

**POINT GREY INTER-MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP**

Web site: [www.pgimf.org](http://www.pgimf.org)

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Laura Eriksson - *What Do We Do With Surprise?***

Advent 3

**Worship Leader:** Karl Brown  
**Accompanist:** Ruth Enns

**Music Worship:** Angela Ruthven  
**Usher:** Henry Neufeld

**Last Sunday** Kevin Hiebert opened up with a mock news report about the complete apparent absence of malice in fully-automated robots before talking about LAWS, or Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. LAWS are robots that can independently make decisions on who lives and dies. Kevin likened the usage and development of LAWS to that of nuclear weapons, asserting as Christians we should support the Campaign to Ban Killer Robots on [www.stopkillerrobots.org](http://www.stopkillerrobots.org) [JL].

The message can be heard in your favourite browser at <https://pgimf.org/service/love-not-laws/>

**PGIMF News - Upcoming Services**

|             |                    |  |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| December 22 |                    | Service of songs and scriptures / Advent 4 |
| December 29 | ***No Service***   |  |
| January 5   | Michael Despotovic | TBA  |
| January 12  | J. Evan Kreider    | The Baptism of Jesus / Epiphany            |

**Donations and Receipts** Last chance for donations and receipts is next week! As there is no service at PGIMF on December 29<sup>th</sup>, your last chance to donate to PGIMF or the Refugee Food Bank at Sherbrooke (through PGIMF) is next Sunday"December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Absolutely no donations will be accepted for 2019 in January.

**Potluck Breakfast!**  
Please remember next Sunday our potluck breakfast begins at 9:00 am followed by our service. Bring a favourite dish to share and come prepared to sing!

**Treasurer Notes** Doug requests that those who have outstanding bills or receipts for the fellowship to be reimbursed are encouraged to submit them to the treasurer before year-end so the books can be balanced.

**Save the date!** PGIMF's youth group will perform a Christmas play organized by Chinatown Peace Church on December 24th. Two PGIMF attenders have major roles in this play! Everyone invited. 375 E. Pender St. at Dunlevy.

**Yangs and Lees New Year's Lunch** As it has become tradition, the Yangs and the Lees will be hosting New Year's lunch at their house. Please bring your favorite dish to contribute for the potluck! The host family will prepare traditional Korean soup for lunch.

**Wider Church News**

**Regent College** presents Holy Land Evening with Israeli guide Yossi Paz who has guided many from the Regent community (including the tour Rosie went on in October 2018). He will share his recent archeological discovery: "The Coin of Resurrection." December 17, 6:30-8:30 pm at Regent College. Free admission.

**Brass & Organ Concert** Celebrate Christmas with the VSO Brass Quintet and organist Terry Fullerton. Tickets \$20 / students \$15 / Children under 12 free. December 17 at 7:30 pm at Kerrisdale Presbyterian Church (2733 West 41st Avenue Vancouver)

**RECORDING THE SERVICE**

Please note that we record the response time after the sermon. You are encouraged to share your thoughts as fully as you feel led with the proviso that no privacy can be guaranteed. The response time will not be posted to the website. You are encouraged to bring forth private issues during the time of sharing and prayer, which will not be recorded.

**Moderator**—Veronica Dyck (604-290-1627); **Worship**—J. Evan Kreider (604-228-1217);  
**Congregational Care**— Lois Funk (604-992-8213); **Recording Secretary**— Andre Pekovich (604-879-0007);  
**Music**—Ruth Enns (604-987-7430); **At Large**— Travis Martin (604-603-7843); Chan Yang (778-681-1475);  
**Finance** — Doug Medley (604-328-2980); **Congregational Co-ordinator** — Janice Kreider (604-228-1217)

*Our PGIMF gratefully acknowledges that we meet on the unceded ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish peoples. As Jesus reconciled us to God, we are called and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with each other*

**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** Experience the legendary Kings-College service of biblical readings and music at St James' Anglican Church (303 E. Cordova St., Vancouver), the perfect building for this traditional Christmas service with its visual inspiration and beautiful acoustics supporting the voices of congregation, choir, and organ. December 22, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Free event, donations gratefully accepted to defray expenses. As space is limited, please be sure to reserve your seat at <https://www.sjmusic.ca/>.

