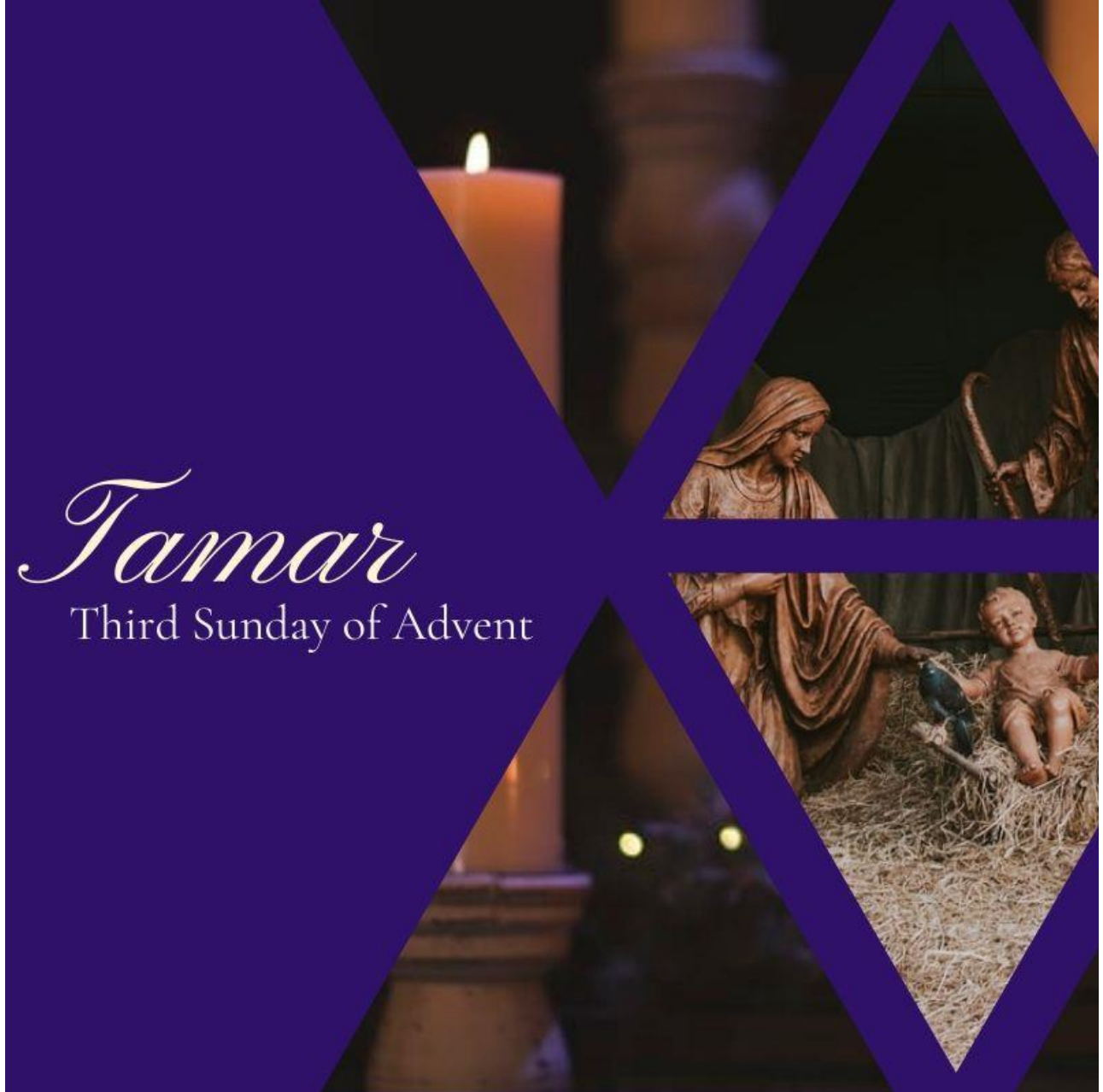


Community Christian Reformed Church  
Kitchener, Ontario  
December 15, 2019

Lightbearers: The Foremothers of Christ

*Tamar*  
Third Sunday of Advent



**December 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m.**

**Pastor John Medendorp**

*Elder-in-Charge: Pete H.*

[\* Please rise, in body or spirit]

### **Gathering and Greeting**

Gathering Song: *"Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King"*

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship

\*God's Greeting and Mutual Greeting

\*Song of Praise: *"Hark The Herald Angels Sing / King of Heaven"*

### **Candle Lighting**

Advent Reading (based on Genesis 49 and 38)

Advent Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Song: *"Glory (Let There Be Peace)"*

Song: *"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"* PsH 337 v. 1,4

Children's Blessing

Children ages 3 – Grade 3 are now invited to participate in Sunday School. Children (ages 3-5 only) need to be signed in and out by a parent or guardian.

