

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sun., January 1st - New Year's Day

10:30 a.m. We usher in a new year as we recommit to following the path of Jesus.

Message: "Liberating Birth Part II" by James Ravenscroft Scripture Readings: Isaiah 63:7-9 and Luke 2:16-21

Sun., January 8th - Epiphany

10:30 a.m. We remember the coming of magi from the East, a recognition that the path of Jesus is for all people. The sacrament of communion will be celebrated.

Sun., January 15<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Jesus

10:30 a.m. We say good bye to Christmas and turn our attention to the season of Epiphany. The sacrament of baptism will be celebrated.

Worship Notes

As we are still in a time of transition and have experienced a few changes in our order of service, I thought I'd take a few minutes to go over a few procedural items. If you are taking part in the service in any way, please give yourself a bit of time before the service to look through the bulletin to see where your part comes in the service. If you are reading scripture, please note that there is now a two-part response afterwards. Please use this response after the second reading only. If you are doing the Prayers of the People please remember that the Prayer of Jesus (The Lord's Prayer) sometimes follows immediately after your prayer. Finally, please ensure that Deb Fratin has the most up-to-date e-mail address to contact you if you are taking part in the service. I'm happy to announce that more copies of Voices United and More Voices and covers for both types of books have been ordered. We were able to do this at little to no cost due to two generous donations. Many thanks to the donors and to Dawn Moon for placing the order for us.

The Worship Committee is working in conjunction with Lyn May of the Outreach & Social Action Committee to organize guest speakers/preachers for one Sunday a month when James will be working with the youth or doing some other activity during the sermon time. If you have an idea for a possible guest speaker or preacher, please let me know. (Sandra at: [bookgirl8@hotmail.com](mailto:bookgirl8@hotmail.com))

In closing, if you have any comments or concerns about worship, please speak to someone on the Worship Committee: Anne Dunn, Anne Leyton-Brown, Barry Peters, Craig Lee, Dawn Moon, Dominick Shelton, James Ravenscroft, Joan Verner, Harry Ramsaran, Linda Clark, or Sandra Loughton. *Sandra Loughton Chair ~ Worship Committee*

Upcoming Baptism Celebration

Is there a new (or not so new) little person in your family? Were you considering the possibility of baptism? We have a celebration coming up on **February 19, 2017**. Contact James ([james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) to find out more, including details about preparation sessions leading up to the celebration. In addition, January 15, 2017 is Baptism of Jesus Sunday. Given that this is a traditional choice of Sundays for baptism, we will mark this day by taking time to renew our baptismal commitments.

Looking for a tree

Are you kind of person who takes down their real Christmas tree before New Year's? Well we are in search of a post-Christmas Christmas tree for an outdoor art project beginning New Year's Day. Talk to James or Harry.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers, RHUC's longest-running study group, will resume on Monday, January 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. New members are always welcome. Please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more information.

Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep". While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don't hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

**RHUC Book Club**

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 25th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel** for our first meeting of 2017. We will be discussing the novel **CIRCLING THE SUN** by Paula McLain. We will have three or four copies of this book available to share with the group in January. This novel is based on the life of a female pioneer in the field of aviation and here is a short description of the book: Paula McLain, author of the phenomenal New York Times bestseller *The Paris Wife*, now transports readers to 1920s Kenya. **Circling the Sun** breathes life into a fearless and captivating young woman--Beryl Markham, a record-setting aviator whose passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, awakens Beryl to her truest self and her fate: to fly. For more information about the group, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Book Club facilitator, or call the church office at 905-884-1301.

**HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE**

**Fabric Sculpture Workshops**



**Fabric Sculpture Workshop on Saturday Jan. 28!** CREATE A MERMAID for your home or garden and help make a difference for African Aids families. Andrea Chan of Creative Genius Within will be our teacher and will show us how to create a lovely piece of art out of tee shirts, foil, wire and Paverpol.

Date? Sat Jan 28

Time? 9-4

Cost? \$125

Anyone 16 to 96 is welcome. Children aged 14 and up with an accompanying adult are also welcome. Andrea would appreciate signup as soon as possible to help her plan ahead. Please see Peg Hiscoke after the service or contact her at [handsandhearts@live.ca](mailto:handsandhearts@live.ca). We regret that the Three Birds workshop on Jan 21 has been withdrawn.

Linda Clark will be at a sign up table in Centennial Hall after the service. She may have a sample mermaid to show you.

**Minute for Mission  
Called to be the Church**

The Rev. Sharon Ballantyne attended a gathering of the World Council of Churches [Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network](#) in Lima, Peru, and reflects on that experience: "As a minister who is totally blind, I was the only Canadian representative, sent to listen, learn, and share. I sat among nearly 30 new friends from across Latin America. We learned about persons with disabilities and left feeling mobilized, energized, and committed to transformational change. Many people were eager to tell me stories about how their communities have been positively impacted by Mission & Service and showed a deep gratitude and thanksgiving for the ways Mission & Service transforms communities in Latin America. "Gatherings like this one help those in ministry to offer a different interpretation of scripture and new understandings of what it means to live with a disability. Persons with disabilities, their families, and other allies are often ignored, isolated, lonely, and excluded. This conference went a long way toward opening doors to those living with disabilities. "Participants at this gathering are now better equipped to remind communities of faith of Jesus' model of love and inclusion for all people. We need liturgies that reflect full inclusion and use inclusive language and activities that ensure everyone can participate." We sing thanksgiving for Mission & Service partner the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network, which is committed to the full inclusion of persons with disabilities in church and society.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making [Mission & Service](#) a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

**CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY**

**Counselling available**

Joanne Scofield is currently doing a Counselling Internship at RHUC. This is in conjunction with a course she is taking at the Toronto Centre for Pastoral Care Education. The counselling is confidential and free of charge. If you are interested in counselling, please contact Joanne directly at 416-618-5597.

**Blogpost**

New blogposts:

Christmas Tea - December 10, 1 - 4 pm Christmas Tea ~ Saturday, December 10, 1 – 4 pm  
<<https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/05/christmas-tea-saturday-december-10-1-4-pm/>>

RHCU Advent Outreach with Krasman Centre <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/03/rhuc-advent-outreach-with-krasman-centre/>

RHUC's Advent Givings <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/03/advent-givings-2016/>

Krasman Lunch at RHUC <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2016/12/02/krasman-lunch-at-rhuc-november-28-2016/>  
Keeping Advent by Rev. James Ravenscroft <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/?p=1468&preview=true>

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Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.