Sunday School 2 (Grades 3-8)	Greeter	Refreshments	Flowers	Potluck
4-Dec-22	J. Cooper	n/a	n/a	K. Jutras	N. Reid	K. Cooper	K. Cooper	V. Younan	
11-Dec-22	D. Simpson	B. Horigan	A. Nater	K. Jutras	N. Reid	L. Braam, F. Raymond	L. Braam, F. Raymond	V. Younan	
18-Dec-22	E. Parker	J. Parker	A. Nater			T. Okubo	T. Okubo	V. Younan	K. Cooper
24-Dec-22	L. Horigan	K. Cooper	A. Nater			K. Cooper		V. Younan	
25-Dec-22	M. Hasen	(vacant)	A. Nater			(vacant)		V. Younan	
1-Jan-23	M. Hasen	n/a	n/a			K. Cooper	K. Cooper	J. Freer	

December Calendar

(Click on the image to enlarge.)

~ December 2022 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30p Open AA Mtg	2 Fall Term Ends	3
4 10:30a Contemporary/ Family Service (J. Lee) 11a Sunday School Christmas Party	5	6 7:30p Closed AA Mtg	7 9a Tots Time at Olivet	8 7:30p Open AA Mtg	9 Progress Reports (Fall Term) Distribution 10a Arcana Class (Zoom) 7p Forward Sons' Christmas Turkey Dinner & Carol Sing	10 5:30p Ladies' Christmas Potluck Dinner Party
11 10:30a Worship (J. Cooper) 12p High School & Middle School Discussion & Christmas Baking Event	12 7p Board Meeting 7:30p Costume Fitting for Christmas Tableaux	13 7:30p Closed AA Mtg	14 9a Tots Time at Olivet 7p Christmas Concert	15 6:30p AA Christmas Party	16 Chatterbox Deadline	17 11a Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Tableaux
18 9a Costume & Make-up Rehearsal for Christmas Tableaux 10:30a Christmas Tableaux Service (J. Lee) 12p Potluck	19	20 7:30p Closed AA Mtg	21 9a Tots Time at Olivet 7:30p Doctrinal Class (J. Lee)	22 7:30p Open AA Mtg	23 (No Arcana Class) PA 1/2 Day (12:15 Dismissal)	24 5p Christmas Eve Service (J. Cooper)
25 Christmas 10:30a Christmas Day Worship (J. Lee)	26 Boxing Day Christmas & New Year Break	27 Christmas & New Year Break 7:30p Closed AA Mtg	28 Christmas & New Year Break	29 Christmas & New Year Break 7:30p Open AA Mtg	30 Christmas & New Year Break 3p Wedding	31 Christmas & New Year Break

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd. Toronto, ON M9B 1Z6 ~ 416-239-3054
Olivet Church email address ~ contact@olivetnewchurch.org ~ FAX 416-239-4935
Pastor, Jon Lee ~ 437-999-0113
Chatterbox editor, Claire Hurd ~ 647-203-5875
Rides to church, Karen Cooper ~ 416-236-0841

