

*Selby / Empey Hill
United Churches*



December 01, 2019

Selby Pastoral Charge
The United Church of Canada at Selby & Empey Hill
First Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2019

Minister: Rev. Mike Putnam
Selby Music Leader: Andrea Putnam
Empey Hill Music Leader: Marg Winter

We Gather Together

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GATHERING SONG: LUYH#526 – COME, NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP

Lighting of the Advent Candle –
The Cammaart Family

HYMN: VU#6 A CANDLE IS BURNING (Verse 1)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The Lord is getting us ready to receive a gift of great joy.

In this season of waiting we watch for this gift!

Let us be vigilant for the gift is about to come.

The promise of God is faithful and trustworthy.

Watch, wait. The Gift is coming into the world!

Praise be to God for such lavish love.

Opening Prayer: (Unison)

O Lord, our lives are so filled with chaos and tribulation. Help us be ready to receive your message and gift of love, that we might grow

into faithful disciples, serving you by serving others with hope and compassion. In Christ's Name, we pray. Amen.

Choir Anthem "Waiting For Bethlehem's Light"

HYMN FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Theme Time with the Kids

Prayer of Confession

God of Amazing Surprises, we are rushing headlong into this season of buying and giving. We want to think of the holiday as delightful, but we have a tendency to make it a time of stress. We over-schedule our time and overdraw our resources. We speak of obligations, of the need to be constantly busy, of the pressure to purchase things to make people happy. The reality is that your love should be our foundation, the base from which we celebrate. Forgive us for our stubborn insistence on maintaining schedule rather than focusing on the true purpose of this time. Heal us. Strengthen us and make us watchful over our faith in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

GREAT HYMN OF THE FAITH: LAS#4 – LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN

The Word Among Us

Our Sacred Scripture:

Luke 2:1-5

Sermon: "God in a Manger: The History"

Music for Reflection

**THEME HYMN – VU#62 – ONCE IN ROYAL
DAVID'S CITY**

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Hymn (VU#55)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**CLOSING HYMN: VU#326 – O FOR A THOUSAND
TONGUES TO SING**

Benediction

GOING OUT SONG (VU#958)

**Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Announcements

Office Hours

Rev. Mike will be in the office Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 am to noon. Please feel free to call, drop in or make an appointment. He can be reached on his cell phone at 613-539-9324. His email is:
pastor.mike.putnam@gmail.com.

Advent Study Group:

Join us for our Advent study called "The Case for Christmas by Lee Strobel. "Who was in the manger that first Christmas morning? Some say he would become a great moral leader. Others, a social critic. Still others view Jesus as a profound philosopher, a rabbi, a feminist, a prophet, and more. Many are convinced he was the divine Son of God. Who was he really? And how can you know for sure?"

Tuesday December 3rd – Selby – 7:00 pm

Tuesday December 10th – Selby – 7:00 pm

Tuesday December 17th – Selby – 7:00 pm

“Three Chords and the Truth” – A Concert at Selby United Church

Join us for a special Sunday afternoon concert on December 8th at 2:00 pm. “Three Chords and the Truth” is Vince Lasher’s band and they’ll be playing a variety of country gospel with a Christmas flavor! A freewill offering will be collected.

Advent Sermon Series: God In A Manger

The idea that God became one of us is a scandalous thought. Even more scandalous is that he chose to enter our world not as a mighty ruler but as a gentle and weak baby. Join us for this three-week sermon series exploring this remarkable truth.

December 1st – The History – Luke 2:1-3 & 2 Peter 1:16

December 8th – The Mystery – Luke 2:4-7

December 15th – The Divinity – Luke 2:8-15

Upcoming Worship Services:

Sunday December 22nd – Christmas Pageant Family Service – 10:00 am (Joint Service at Selby United Church – No service at Empey Hill this Sunday).

Tuesday December 24th – Christmas Eve Family Service – 4:30 pm at Selby United Church (a 45-minute service of upbeat carols, drama and light for the whole family).

