

We are so glad to gather to worship our God this morning!

Welcome to all of our visitors. May God bless you with His gifts of Peace, Joy & Love. May the true meaning of Christmas add to your happiness as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We would love to connect with you, kindly fill in the card in the chair pocket and put it in the offering plate.

The Nursery, ages 2 & under, is at the south end of the foyer. Sunday School (preschool – gr 4) and Jacob’s Ladder (gr 5 & 6) will be invited to gather downstairs during the worship service.

Prayer partners are available after the service in the front of the sanctuary.

*Dec 23, 2018*

10:00 am Worship

Pastor Case Vink

**We Anticipate God with Us**

Welcome

*O Come Emmanuel*

**We Praise God with Us**

God’s Greeting

Testimony of God with Us

*What Child Is This*

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*

Reading & Candle lighting: Grd 4 Sunday School Class

Advent Prayer

*Little Drummer Boy*

**We Experience God with Us**

Children’s Message: Dan V

River Park Life

Prayer of God’s People

God’s Word: John 1:9-18 & Luke 2:13-15

Message: God With Us In Peace

**We are Grateful for God with Us**

Offering: Sonshine Children’s Program

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Blessing

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

**Music:** Ian v, Tom C, Dorothy D

**Tech:** Jennifer d, Lisa d.

*Our Offerings*

**RPC’s Advent theme is Emmanuel, God with us.** For our Advent Initiative, the deacons wanted to focus on causes close to RPC’s heart: Refugee Fund, House of Blessings, Benevolence Fund, Sonshine Children’s Program, Inn From the Cold. Emmanuel actually means God with us. This implies He is present, here and there. Everywhere. He has come to lavish His divine love and kindness on those He created: Us! As we move through this Advent season, think of the love and kindness God has lavished on you.

Our first offering is for the **Sonshine Children’s Program.** Emmanuel, God with Us: Lavishing God’s love on children. Sonshine Children’s Centre is a licensed, accredited daycare. There are 28 spaces for children aged 19 months to 6 years. Sonshine’s programming incorporates leading edge child development and brain development research and is led by caring child support professionals. The Children’s Centre is the first program of its kind to offer an integrated program suited to meet the needs of not only the typically developing child but also the needs of children who have been exposed to family violence and other forms of trauma. Sonshine’s focus is to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing by intervening early on in a child’s development so they can grow into healthy, positive, youth and adults.

Our second offering is for the **RPC Ministries Fund.** The RPC Ministries Fund supports the ministries of our church including Sunday School, Jacob’s Ladder, Youth Group, Intercultural Ministries, and capital improvements to our building.

*Next Sunday*

Next Sunday Pastor Dan Roukema will share with us the Message. The offering will be for Bible League Canada. There is NO Sunday School on Dec 30th for all ages including preschool. We will also celebrate the sacrament of the Lords Supper.

*Next week at River Park Church*

Dec 23	Cedars Villa	2 pm
Dec 24	Candlelight Service	6 pm
Dec 27	Ministry to Men	6 am
Dec 29	Ministry to Men	8 am

**Dear River Park family and friends,** I want to thank you for your warm welcome of me and your wonderful wishes for the Christmas season. My hope is that you will also experience the hope, joy, love, and peace of God with us through your special times of quiet and delight. **Pastor Case Vink**

In His grace & mercy our Heavenly Father released **Art V** from his earthly journey on Monday December 17, 2018. Art died peacefully and is now resting in the presence of his Lord and Saviour Jesus. The Memorial Service was held this past Friday. Please remember the family in prayer, that they may be comforted in the sure knowledge of God’s love and grace.

Pray for those who travel in this season, specifically the **Cho Family** as they visit Jamie’s ailing father in Korea.

Please pray for **Chris S** who is still hospitalized.

**Shannon H** is still in ICU, but she is stable and no longer in an induced coma. Please pray for healing of the lungs and for Shannon as she begins the long road to recovery.

Please pray for **Harry S.** Doctors have found two spots on his lungs. Please pray for comfort, hope, patience and healing. May our Lord provide for all their needs.

Many thanks for the cards and emails we received remembering our loss with the recent death of Linda’s mom. Being part of a community like RPC, our neighborhood and family has been such a gift to us. Thank you - **Linda and Rob V**

**Remember to pray for those who are shut in:** Sean B, Hannah D, Paul D, Thomas F, Danny H, Betty H, Herman K, Pete S, Wietske S, Irena S, Matthew T, Else T, Shirley Y, John T, George R, Hetty L & Joanne V.

*Christmas Eve*

**Christmas Eve Story & Candlelight Service:** Come participate in the Great Celebration of Christmas where we welcome the Light of the whole world who came as a small child. Using “The Jesus Story Book Bible” we will hear and sing the great story of how God has been working through history to show His “Never Stopping, Never Giving up, Unbreaking, Always & Forever Love”. This candlelight service will be on Dec 24, 6 pm at RPC. This is the perfect time to invite your neighbours!

River Park Church will be closed Dec 25, 26, 27 & Jan 1. Staff will be available Fri morning, Dec 28, and will continue to keep in contact via email. Staff hours resume as normal on Jan 2nd.

**Tithes & Offerings:** 2018 Offerings to be considered for this year - cheques & cash need to be given to RPC before Dec 31. Cheques must have a date no later than 31 Dec 2018 on them.

**Town Hall** - On Jan 6th Council will be hosting a Town Hall meeting with the congregation. This isn't a typical format for a Town Hall meeting, as we're hosting this in conjunction with the congregational lunch. The intent of this Town Hall meeting is to help Council understand what the congregation is thinking as it relates to 4 key questions. Think of it as a foundation building exercise! So please make plans to attend the congregational lunch and to participate with us in this Town Hall meeting.

**Used Stamps:** Remember to put your used postage stamps in the box above the mailslots, these stamps are given to Wycliffe and are in turn sold.

**Ministry Photographs:** If you have any pictures of your ministry to share please give them to Jim B via his mailslot #23 or email: jayjaybee@shaw.ca.

**RPC Youth:** Have a great Christmas celebration and break from school. Our next youth group meeting will be Sunday, January 13th. See you in the new year!

**Alpha:** We have been so blessed with seeing God work in the lives of those He has led to Alpha, and we are excited to see who God brings next! All who came, did so as a result of an invitation from someone in our church! So please consider praying for those you know who may want to explore questions of faith, life and purpose. Alpha begins again on January 7th!! Also, we are looking for helpers with the meal aspect of Alpha, so if you would like to volunteer, please talk to Sirkka or Rick Vandergraaf. "Many hands make easier work!"

Greeters

Dec 23	John & Christina T, Jerry & Kathy H
Dec 30	Rob & Miriam K, Insuk H

Nursery Schedule

	<b>Babies &amp; toddlers</b>
Dec 23	Sherryl Littel, Jaden M, Judy V
	<b>Reception:</b> Sue Pasveer
Dec 30	Steven H, Andrea C, Cordelia v
	<b>Reception:</b> Lisa D

Coffee Hosts

	<b>Serving &amp; clean-up (after service)</b>
Dec 23	Joanne & Laura B, Dorothy D
Dec 30	Alan & Cindy B, Dick & Jennie L

We would like to get to know you better and so we invite you to fill out a welcome card. Please leave the card in mail slot #1.

**Pastor of Intercultural Ministries: Harrison Cho**

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**Specialized Transitional Pastor: Case Vink**

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**Administrator: Donna Spronk**

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**Worship**

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Dec 23, 2018



All Nations, One Community in Jesus Christ