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Song of Preparation: *"O Come, O Come Immanuel"* PsH 328 v. 1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Genesis 38: 1-16, 24-26

Sermon: **"Tamar"**

Prayer of Application

### **Response to the Word**

Children in Grades 4-6 are invited to participate in their weekly sermon discussion

\*Song of Response: *"As a Deer in Want of Water"* PsH 42 v. 1,4

Prayers of the People

Offering:     1) Ministries of Community Christian Reformed Church  
               2) Laurentian Hills Christian School

Offertory Song: *"King of Kings"*

\*God's Parting Blessing

\*Doxology: *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"* PsH 637

**Join us at 6:00 p.m. this evening for a “Blue Christmas” Service.**

**The order of service will be distributed this evening.**

*What is a “Blue Christmas” Service?* Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died. It may be a season that is particularly difficult this year because of a recent job loss or scary diagnosis or the constant disappointment of a long-held hope. In the midst of the lights and joy of the Christmas season, we need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and disappointment, our anger and our fear. We need to know that we are not alone.

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

*The bracketed numbers indicate the Community to which these individuals belong*

Congratulations to **Phill and Amber V. (6)** on the occasion of the birth of **Madison MaryAnn** on December 7. Mom and baby are doing well.

Our condolences are extended to **Jerry and Christine F. (14)** and their extended family, with the passing away of Jerry’s sister **Fenny W.** of Grimsby. Fenny is also an aunt to **Herman and Holly F. (Joel, Summer, Sarah) (13)** and **Albert and Maria F. (Jessica, Samantha, Alexa, Mikayla) (11)**.

Congratulations to **Lowell and Sharlene G. (8)** who will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 18, 2019. May the Lord continue to bless and strengthen this marriage for many years to come!

The pastoral elders recently received the membership of **Annalise T. (2)** from First Christian Reformed Church of Owen Sound and accepted her into our fellowship. Welcome Annalise!

In accordance with the received requests, the elders transferred the membership of **Melissa W. (8)** to Waterloo Christian Reformed Church; **Heidi R. (6)** to Water Street Church (Guelph CRC); **John and Nelly D. (2)** to Covenant CRC in St. Catharines. We wish them well in their new worshipping communities.

Please continue to pray for:

- those who are shut-in and/or unable to worship with us on a regular basis because of various health issues;
- those dealing with depression and other forms of mental illness;
- those dealing with cancer, its treatment and effects;
- those dealing with broken relationships;
- those who are unemployed or underemployed;
- **Anthony and Barbara P.** with Daystar Ministries on Manitoulin Island; **Hank and Rosario S.** volunteering in Guatemala; **Shannon C.** serving as Chaplain at Forest Heights Long Term Care; **Pastor Brian B.** serving with Waterloo Campus Ministry;
- the staff and leadership at the Journey as they consider becoming an organized CRC and as they look into possibly calling a pastor;
- the persecuted Church;
- the Ministries and the Leadership of our congregation.

### UPCOMING SERVICES

Dec 22	10 a.m.	Pastor Carel, 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent
	6 p.m.	Pastor John, Candlelight Service
Dec 25	10 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
Dec 29	10 a.m.	Pastor John, First Sunday of Christmastide
	6 p.m.	Pastor John, Lord's Supper
Jan 1	10 a.m.	Pastor Carel, New Year's Day Service

### OFFERING SCHEDULE

#### Budget Contributions For December 8, 2019

	Actual Contributions Received	Targeted Contributions	Contributions (Shortfall)/ Surplus
Dec. 8	\$32,685	\$14,153	\$18,532
YTD	\$741,439	\$869,510	(\$128,072)
Calvin University			\$ 1,707
Monica's Place / Birthright			\$ 350
Benevolence Fund			\$ 200
Waterloo Campus Ministry			\$ 150
Friendship			\$ 25
Missionary Support			\$ 10
LHCS			\$ 10

**Our offering today is for Laurentian Hills Christian School.** LHCS provides dynamic, excellent Christ-centered education, K - 8, through unconstrained facilities, exceptional programs, and extensive resources that cultivate responsive disciples of Christ.

