

Mount Hope Community Christian Reformed Church

First Coming (*Madeleine L'Engle*)

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and
doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

MOUNT HOPE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

December 14, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Joel Bootsma **Music:** Lean Lammers

(please stand if you are able)

Welcome & Announcements

Doug Dekker

GATHERING BY GOD'S PRESENCE

- * Candle Lighting - Josie & Neil Roth
- * Song: **LUYH #61:4 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**
- * God's Greeting & Opening Prayer
- * Song of Praise: **LUYH #92:1,2,3 "Joy to the World"**

GROUNDING IN GRACE

- Time of Confession
- Song of Confession: **LUYH #503 "As the Deer" (sing 2x)**
- Words of Assurance
- Song: **LUYH #80 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**
- Children dismissed for Children's Ministry

GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE

- Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10; Philippians 4:4-7
- Sermon: "The Lord is Near"
- * Song of Response: **LUYH #581 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**
- Prayer: Church Family and Community

GOING TO SERVE

- Offering: **Budget & Diaconal Ministries**
- * Sending
- * Benediction
- * Closing Song of Praise: **"Advent Doxology"** (tune of LUYH #82 Angels We Have Heard on High)

Thank you for joining us this morning!

We welcome all who join us this morning in worship, the third Sunday of Advent, Joy. **Pastor Joel Bootsma** will lead us in worship and **Leah Lammers** in music ministry. Our offerings are for the **Budget** and **Diaconal Ministries**. You are reminded that you can also donate through the "Give" function on the Bridge App, as well as e-transfer to accounting.mhccrc@rogers.com. We hope that you will join us following the service in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments.

To view this service from home, you can do so by watching via livestream on our website: mounthopcommunitycrc.org, or from our YouTube Channel: [Mount Hope Community Church](#). Those members who have the Bridge App, can view the service directly on the app, by using the "**YouTube**" icon on the main page.



We are accessible for those with hearing impairment. If you are hard of hearing, please go to the back sound booth and speak to an attendant for an assistive device or instructions on how to connect to the hearing loop.

Children's Ministry

Nursery is available for children ages 0 - 3. Please sign your children in before the service. The nursery is located as soon as you enter the Fellowship Hall, on the left.

Sunday School is available weekly for children ages 3 years to 9 years old. Students will be dismissed to their classes during the service.

Church Family

Truus Voorberg has been transferred to the West Lincoln Hospital and **Ann Nagtegaal** remains at Juravinski Hospital. We continue to pray for healing for both of them.

Birthdays/Anniversaries this week: We congratulate the following members who will celebrate their birthdays or anniversaries this week. May you be blessed and have a special day with your family and friends:

December 14 - Irene Van Gommeren - 82nd Birthday

December 15 - Ann De Groot - 88th Birthday

December 19 - Joel Bootsma - 53rd Birthday

New Address: Please note the new address of John and Ellen Hunse, as of December 22nd: 2705 Kingsway Dr., Unit 1 Kitchener, ON N2C 2T1.

Announcements

Council Report: Council met this week Tuesday.

1. We opened with communal prayer.
2. Presentation of 2026 budget by Mark Demik, reviewed and approved.
3. Reports were received and discussed from deacons, elders, pastor Joel, COA, Fellowship and CST.
4. A request was received by Bob and Trudy De Haan to have their membership transferred to Fellowship, discussion and approved

Congregational Meeting: There will be a Congregational Meeting on **Wednesday, December 17th** at **7:30 p.m.** to review and approve the upcoming budget for 2026. An email was sent out this week with a copy of the budget attached, but if you wish to have a paper copy there are some available this morning at the Welcome Station in the Fellowship Hall, and extra copies will be on hand at the meeting. Thank you.

Community Announcements

The Young Adult Winter Retreat (YAWR) is back again at Maranatha CRC, Woodstock! We would like to encourage all young adults ages 18-30 to join us for this weekend of faith-based discussions, service, fellowship, and funtivities! We are excited to announce that Pastor Harry Frielink from Covenant CRC in Barrie will be leading us in a series of discussions on the importance of Christian friendships. The retreat will take place from January 23 to 25, 2026, with the theme *"The Gift of Friendship."* *Early bird registration is \$60. Registration opens December 1st, 2025. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith, build lasting connections, and have fun! For more information or the registration link, follow us on Instagram (yawinterretreat), Facebook (Young Adult Winter Retreat), or email us at ya.retreat.team@gmail.com.*

CRC Announcements

ReFrame Ministries

Kids Corner Devotions: Advent at Home: Joy to the World - Check out this week's kids' devotion, "Advent at Home: Joy to the World" at www.kidscorner.net. This week of Advent is all about joy! Maybe light the hope, peace, and joy candles with your family, sing a favorite Christmas song, like Joy to the World, and remember that Jesus is the best reason to celebrate. Explore all the great content at kidscorner.net, including the Kids Corner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

Groundwork: Out of Darkness and into the Light - Turning on a light changes everything. What changes can we anticipate when Jesus brings his light to our world? Join Groundwork as we study Isaiah 2:2-5, John 8:12-19, and John 12:44-50 to discover the significant effects we can expect the presence of the Light of the World to bring in our lives and our world. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Thrive Faith Formation Tip - Around the world a lot of people are thinking about giving and receiving gifts for Christmas. Did you know that Christmas is, in some way, God's gift to God? It marks that important moment when God entered our earthly life in order to restore God's broken world through the cross of Christ and the empty tomb. A restored world had been a desire of God's heart for a long time, so now is a good time to write God a Christmas card, praising the Lord that salvation is possible through the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem. Brought to you by Thrive: crcna.org/Thriveorner Christmas Collection of devotions, Bible stories, crafts, and activities.

