

# St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton

## Advent Preaching Schedule: 2017

---

### “Keeping Watch”

**Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017:**

Advent 1(Hope): Communion/Jr. Music Makers

Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching

**CAROL SING:**

*The first Noel p13, I saw three ships p5, Away in the manger p3*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Isaiah 9:2-7

**FIRST READING:**

Isaiah 40:1-5

**SECOND READING:**

Luke 1:5-20, 57-64

**SEE AND HEAR:**

“ ”

**SERMON TITLE:**

“Keeping Watch: *Watching ....*”

**HYMNS:**

113, 119v1, CH 542, 126 (Advent Hymn: “*Hope is a star.*” 119)

**THEME:**

Advent is a time of waiting – waiting for the promises of God to be fulfilled, waiting for the darkness to end, for the Day of the Lord to dawn. This Advent we will be joining with the countless people throughout history who have watched and waiting for to One who was promised – who would save/redeem God’s people. We start the series by ‘preparing’ ourselves using the first sign that the wait was soon to be over – the fulfillment of the birth of the last ‘watcher:’ John the Baptist.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This is a Big Communion(distribution) Sunday.

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017:**

Advent 2(Peace): Christmas Pageant/Congregation Lunch  
Gift Card Sunday

**CAROL SING:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**FIRST READING:**

**SECOND READING:**

**SEE AND HEAR:**

“ ”

**SERMON TITLE:**

“Keeping Watch: *Watching for the .*”

**HYMNS:**

(119v2, 164, 166, 149, 161, 173, 154)

**THEME:**

The Angels in heaven also kept watch for God’s promises to come true. Our CE Committee and Sunday School will bring us the Christmas Story from the Angels perspective.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This is the CE pageant Sunday – no choir, lot’s of kids, and the congregational luncheon afterwards.

**Wed., Dec. 13, 2017:** Blue Christmas Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching  
**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 25:6-9  
**SECOND READING:** Luke 2:25-38  
**SERMON TITLE:** "Keeping Watch: *Watching and waiting.*"  
**SUGGESTED HYMNS:** (124, 122 - refrain)

**THEME:**

Life is filled with watching and waiting – but sometimes it is hard; life is spent in rooms, hallways, waiting rooms filled with worry, despair, grief, pain, loss: but God is still there, offering us hope and purpose. Using the Luke passage about two 'watcher' – Simeon and Anna – we will hear how God not only fulfills His promise of our salvation but also ensures that our watching/waiting isn't in vain. God is with us!

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017:** Advent 3(Joy): Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching  
**CAROL SING:** *Once in Royal David's city p11, Holly and the Ivy p13, What child is this? p8*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
**FIRST READING:** Hebrews 1:1-4  
**SECOND READING:** Luke 1:26-38  
**SEE AND HEAR:** " "  
**SERMON TITLE:** "Keeping Watch: *Watching for the Child.*"  
**HYMNS:** 110, 119v3, 122vs1-3,7, 133

**THEME:**

The watchers have seen the signs – heard the promises, and – all according to God's plan say Paul – the waiting is over: a baby is on the way! From the 'sign' offered to Ahaz that God promised to 'be-with us' through a child born to a virgin named 'Emmanuel' to it coming to fruition in Mary's becoming pregnant: God's plan all along was to be-with us to die for us in order to save us.

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017:** Advent 4(Love) Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching  
**CAROL SING:** *Ding dong merrily on high p 4, Infant Holy, infant lowly p. 10*

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** Isaiah 52:7-10  
**FIRST READING:** Luke 1:67-79  
**SECOND READING:** Matthew 1:18-25  
**SEE AND HEAR:** " "  
**SERMON TITLE:** "Keeping Watch: *Watching for the Messiah.*"  
**HYMNS:** 146, 119v4, 136, 141

**THEME:**

The wait is almost over! The promises are almost fulfilled! The vision of Isaiah strikes a note of celebration/proclamation: Your God reigns! The Luke account of Zechariah's song of praise for John's birth and the Matthew account of Joseph's dream let us know that the One we are watching for will be the Messiah who will redeem/restore God's people. This is the Great News of Christmas: God came down to be-with us to fulfill God's plan/promises to save us.

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017: 4:00pm:** CE Family Service: Kim Shepherd & Rev. Geoff Ross

**READINGS:**

**HYMNS:** (119, 149, 150, 153)

**THEME:**

All of creation awaited the coming of the promised Messiah. The animals in the stable got to witness Jesus' birth before anyone else. In our 'Family Service' we will celebrate the joy and wonder that they felt by bringing their story to life.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Kim & Geoff will be working on the details for this service.

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017: 7:30** "Traditional" Service Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching

**READINGS:**

Philippians 2:5-11 (Opening Sentence)

Isaiah 7:10-14

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-20

Matthew 2:1-12

John 1:1-5, 10-18 (Invitation to the Table)

**SERMON TITLE:**

"Keeping Watch: *Watching for the Saviour.*"

**SUGGESTED HYMNS:**

159, 119, 139, 154, 173, 153

**THEME:**

Other 'watchers' saw the signs and came to witness and worship at the incarnation of God in human form. Using the Matthew account of the Wise men and their encounter of the Divine we will dramatically experience their wonder and awe at the grace of God's Good News proclaimed by the angels: Joy to the world or Saviour is born!

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

With the dramatic monologue during the service - there will be some set up required.

**Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017: 10:00pm:** Candle-light Service Rev. Geoff Ross Preaching

**CALL TO WORSHIP:** Malachi 3:1-4

**FIRST READING:** 1 Peter 1:17-21

**SECOND READING:** John 1:19-31

**COMMUNION READING:** John 1:1-14(16-18)

**SERMON TITLE:**

"Keeping Watch: *Watching for the Lamb.*"

**SUGGESTED HYMNS:**

149, 119, 153, 154

**THEME:**

The watched for - awaited - arrival has happened; but it isn't the end of the promise. The birth was the first step toward the cross and the fulfillment of God's plan/promise: Jesus came to be with us to die for us thereby bringing about our salvation by taking away our sins. This was the true sign that the waiting world watched/waited for!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Ruth Kelly-Boxe to play. This is a Communion service (Intinction).

**Sunday, December 31, 2017:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas: Rev. Rosemary Doran Preaching

**FIRST READING:** TBA

**SECOND READING:** TBA

**SERMON TITLE:** "TBA."

**HYMNS:**

**THEME:**