

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13 2020



*A warm welcome to all who are joining us online today. We invite you to join in our worship by saying the parts printed in **bold**. You may also wish to join us in the postures of standing and sitting.*

You can call in to the service by telephone:

Canada: +1 (647) 497-9391

Access Code: 305-914-261

OPENING HYMN:

CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: PROCLAMATION AND JOY

This is the first candle of Hope and Expectation, which we will re-light today, recalling God's promise to send a Saviour.

(The family lights the first blue/purple candle)

This is the second candle of Preparation and Peace, as we remember the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

(The family lights the second blue/purple candle)

Today we light the third candle. This is the candle of Proclamation and Joy. May our hearts be forever filled with the joy of His coming.

This is the candle that is pink, as it represents joy for the baby Jesus.

(The family lights the pink candle)

The Scripture in Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us: ‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.’

Let us pray:

Father this is the candle that we light because we are filled with joy, hope and peace that you have sent your Son for all that believe. Help us to be the voices that proclaim grace and truth. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Almighty God,

To you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; though Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(said twice)*

THE COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so

prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

SEASONAL COLLECT:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61: 1-4, 8-11

Read by David Finch.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice;

I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations. (ESV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: # 126

SLEEPERS WAKE (*Musical accompaniment*)

**When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy! *Alleluia! Alleluia!*
He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,**

shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him. *Alleluia!*

THE SECOND READING:

1 THESSALONIANS 5: 16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (ESV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN:

HARK A HERALD VOICE IS SOUNDING

(Please remain seated)

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

JOHN 1: 6-8, 19-28

(Please stand)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (ESV)

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GRADUAL HYMN: HARK A HERALD VOICE IS SOUNDING

THE SERMON: REV. CHRIS DOW *(Please be seated)*

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS: *(Please be seated)*
Led by Diane Allengame.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE:

(Please stand)

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY:

COME O LORD, AND SET US FREE

You may wish to make a donation to St. James by e-mail money transfer or through Canada Helps. Click the 'Donate' button on the top right-hand corner of our website.

'So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.' (Galatians 6:10)

Blessed are you, LORD God of Israel, forever and ever. All that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.
(1 Chron. 29:10, 11, 14)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please be seated)

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God.

AGNES DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

Thank you for joining us today via livestream. While those gathered in-person are receiving Communion, you may wish to do the following:

Reflect on the past week and on your relationships.

- What good things have I received from God?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do tomorrow and this upcoming week?

You may wish to say or pray:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You may wish to read and meditate on the Scripture lessons read earlier in the service.

To make your Spiritual Communion, say the following prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen. (Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

You might then add one or more of the following prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ADORE / CANDLE SONG

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING:

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLOSING HYMN: WHEN THE KING SHALL COME AGAIN

DISMISSAL:

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God

Thank you for the music today:

Joanne Redhead

Mary Judge

Sharon Mulder

Thank you to

Claire Olorenshaw, Chancel Guild

Neil Price-Jones, Gordon Morton, Sound Tech & Video Crew

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God by Todd Hillhouse and Chris Mackey in loving memory of Grandmother, Marjorie Mackey.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Those in Need: Hal & Barb, Shireen & Irik, Anne, June, Marjorie, Muriel, Lois, Pam, Ross & Joan, Stan & Edna, Laurie, Caleigh, Rachael, Carey, Liz, Paul.

Our Deanery: Rev. Jason Prisley and the people of St. Hugh & St. Edmund, Malton

Our Parish: Alan & Gill Lawrie, Trudy Messer, Phil McEnaney and their families.

The World: including schools and public health authorities.

MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

Watch for the Light - join us as we read this remarkable book of Daily Devotions for Advent. We will meet online weekly in December for discussion. Please register via email with Fr. Chris.

Advent Lessons & Carols – this pre-recorded service will be streamed on our YouTube channel and website next Sunday 20 December, 10:30am. We will meet for face-to-face fellowship afterwards at 11:00am via Zoom.

Christmas Eve Family Service (Thursday 24 December, 4:00pm) – on Facebook live.

Christmas Eve Main Service (Thursday 24 December, 8:00pm) – due to government restrictions limiting congregations to 10 people, this service will be streamed on our YouTube channel and website and available for viewing at your convenience thereafter.

Christmas Day Service (Friday 25 December, 10:00am) – this service of Holy Communion will be held in-person at St. James. If you would like to attend, please pre-register with the office. There are only 9 spaces available.



St. James Church

In the Heart of the Village

Incumbent: Rev. Chris Dow

Parish Administrator: Ruth Sowrey stjamesoffice6025@gmail.com 905-584-9635

Rector's Warden: David Finch

People's Warden: Claire Olorenshaw

Choir Director: Joanne Redhead

Organist: Mary Judge