

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Smiths Falls, Ontario | Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

First Sunday after Christmas ~ December 27, 2020

## A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST IN PANDEMIC

Book of Alternative Services

*We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. Wherever you are worshiping this morning, consider the traditional land you are on and give thanks for the gift of it, praying we may dwell on the land with respect and peace.*

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### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

**All And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

**All 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, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### First Reading

Galatians 4.4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle: Canticle of the Messiah**

Isaiah 9.2, 3b-4a,6-7

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; \* those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them the light has dawned.**

**You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; \* they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.**

**For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; \* the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.**

**For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, \* and the government will be upon his shoulder.**

**And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; \* the Mighty God; \* the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.**

**Of the increase of his government and of peace \* there will be no end,**

**Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, \* to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.**

**From this time forth and for evermore; \* the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

**Holy Gospel** (*please stand*)

Luke 2.22-40

Gospeller The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus' parents brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother

Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Gospeller    The Gospel of Christ.

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

Reflection

Apostles' Creed

Celebrant    Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All            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**

Leader        In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe,  
saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the  
angel, hear us, O Lord. Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord. **Lord,  
grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and  
magi, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and  
Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O  
Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the  
kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O  
Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant us forgiveness of all our sins and offenses and grace to  
amend our lives; hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

### **The Peace**

Celebrant Beloved, as we are reconciled in Christ, so may we be reconciled  
with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### **Prayer over the gifts**

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with  
the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

### **Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God,  
for you created all things. You formed us in your own image:  
male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.

Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All 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.**

Celebrant Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**All**            **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant    We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All**            **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Celebrant    The gifts of God are for the people of God.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

## **Doxology**

Celebrant    Glory to God

**All**            **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing & Dismissal**

Celebrant    May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebrant    Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**People**       **Thanks be to God.**