

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa

Anishinabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan.  
This land we are upon is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people.



**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 am

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## PRELUDE

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 (J.S. Bach)*

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

**May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

Here let heaven and earth embrace.

**Here may God's people find home.**

## A WORD OF WELCOME

Grace and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

*In the darkness before creation, you made all that lives and breathes.*

*In the darkness of Mary's womb, you formed Jesus, bringer of light.*

*In the darkness of our world, your spirit sustains us.*

***O God, you are with us in darkness and in light.***

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Isaiah the Prophet reassured the people,

**God is sending words of comfort to you, speaking tenderly to you.**

God promises that your hard labor is over, your sentence has been served and your penalty has been paid.

**You are forgiven not once but double all that is needed.**

Go up to a high mountain, and call out the good news! Lift your voices up with strength and call out the good news!

**Do not be afraid! Your God is coming.**

Our God is mighty, but our God is also gentle.

**God loves the flock and will feed it just the way a shepherd would, holding us close like lambs and guiding us, old and young.**

We wait for God's peace,

**and live in God's hope as we light these candles.**

*The first (hope) and second (peace) candles are lit.*

Loving God,

**come and shine your light in the world!**

## **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,  
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people  
and to those who turn their hearts to him.  
Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
Truth shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness shall go before him,  
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

## **THE SECOND READING**

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

*Mark 1:1-8*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight".' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the

people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

### **SOLO**

*Like Him We Rise (Tom Trenney)*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*Silence is kept.*

God our Creator,

**we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

God, who is both power and love, forgives you ✠ and frees you from your sins, heals and strengthens you by his Spirit, and raises you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our creator, in every place and at all times. You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is.

You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds. Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven, but already we laugh with the saints and angels, and sing their joyful song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Loving God, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you. You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us.

He healed those who were sick, cared for those who were poor, and cried with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died, while he was having supper with his friends, he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

So, as we do what Jesus told us, we open our hearts to him; we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us. Together with him we offer you these gifts: in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us ✠ and on this bread and this wine, that they may be the body and the blood of Christ, and that, sharing your life, we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people we give you thanks and praise through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*Silence is kept.*

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.*

## **COMMUNION**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Loving God,

**we have broken the bread which is Christ's body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all humankind; through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the joy of the Spirit surround and bless you ✠ as you walk in the hope of the Lord. **Amen.**

### POSTLUDE

*Rejoicing, from Water Music (George Frideric Handel)*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

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*Presider & Preacher*

The Venerable Pat Johnston

*Deacon*

The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros

*Organist*

Dr Gordon Johnston

*Readers*

Gay Richardson, Alex Bissett

*Cantor*

Pascal Viens

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