**Next week our offering is for House of Friendship.** Originally, House of Friendship was a store-front mission on King Street in downtown Kitchener. It had a reading room, a dining room and provided food. The mission was a response of the local Christian community to the physical and spiritual needs of the area's most vulnerable residents – a tradition that continues to this day. Over the years, the work of House of Friendship has evolved into a charitable social service agency serving thousands, providing addiction treatment, food, housing, and community resources throughout Waterloo Region. Every year they walk with over 42,000 people who need food, housing, community resources or addiction treatment.

### COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWS

**Vouchers:** Current vouchers are valid until Dec 31, 2019. Please keep this date in mind when ordering voucher purchases. Vouchers purchased AFTER December 8, will have 2020 expiry date. Purchases can be made in the usual way using your budget envelope. At year end, if you still have 2019 vouchers, they can be exchanged for 2020 vouchers. If you have any questions, please contact Karen V.

**Library News:** Dive deeper into the lives of Ruth, Tamar, Rahab, Bathsheba, and Mary: visit the library for books about these foremothers of Christ.

**Volunteers Needed:** Because of the holiday season there will be no Sunday School for children ages 3 – Grade 3 on December 22, 25, 29, or January 1. We are looking for volunteers to supervise a drop-in room. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the nursery for the Candlelight service on December 22. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

**Cadets (a club for boys ages 7-13)** meets Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm.

**The Administrative Council** meets Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the multipurpose room.

**Coffee Break Christmas Brunch:** Coffee Break will be hosting our annual Christmas Brunch this coming Wednesday, December 18th at 9:30 a.m. Women of all ages and stages of life are encouraged to join us for a morning of fellowship and delicious food! First-time attendees are not required to bring a food item to share, however regular attendees are asked to bring a peanut/tree-nut free dish to serve 15-20 people. Pastor Amanda will be leading us in a special Christmas devotion. As always, childcare will be provided. Please wear festive attire/Christmas sweaters!"

**Faith and Hops – December 19 @ 6-8pm.** If you're a 20ish to 30-something looking for a place to connect and deepen your faith, come on out to Faith + Hops at the Malt + Barley Public House - around the corner from the church. The third Thursday of every month we get together for engaging discussion, fried goo, and a beverage of your choice. Check out CCRC's Facebook + Instagram closer to the date for the discussion topic!

**Save the Date! Dive Into Doctrine Starts Jan 29**  
For 5 Wednesdays (Jan 29-Feb 26) we'll gather to explore questions like "Predestination and free will...which one matters?" and "Is it enough just to be "good" to be saved?" Dive Into Doctrine is our annual catechism class where we get to wrestle with faith, the confessional statements of the Reformed tradition, and how we are to live as followers of Jesus. There will be 2 classes this year: one for Grades 9-12 and another for any and all adults from 18-98!

**Save the Date! Faith Formation Workshop - Fri, Jan 17:** Join us for a 2-hour interactive workshop exploring the question: "*What is happening to young adults in our church?*" Rev. Lesli V. will facilitate our conversation with insights from the *Renegotiating Faith Report*, a large survey of young adult Christians in Canada that highlights the new challenges and struggles of emerging adults in our modern context...and the way the church is helping and not helping young adults navigate their changing world.

<b>DENOMINATIONAL NEWS</b>
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**For all of the announcements, employment and volunteer opportunities available through the Denomination and others, please see the listing and posters on the Deacons bulletin board across from the washrooms for information.**

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Choir Presentation:** Please join Woodland Christian High School for a special choir presentation in partnership with community soloists, choristers, and orchestra of Handel's Messiah. A one-time presentation only - truly an event you do not want to miss! Sunday, December 15, at 7:00 PM at Benton Street Baptist Church.

**Sign up for Advent Devotions today!** - It's not too late! Take time to reflect on Christ's birth during this season of Advent with Monday, Wednesday, and Friday devotions sent to your inbox from World Renew and the CRC Office of Social Justice through Christmas Day. This year's devotional series, *How Long, Lord?*, explores how destruction and injustices can lead us to ask the question that God's people and prophets in the Bible asked: "How Long, Lord?" and how we can have hope that our pain will not be forever; the God who made us is with us, now and forever. Don't miss out: Sign up today at [crcna.org/advent](http://crcna.org/advent).

**Advent At-home Faith Formation Tip** - During Advent, we light the candle of Peace. Through Jesus Christ, God gives us peace. In what area of your life do you most need God's peace? How might you be a peacemaker this week? Wonder and talk about that this week.

(Tip from Faith Formation Ministries; [crcna.org/FaithFormation](http://crcna.org/FaithFormation))