

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada

**Third Sunday
of Advent**

December 17, 2023

**Pageant with Holy
Communion~ 10 a.m.**

Book of Alternative Services page 185

Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist

We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.



This service is video recorded, streamed, and broadcast. By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video in our on-line worship offering through St. John's website and Facebook pages.



Hymns are from the [blue](#) Common Praise hymnbook unless otherwise indicated.

Today's service can be found on page 185 of the [green](#) Book of Alternative Services ([BAS](#)) located in the pew back in front of you.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Announcements

Advent Wreath Themes and Prayers: Advent 3

Theme: John the Baptist

Opening Explanation:

Maranatha! **Come Lord Jesus!** These words of hope and expectation are the centre of the advent season, when we wait for the coming of Jesus – born in Bethlehem, crowned King of Heaven, alive in our hearts, and returning at the end of days.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the world for the coming of the Christ. He called everyone who would hear him to prepare the way, to make straight paths, and change their ways from self-service to the service of God. Today we pray that God our Heavenly Father would prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, just as he prepared the people of Judea through the ministry of John the Baptist.

Prayer:

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

Song 1

Hope is a Star

Greeting

Collect of the Day

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.

Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. 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 wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being 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 with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126

(Read Responsively)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth 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, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

2 Th 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 the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pageant

Song 2 The Angel Gabriel

Song 3 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Song 4 Away in a Manger

Song 5 Hope was Born this Night

Song 6 Silent Night

Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one

being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our
sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

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....; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Song 7

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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;...
...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.

Sanctus

**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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you
have made known to us in creation....

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

... 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.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

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.**

Communion

These are the gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world;
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace.

All who are baptized are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine of Holy Communion. At the Greeter's direction, please make your way to receive the elements if you wish to. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Song 8 (*after communion*)

The Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Doxology

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

Song 9

Emmanuel

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MON 7:15PM

We have completed our journey through the book, *Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together*. It has been an incredible year reading and discussing Jesus' teachings through this book. We are taking a break and will start up again on January 15, 2024 reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. If anyone would care to join, please let Nancy Fleming know so she can order a book for you. We meet on Mondays at 7:15-8:15 through zoom.

PINT & A PASSAGE: TUES 7PM

Join the conversation about the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday at Rob Roy's. Bring your Bible and an open mind.

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAMPAIGN

The Salvation Army is looking to recruit volunteers for their Kettle Campaign which begins November 17, 2023. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mary Lynn Wilson or Jackie Staples at (613) 283-3563 or e-mail: mary-lynn.wilson@salvationarmy.ca.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are now available to be picked up in the Canterbury Room.

ADVENT WREATH

Consider making an Advent Wreath for your home to mark the four weeks of Advent. All you need are five candles of any colour – four arranged in a circle and the fifth in the centre. Light one candle during the first week of Advent, two during the second week, etc. Light just the centre candle from Christmas Eve until January 6. Note: It is perfectly acceptable to replace candles if they burn out.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Memorial donations for Christmas flowers may be placed on the collection plate or left in the Church office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Monday to Friday. Include the names of those you wish to have listed in the memorials. Please make

cheques payable to St. John's Altar Guild and make sure envelopes are also clearly marked Altar Guild. The deadline is Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

CHURCH CALENDARS

2024 Church calendars are now available for pick up in the Canterbury Room. The cost is \$6.00.

2023 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2023 Church contributions must be made **by January 5, 2024** and cheques post-dated for December 31, 2023. E-transfers must be deposited by December 31, 2023. Any contributions received after that date will be entered into 2024 contributions.

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

December 10:

Advent 2 – Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Advent Walk at 4:00 p.m. beginning at
St. Frances De Sales Catholic Church

December 17:

Advent 3 - Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m.
Pageant with Eucharist in Hall at 10:00 a.m.
Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m.

December 24:

Advent 4 - Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

December 25:

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

December 31:

Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Presiding Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer

Preacher: The Sunday School

Reader: Karen Bryan

Intercessor: Nancy Fleming

Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis/Chris Cutler-Silvermoon

Greeters: Linda MacLaren & Carol McNabb

Readings for next Sunday, December 24, 2023 ~

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16; Ps 89:1-4, 19-26; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Follow us on Facebook at:

St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Kathryn Rycroft – Parish Secretary

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Weekly Liturgies

Holy Eucharist – Sundays 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.* – Wednesdays 10 a.m.

*Sunday School offered at 10 a.m. from September – June

The Right Reverend Shane A. D. Parker – Bishop of Ottawa

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer, Presiding Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

Garry Hoekstra – Organist

Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator

emduberville@hotmail.com

Paul Howard – Rector's Warden 613-283-1172

Karen Bryan – People's Warden 613-284-8149

Garry Rodford – Deputy Warden 613-284-0488

Dan Willis – Deputy Warden 613-884-5095

Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary

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