Third Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. Isaiah 61:1

St Paul's Cathedral

LONDON, ONTARIO | ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON

HOLY EUCHARIST (Book of Alternative Services)

Today we welcome Dr. Daniel Smith, PhD, Dean of Theology, Huron University as our guest preacher.

Prelude *Chorale Prelude on 'Nun komm der Heider Heiland'* D. Buxtehude

Opening Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* **Blue Book 89 vv. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 7**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Presider From the Christ who was, who is and who is to come: Grace, Peace and Love be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Lighting the Advent Wreath

Presider In this sacred season of Advent, we remember and celebrate the gift of Divine Love who leapt from the Holy Womb into the heart of humanity. This loving presence became for us a source of hope, peace, joy and love. This Love Incarnate came as a light radiating compassion, a Torch bearing truth, a Beacon offering guidance. As we welcome this Light we begin in the gathering darkness of winter. Be attentive to darkness. Recognize some darkness is good and nurturing. The Christ was nurtured in a womb of darkness and came forth from this blessed darkness to be a Light for us.

Other darkness is destructive and bleeds love from the world: war, racism, hatred, greed, and all non-living in whatever form it takes. The Christ came to stand up to this destructive darkness and to light our path with goodness.
O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.

Bless us and our Advent wreath. May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas; may the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

All **Amen.**

Week Three Joy *(The Third Candle is lit.)*

Presider Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete.
All **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.
O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that we will walk in the way of Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
People **Amen.**

"Children's Corner" – Children are welcome to join Heather at the back of the Cathedral.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD *(Silence between readings are for quiet reflection.)*

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* **Green Book p. 885**

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 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.**

Sequence Hymn *You Servants of the Lord* **Blue Book 93**

Holy Gospel *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

Reader The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for 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, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming

after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily *Please be seated*

The Nicene Creed *Please stand*

Presider Let us confess our faith, as we say,
All **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

Leader Lord, in your mercy,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider 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.

Silence is kept.

Presider Most merciful God,
All **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.**

Presider 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.
People **Amen.**

The Peace *Please stand*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *Hymn for Children (2023)* Herbert O'Driscoll

1. Jesus babe in Bethlehem's manger
Helpless in your newborn hour,
Born in days of death and danger,
Herod's hatred, Roman power;
We who watch as countless children
Daily die in cruel ways,
Trapped in endless human conflict,
Help us not to turn our gaze.

2. Orphaned child, her city ruined,
Dangers in its shattered streets,
Lead her to some sheltering haven
Where with care and love she meets.
Freezing child in storm tossed waters,
Watching as his parents drown;
Children of an ethnic cleansing
Crying in a burning town.

3. Children too in every city
Known to us in this our land,
Living without love or pity
Lives we barely understand;
Children lonely, unprotected,
Children mentally confused,
Children, some by drugs affected,
Children cruelly abused.

4. Jesus who we know as loving,
Lord of all things good and true;
Show us that when children suffer,
Serving them is serving you.
Jesus Prince of Peace in glory
Guide us that our wars may cease.
Help us change our human story.
Grant us wisdom. Grant us Peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider 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.
People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider 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.

Sanctus & Benedictus **Blue Book 735**

Presider 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,

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

Presider 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 children; 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.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer **Blue Book 744**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.
All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Gluten-free communion wafers *are available. Please indicate your wish to the administrant at Communion.*

Jesus Lamb of God **Blue Book 747**

Communion Motet *People, Look East* Besancon Carol

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.
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.
People **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* **Blue Book 114**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the congregation in these or similar words:

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

Postlude *Variations sur un Noel* M. Dupré

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather and in which our diocese serves is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral) and Wendat peoples. May we continue to grow in the spirit of partnership, respect and reconciliation.

The Advent Wreath taken from Bosco Peters, NZ.

This service is being live-streamed and recorded.

The flowers at the **High Altar** are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, given by John and Mary Longworth.

Diocese of Huron Chain of Prayer – Today we pray for the Parishes of St. Hilda's-St. Luke's, St. Thomas; St. Thomas, St. Thomas; Grace, West Lorne; and St. Peter's, Tyrconnell.

Intercessions – Bill, Christina, Ann & Ellis, Patricia, Sally, Quentin, Jane, Elizabeth, Jean, Tom, George, Marg, Kyle, Joyce, Gerry, Dennis & Lyn, Des, Lorraine, Stephen, Harald, Ricardo, Stacey, Mary Ann.

Presider – **The Venerable Sam Thomas**
Preacher – **Dr. Daniel A. Smith, PhD, Dean of Theology, Huron University**
Deacon – **The Reverend Pat Henderson**
Organist – **Ian Sadler**
Servers – **Stephanie Allen, Pat Binnington, Benjamin Vazquez**
Lay Administrants – **Nancy Shipston, Peter Hockin, Marsha Lemon**
Reader – **Allan Nagata**
Greeter – **Jean Willadsen**
Children's Ministry – **Heather Clark**
Wardens – **Greg Childs, Marsha Lemon**
Bell Ringer – **Lynn Watson**
Sound Technician – **Daniel Aldcroft**

Nine Lessons & Carols Service - Please join us **this afternoon @ 4:00pm** as we celebrate the story of the Messiah, from God's promise to Abraham, to the birth of Jesus, revealing in song and readings how the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Sing some of your favourite Christmas Carols and hear lovely choral arrangements of beloved seasonal songs. We will welcome guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Dawn Davis, Assistant Professor of Contextual Learning and Director of Leadership for Ministry Programs, Huron University.