## Candle Lighting + Liturgy Lighting the Candle of JOY

In the beginning was the WORD, and in the Word  
lived JOY. (*Light Candle*)

Advent invites us to sing out joy and share the good  
news of the grace we know.

The calling of proclamation is not the  
private vocation of one person.

It is the calling of the community, of all those  
who gather in the name of Immanuel, God with  
us, giver of Joy.

We wait for the day when we sing in harmony  
the words of Good News.

Good News to all nations and peoples,  
Good News to God's creation.

In the beginning was the WORD

***All: In the Word lives HOPE and PEACE and JOY***

## Isaiah 40:3-5, 25-31

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

[ ... ]

<sup>25</sup> To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength, mighty in power,  
not one is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their  
strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint. [NRSV]

## Luke 1:5-20

<sup>5</sup> In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a  
priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly  
order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron,  
and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were  
righteous before God, living blamelessly according to  
all the commandments and regulations of the Lord.

<sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was

barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup> Once when he was serving as priest before God  
and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot,  
according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter  
the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.

<sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. <sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of

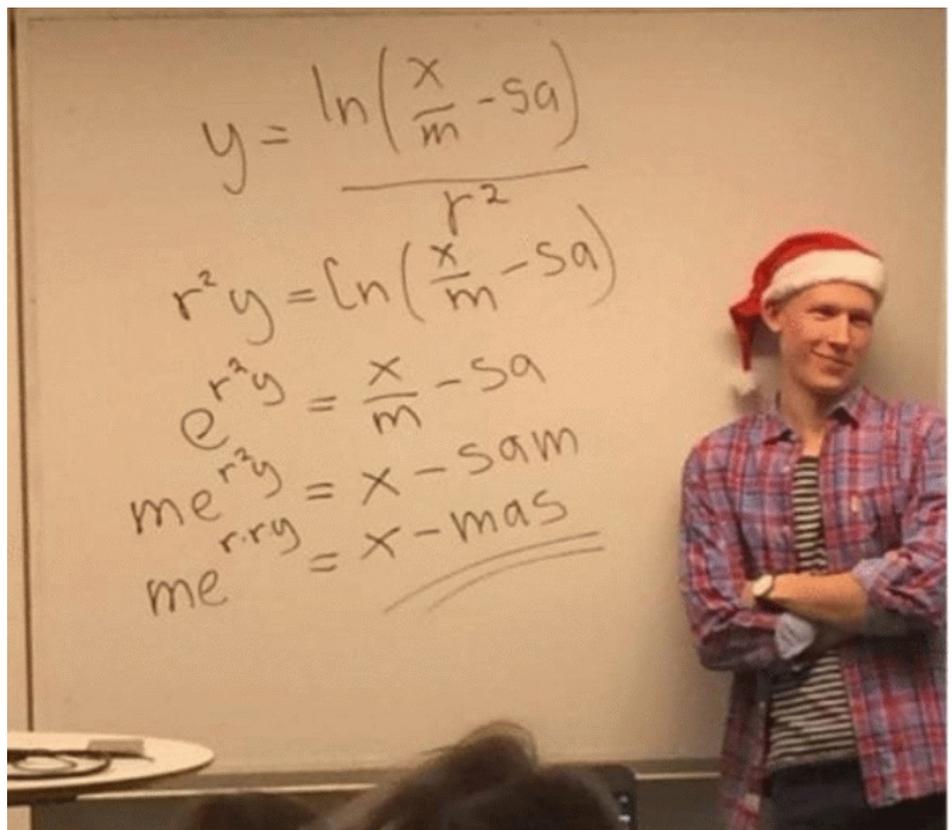
Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' [NRSV]

### Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He

will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.' <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her. [NRSV]

### Humour Corner



Solve for X and simplify terms

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## My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain Dm/A Dm9 F G A B<sup>b</sup> C Am7 Dm9 Fine



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,  
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;  
 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,  
 4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil - grim - age;



your ra - diance shines in all who look to you.  
 our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your Word.  
 and in your ad - vent draw us all to you,  
 we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re - main.



Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shad - ow.  
 Come, make us whole; be com - fort to our hearts. —  
 our hope re - born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 O - - pen to us the path - way of your peace. —

