

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 am

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### PRELUDE

*Prière à Notre Dame (Léon Boëllmann)*

*Please observe a time of silence in the church beginning at 9:25 am during the prelude and the ringing of the bell.*

### 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

Today we hear your angel Gabriel and witness the faith of Mary. Fill us with your grace and light.

**We recall the times we have struggled but said yes. We know times when God has filled us and our world with blessing.**

Mary was a young, strong, spiritual woman. Even though her life was not easy, she heard God's voice and said yes. Her song was a prayer that would bring down the mighty and uplift those who were downtrodden.

**Mary would bear within her the promised child, Jesus, the Light of the World. We pray for courage to carry your light into the injustices and shadows of this world.**

*The candles of peace, hope, joy and love are lit.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

*2 Samuel; 7:1-11, 16*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have

been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT**

*Luke 1:47-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

## THE SECOND READING

*Romans 16:25-27*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 1:26-38*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

# HOMILY

## SOLO

*Gesu bambino (Pietro A. Yon)*

## 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.**

*During The Peace please remain in your place and acknowledge those around you while remaining physically distant.*

## THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the 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 remain in your pews, the Celebrant will come to you to distribute communion or offer a blessing. **All** wafers today are gluten-free. Please do not remove your mask to consume the host until the priest has moved at least six feet away from you.*

## COMMUNION

# PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this 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

*Finale, from Miniature Suite (Healey Willan)*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

*Please follow the ushers' directions to leave the building and refrain from gathering to socialize inside the building.*

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| <i>Presider &amp; Preacher</i> | The Venerable Pat Johnston      |
| <i>Deacon</i>                  | The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros |
| <i>Organist</i>                | Dr Gordon Johnston              |
| <i>Readers</i>                 | Wendy McCutcheon, Peggy Lister  |
| <i>Cantor</i>                  | Carolyn Streich                 |

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