World Renew

World Renew Nicaragua Young Adults Trip - Young adults (18–30), join us in Nicaragua from February 13-22, 2026! Experience God in another culture, while you explore poverty, international development and the global church through the lens of faith. Discover the impact of World Renew's work, witnessing how Nicaraguans are transforming their lives through faith and resilience. To learn more about this trip and to register, visit: <https://bit.ly/nicaragua2026info>.

The Gift of Christmas - Next week, we celebrate the gift of Jesus, who left his heavenly throne to be born on earth and offer us the hope of redemption. By giving a gift for World Renew this season, you can help share the hope of Christ with families facing poverty, disaster, or crisis worldwide. Please give generously during the upcoming offering for World Renew or online at worldrenew.ca/gifts

The Banner

Act Now! Help The Banner Meet Its Year-End Goal - Please help The Banner magazine reach its annual goal of raising \$500,000 by giving before December 31. Your gift will enable The Banner to continue reaching North Americans with inspiring and insightful Reformed content for another year. Donate now at TheBanner.org/Give

Indigenous Ministry

Truth, Reconciliation, and Exchanging Hearts - Calvin Theological Seminary's Truth, Reconciliation, & Exchanging Hearts course offers a focused look at Canada's Indigenous history and practical guidance for ministry leaders pursuing reconciliation. Deadline to apply is January 30. Learn more: <https://loom.ly/l4i8mul>

Children's Bulletin



Joy to the World

S	H	R	R	Y	M	G	Z	S	B	Z	S	D
L	H	T	R	I	B	H	T	B	Z	E	G	T
E	H	S	C	M	G	A	J	A	J	S	N	H
M	Z	Y	A	L	R	A	J	D	M	N	I	R
A	O	R	T	L	U	E	M	V	I	E	S	E
C	Y	H	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	C	S	E
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C	W	D	M	E	S	B	T	P	N	K	B	N
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R	H	N	N	S	T	X	J	Z	N	A	T	S
I	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M	R	S	J
M	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	F	X	S

ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Volunteer Schedule

Date	December 14	December 21	December 25
Welcome	Doug Dekker	Len Moelker	
Music	Leah Lammers	Mt. Hope Praise Team	New Shoots
Congregational Prayer			
Open / Close	Shae-Lynn Knevel	Henk & Rita Van Tuyl	Doug & Eileen Nagtegaal
Coffee Duty	Eric & Alyssa Tisch	Neil & Kristen Roth	Alex & Maegan Demik
Sound	Josh Knevel	Frank Buwalda	Josh Knevel
Streaming	Rebecca Bootsma	Jack Demik	Meagan Demik
Overhead	Rebecca Bootsma	Jack Demik	Louise Dekker
Nursery	Kristen Roth	Shae Knevel	Rebecca Bootsma
	Louise Dekker	Trish Demik	Kathy Turkstra

Christmas Eve: Sound: Rebecca Bootsma **Overhead/Streaming** - Mark Demik

If you are **unable** to fulfill one of your scheduled duties, we ask that you please find your own replacement. Thank you.

Church Calendar

Monday, December 15

6:30 p.m. - GEMS - Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 16

7:00 p.m. - Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, December 17

8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

7:30 p.m. - Congregational Meeting

Thursday, December 18

12:00 noon - Bulletin Announcements due at the church office

Sunday, December 21 (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

- 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Joel Bootsma

Offerings: Budget & Diaconal Mission Services

SCHEDULED OFFERING COLLECTIONS

December 25 - Missionaries

December 28 - Budget & Glanbrook Community Services

January 1 - Shalom Manor

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 269, 3076 Homestead Drive
Mount Hope, ON LOR 1W0
Phone: 289-759-3076

Website: mounthopecommunitycrc.org
Facebook: Mount Hope Community CRC
Instagram: @mt.hopeccrc
YouTube: Mount Hope Community Church
Journey Through the Bible Playlist: via YouTube Channel or Website



Minister: Pastor Joel Bootsma

Email: pastor.mhccrc@rogers.com
Cell: (text/call) 289-689-9620

Administrative Assistant/ Marlene Knevel
Custodial Staff Member Hours:

Email: office.mhccrc@rogers.com
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
(approximate hours)

Bookkeeper: Jennifer Brennan

E-Transfer Donations:
accounting.mhccrc@rogers.com

Email: accounting.mhccrc@rogers.com

Treasurer: Mark Demik

Email: treasurer.mhccrc@rogers.com

Chairman of Council: John Demik
Clerk of Council: Doug Dekker
Chairman of Deacons: Doug Nagtegaal

Our Mission Statement

“To glorify God as a vibrant community of disciples that actively and joyfully serve one another and our community.”

Vision: Grounded, Growing, Going

Grounded: Through our Reformed tradition, we are rooted in the nourishing soil of God’s Word and the saving grace of Christ

Growing: We are becoming more Christ like and Spirit filled as God works in our hearts and minds to grow closer to Him

Going: Out of gratitude to God for his work in us, we seek to bear fruit by being the hands and feet of Christ to each other and our community