2024 Offering Envelopes – are in alphabetical order at the back of the Cathedral. Please let us know if you would like envelopes. We would be happy to provide you with a new 2024 set and your very own envelope number.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer – Please join fellow Anglicans from across Canada for the 'Let Us Pray' virtual gathering on Monday, December 18 at 1:00pm. AFP Canada executives will be sharing their favourite seasonal songs and carols with brief reflections. The Zoom link for this gathering can be found on the AFP Website at www.anglicanprayer.org.

Blue Christmas: A Light in the Darkness: A Service of Remembrance, Comfort and Hope on **Wednesday, December 20, 7:00pm** – Brightly wrapped packages, Christmas trees, holiday parties, holly and the scent of pine, unending upbeat carols in shops and malls, visits from friends and family, baking and cooking, food everywhere–and the awed, hushed joy of welcoming a tiny Infant to our world and our hearts–these are the images and memories of Christmas most of us celebrate and treasure. But each year some people – the grieving, the lonely, the hopeless – dread the approach of the Christmas season. They have no heart for the cheer and the bustle, the anticipation and the excitement. If you are looking for a quiet and sacred space apart from the traditional holiday festivities, please join us for our Blue Christmas service entitled "A Light in the Darkness".

New Photo Directory for the Parish

The sign up for the new photo directory is continuing today. We are now taking appointments for Saturday – January 6, 2024. The hours would be 10:00-3:00pm. Please see Deacon Pat Henderson at the Clarence Street reception Desk immediately after the service or call Carrie Fieldhouse weekdays in the church office 519-434-3225 to make an appointment.

With the anticipated arrival of The Rev. Canon Dr. Kevin George in January as our new Dean of Huron and Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral, you can appreciate that the directory will be helpful for him to be able to get to know all of YOU quickly and for that matter for you to get to recognize some of our newer members. So please take the time to get your photo taken and in return you will receive a FREE copy of the directory and an opportunity to purchase additional photos for your family and friends if you choose.

MARMALADE making is just a few weeks away. Just a reminder that 125ml. and 250ml. Mason type jars are needed for this project. Please return jars purchased in previous years. (No caps please, just the jars and rings.) Donations of new jars and sugar in 2kg or 4kg bags would also be welcome. Please leave all donations in the kitchen. We expect the oranges to arrive in mid-January and after the oranges have arrived sign-up sheets will be placed on the notice board in the kitchen. As we did last year, we will be working in the afternoons from 1 p.m. to about 3:30 p.m. and it will take approximately 7 days to complete the project.
If you would like to help with this project, or would like more information, please contact Carrie Fieldhouse in the church office at 519-434-3225 or see Esther Moore if you are at church at the 10 a.m. Sunday service. Help with this project from our Parish family is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Advance Notice– Vestry Reports For those of you who need to submit reports for our annual vestry meeting, they are due to Carrie in the Office no later than noon on Wednesday, January 12, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of the wardens.

Lunch after 10:00am Service - starting January 28
Over the last few months some parishioners have been meeting, monthly, for lunch after the 10 am service at the Church Key Restaurant (next door to the cathedral). It has been a successful experiment – the food is good and the conversations are fun. Now it is time to ensure everyone knows about it and can participate as they wish.
Date: the last Sunday of each month
Time: after the 10:00am service
How to reserve: The restaurant will set aside 12 places for **St Paul's** . You call 519-936-0960 and reserve one or more of those spots, preferably by the previous Thursday.
If there are more than 12 reservations, the restaurant may be able to accommodate more…. but it is the decision of the restaurant.
This is a wonderful opportunity for building community and having a special lunch with friends.

Advent and Christmas Services at St. Paul's

Nine Lessons & Carols: Sunday, December 17 @ 4pm

Blue Christmas: Wednesday, December 20 @ 7pm

Christmas Eve – December 24

8:00am – Advent IV (BCP)

4:00pm – Family Service with Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm – Holy Eucharist with Brass & Cathedral Choir
Starting at 6:40, special Christmas Preludes by our brass ensemble.

11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist with Brass & Cathedral Choir
Starting at 10:40, special Christmas Preludes by our brass ensemble.

Christmas Day – December 25

10:00 am – Eucharist with Christmas music by our vocal quartet.

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend

Bishop of Huron

The Venerable Sam Thomas

Interim Archdeacon-in-Charge

The Reverend Pat Henderson

Deacon

The Reverend Dr. Virginia C. Lane

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Marian Haggerty

Honorary Assistant

Ian Sadler

Organist & Director of Music

Heather Clark

Children's Ministry

Carrie Fieldhouse

Parish Coordinator

Gregory Childs and Gord Rolleston

Church Wardens

Marsha Lemon

Deputy Church Warden

Marilyn Freeman and Marilyn Papple

Past Church Wardens