



## PREPARE HIM ROOM

...there was no place for them in the inn.  
(Luke 2:7)

"Let every heart prepare Him room," says the first verse of the well-known Christmas carol. The season of Advent is for doing what the song tells us to do. It is for preparing room in our hearts for Jesus Christ.

Just as our homes can get cluttered with all kinds of junk over time, the same thing can happen to our hearts, if we're not careful. Our hearts can become preoccupied with the trivial instead of the meaningful, the material instead of the spiritual, the temporary instead of the eternal.

For many of us, December is usually the busiest month of the year. The calendar is full, and the to-do list is long. But not this year. This December, many of us will have space and time and room like never before, and perhaps like never again. What will we do with that time and space? What will we do with that room?

Here are three practical suggestions for how to prepare room in your heart for Christ this Advent season:

### 1) Repent of sin in your heart

As the Holy Spirit exposes selfish attitudes, petty grievances, ongoing resentments, besetting sins, confess them, turn from them, receive forgiveness for them, and get rid of them like you would get rid of mould on your walls or rats in your basement or asbestos in your ceiling. Do this, and you will make room in your heart for Christ.

### 2) Reconcile with people in your life

Nothing clogs the arteries of the heart like relationship strife. Has a family

relationship been stressed? Has a church relationship been strained? Has a friendship been severed? When that happens, it's not always our fault. But sometimes it is. And when it is, we need to admit our fault, apologize, and ask for forgiveness. And even if it's not our fault, we may be in a position to do something about it. Repair the breach. Hold out the olive branch. Make the first move. Do this, and even if your efforts fail, you will make room in your heart for Christ.

### 3) Read and reflect on the Christmas story in the gospels

It's in the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. To say the obvious, these

things really happened. Read about them again, slowly and carefully. Or listen to an audio version. Pray and ask the Lord to reveal more of the glory of Christ to you as you read or listen, so that your heart is warmed and enlarged with love for your Saviour. God's word is powerful, but we need to give our full attention to it. Do this, and you will make room in your heart for Christ.

When Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. There was no room for Jesus in that place. May the same not be said of our hearts this Advent season. Instead, let every heart prepare him room.

PASTOR JONATHAN KROEKER

## Praise & Prayer

**PRAISE GOD** that in Christ, we need not fear the future. God is in control, and his plans and promises will prevail.

**PRAY** for those in our church family who work in health care, that the Lord would strengthen, encourage, and protect them during this time.

**PRAY** for Bethsaida French Fellowship and for Pastor Enge and his wife Rachel, that the Lord would encourage and sustain them while they are unable to meet together.

**PRAY** for those who are in care homes, or sick in hospital. Grietje Brumm at Maples PCH; Lynda Dengate at Riverview; Sieglinde Glesmann at Holy Family; Abe Goertzen at Donwood Manor; Martin Kahler at Concordia Hospital; Rose-Ann Lucius at Donwood Manor; Edgar Olney at Bethania; Egon Ulrich at Donwood Manor; Waltraut Woyke at Deer Lodge.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

In-person Sunday worship services have been suspended while Code Red is in effect, until further notice. Worship services will be livestreamed at [www.rowandale.ca](http://www.rowandale.ca) at 10 am on Sunday mornings, and will be available to watch after the livestream has concluded.

## ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS

Wednesdays at 7 pm. Look for a weekly email with a link to the meeting. We look forward to having you join us!



**ANGEL TREE**<sup>®</sup>  
A Program of Prison Fellowship<sup>®</sup>

Angel Tree is an outreach for children whose parents are incarcerated. Individuals purchase gifts and deliver them to the children on behalf of their parents. The parents send us their children's names, addresses and suggestions of what the children would like. It is suggested that one not spend over \$35 per child.

This year, since we are not meeting in person, please phone Andrea at 204-667-8426 if you would like to be involved. One can either purchase and deliver gifts for the child(ren), donate money for gifts that the church will purchase or buy a gift to be delivered on your behalf.



## URGENTLY NEEDED:

Due to COVID-19, we are often unable to give individuals in desperate need of warmth shelter from the cold. Please help assuage some of the need by donating **sleeping bags**.

There is also a huge need for **backpacks, winter coats, gloves, hand warmers, touques, and boots**. Please pray and give as the Lord leads and inspires.

Please consider donating Christ-centred, or if not, appropriate **DVDs** for men and women in our addiction recovery programs who are isolating in their rooms due to COVID-19. Please drop them off at Frank Ulrich's home.

## December birthdays

1	Donna Jansens
2	David King
3	Tessa Nachtigall
5	Sean Francey
8	Rhonda Kehler
10	David Scott
12	Rita Schroeder
13	Monika Gfroerer
15	Sadie Braun
15	Holger Reuter
19	Jonathan Martens
29	Ewan Dalling
30	Joel Ulrich
31	Joshua Friesen

## December anniversaries

2	Gerry & Anneliese Owzarek
16	Siegfried & Monika Gfroerer
19	Oz & Anita Pedde

## LISTEN TO THE SERVICE BY PHONE

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am  
(YOU CAN CALL IN AS EARLY AS 9:45)

**STEP 1:** Call **204-272-7920**

**STEP 2:** Enter Meeting ID:  
**829 0930 0180** then press #

**STEP 3:**  
Wait for the service to begin  
(ignore further instructions/options)

**STEP 4 (optional):**  
After the service you can press \*6 to  
un-mute yourself and speak with others  
on the phone



A big **THANK YOU** to all who packed Operation Christmas Child boxes. We received **64** shoeboxes in total, with more sent online! Thank you for showing love to children around the world, and helping to introduce them to Jesus!

## rightnow MEDIA

To access your free subscription, go to: [www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/RowandaleBaptistChurch](http://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/RowandaleBaptistChurch)  
NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED

## CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

If your contact information (phone number, address, email...) has changed in 2020, or you would like to be included in (or removed from) the 2021 church directory, please contact the church office by phone: 204-338-1174 or email: [office@rowandale.ca](mailto:office@rowandale.ca).

## NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING POSTPONED

Because of code red restrictions, the November 29th business meeting has been postponed until further notice.

## Thank you for continuing to support Rowandale Baptist Church

### ALTERNATIVES TO IN-PERSON GIVING

1. Mail a cheque to the church or drop it off in the mail slot at the Rowandale Avenue entrance. 162 Rowandale Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2K 0A5
2. Contact our treasurer, Jason Nickel to get set up for regular withdrawals from your bank account (use this option only for regular, ongoing donations)



**ROWANDALE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

162 ROWANDALE AVENUE R2K 0A5  
204-338-1174 [office@rowandale.ca](mailto:office@rowandale.ca)  
Pastor Jonathan 204-560-3671  
Pastor Dave 204-560-3670