



# GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL

## OTTAWA/GATINEAU PASTORAL UPDATE

### ADVENT

A Time to Declare “Come Lord Jesus, Come.”

In the GCI Equipper this month Rick Shallenberger reminds us of the reason that many Christians celebrate Advent. Advent is a

entered into our lives, that He has done so in the past, He does so in the present and He will do so again in the future. These are the “comings” of Jesus that we reflect upon during the season of Advent. We live constantly in the sure hope of Jesus’ return, the reassuring certainty of His incarnation and birth and the transformational reality that He lives in us.

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season of anticipation. It draws us deeper into the recognition of the fact that Jesus has

Traditionally, many Christian communities have used visual aids to help us focus on the reality behind Jesus’ three comings and the

### THE JOY OF NEW LIFE

As we celebrate Justin and Anna joining our ever-growing Church family we remember the words of the apostle Paul in Romans 12:15 “Rejoice with those who rejoice!” Paul says this in the context of the transformational love of God overcoming us and leading us to be not only at peace with all people but also walking in step with them in their lives. Our children are a frequent reminder of just how powerful this lesson can be, as they reflect the emotions and spirituality of those around us. We rejoice with Dennis, Riziki, Amani and Neema not just because they have a new child in their families, but because they are part of our church family we too have new children in our family. Next time you see them, lets be sure to rejoice with them!

November 8, 2019

themes that accompany them. Internationally, GCI is encouraging us to use the symbolic visuals of Advent candles in our services and come November 31 (the first week of Advent) we'll be doing just that. We will read the themes, share the Scriptures and celebrate the Coming of our Lord and His great Heavenly

Kingdom. When we do this, we do it realizing that millions of Christians around the world are sharing in this act of remembrance with us as we glorify the Almighty as one people; our unity perfected by the Holy Spirit as an act of worship wholly pleasing to God the Father.

## SOCIAL MEDIA BY AN ANTI-SOCIAL PASTOR

### The Church Social Media Accounts and How to Access Them

I'm sure many of you have been faced with the difficult reality of having to communicate with other human beings. The inane small talk, the feigned interest in your colleague's new collection of Parisian paper mâché bunting pans, or whatever the newest collector fad is these days. Why the only thing worse than having an in-person social interaction with someone else, is having a virtual one. It is for this reason that my Facebook account lies dormant, scattered only with the pictures that Julie tags me in. It's why for me, a hashtag is a label you place on a plate of hash browns to make sure no one else nicks them. Joking aside however, we know that social media has a powerful impact in the world today. An impact that we as a community of followers of Christ have a responsibility to engage with. There can be no doubt that the world needs more grace-

filled, love-infused and hope-building tweets, posts and memes.

It's for that reason that I'll be rebooting our Facebook page @gciottawa which has lain dormant for over a year and have created a church Twitter account, also @gciottawa, with which I hope to send out weekly updates. These updates will include a heads up on the sermon topic and Scriptures for the coming week and notifications when sermons are posted to our website. Alongside this will be any key announcements about special events or changes to church service times. I encourage anyone who uses these platforms to throw us a like and follow us on Twitter. It's my hope that in doing so we would be able to extend our message of Jesus' Gospel of Grace yet further.

FACEBOOK: GRACE COMMUNION INTERNATIONAL OTTAWA, @GCIOTTAWA

TWITTER: GCI – OTTAWA/GATINEAU, @GCIOTTAWA

WEBSITE: GCIOTTAWA.COM

E-MAIL: FHENDERSON@GCICANADA.CA