Tuesday December 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 pm at Empey Hill United Church (A traditional service of carols, drama and candles!)

Sunday December 29th – Wassail Service – 10:30 am – a joint service at Empey Hill led by Rev. Frank Hamper. A casual service of carols, stories and treats.

Cantabile Choirs of Kingston

Will be presenting “Wings Of Angels” on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 pm and Saturday, December 21st at 2:00pm and 7:30 pm at The Spire. These beautiful concerts include holiday music from around the world and carols by candlelight. Tickets are now on sale at Novel Idea, Arden’s Music and www.cantabilechoirs.ca

Photo Directory

It is time we updated our church photo directory. If you have a photo of your family you want printed in the directory, please email it to the church or put it in an envelope marked accordingly and leave at the back of the church. We also will need your address, phone number and email address. If you do not have a photo and would like one taken, Brian Hudgins will set aside a date and time to take pictures. We are hoping to have all pictures in by December 15th.

To facilitate this process, sections of the existing contact & photo sheets have been placed at the entrance to each church. Please refer to these sheets with instructions on how to confirm any changes or additions for your family.

Mitten Tree

We will be accepting donations of mittens, socks, scarves and hats for our mitten tree until December 15th. These items will then be shared with local organizations in our community. At Selby the kids will collect the items before the story time and for Empey Hill, please place your items on the tree before the service.

EMPEY HILL

U.C.W.

Will gather for their Christmas Dinner, 11:30 am on Thursday, December 05th at The O'Connor House in Deseronto. A time of fellowship and carol sing will follow at the church. The roll call is bring gifts for residents at Friendly Manor Nursing Home in Deseronto or Village Green Nursing Home in Selby.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias have been placed at the front of the church by the following people:

Ed Fuller – in memory of his wife Shirley Fuller

Phyllis Mastin – in memory of her husband Stan Mastin

Ruth Russett – in memory of her husband Harry Russett

SELBY

U.C.W.

Will meet on Thursday, December 05th at 7:00 pm. Lorraine Martin has the worship and Marg Nugent has the program. The roll call is bring a White Gift (or money). Report from the nominating committee to be given.

Gum Drop Cakes and Gift Baskets

There are a few of the gum drop cakes and gift baskets left downstairs. If you are interested in any of these items please see Carolyn Pringle.

Poinsettias

Poinsettias have been placed at the front of the church by the following people:

Doug and Barb McConnell - in memory of our parents Birdie and Fred McConnell and Bernice and Harold Bell

Margaret, Kimberly, Caleb, Zachary, Tamara, Dennis, Jacob and Jessica - in memory of husband, father and grandfather Dean Nugent

Gary & Susan Jackson Shirley Jackson and Margaret Nugent and families - in memory of their parents Dorland and Bernice Jackson and sister Marilyn Weese

Gary & Susan Jackson and Margaret Nugent and families - in memory of their brother Doug Jackson.

Glenda, Tricia, Jeff, Owen, Gabby, Forster; Jason, Shelley, Andrew, Ashley, Addyson – in memory of husband, father and grandfather Carl Hudgins

Lorne and Donna Jackson – in memory of their Grandson Owen Kevin Jackson and their parents Homer and Mary Jackson and Ronald Lakins

Clarke and Lorraine Martin – in memory of their parents Claude and Helen Martin and Elvin and Marjorie Holland

Arnold & Joan Jerome and Jane Hughes – in memory of their parents Aubrey and Iva Asselstine and sister Judy Jarmin

Tim and Wendy Hart – in memory of their parents Ken and Lil Hart and Cecil Smith

Bonnie Winter and family– in memory of David Winter husband, father and grandfather

Barb French – in memory of Frank “The Barber” Guczaly and Schuyler (Sky) French

Shirley Jackson, Cheryl, Rob, Michele, Max and families -in memory of Doug Jackson, husband, father and grandfather

Derk & Donna Jonkers – in memory of their parents Bill and Janie Jonkers and Willis Morgan and their brother Tieme

Recognizing Jesus

One of my favorite Christmas stories is about the old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.