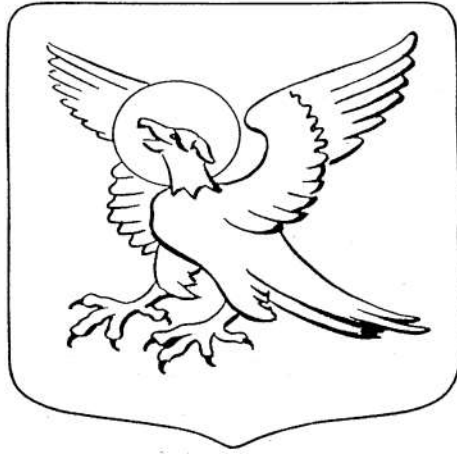


ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada

**Fourth
Sunday of
Advent**

December 24, 2023
SUNG EUCHARIST ~ 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 4

Theme: Mary

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 fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember how the virgin Mary showed us the way of faith, hope, love, and joyful expectation. By accepting to become Mother to the Son of God, by faithfully and graciously loving and raising Jesus, by being with him at the foot of his cross, Mary's life reveals the beauty of holiness. Today we pray that God would prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, just as he prepared the blessed virgin Mary.

Prayer

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.
Amen.**

• Processional (Opening) Hymn

89

• Greeting

BAS, p.185

• Collect for Purity

• Trisagion

Collect of the Day

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 PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 89

(Read Responsively)

Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'I will establish your line for ever, and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, nor any wicked man bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.

I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

• **Gradual Hymn:**

88

vss. 1 & 2 before the Gospel, vs. 3 & 4 after the Gospel

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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.

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.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

- **Nicene Creed** **p. 188**
- **Prayers of the People** **p. 190**
- **Confession and Absolution** **p. 188**

The Peace

People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.

- **Offertory Hymn** **95**

Anthem

Hallelujah Christmas by Marilyn Baker

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

- **Eucharistic Prayer 3** **p. 198**

Sanctus (sung)

**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.**

- **The Lord's Prayer** **p. 211**

- **Breaking of the Bread 5** **p. 213**

Communion

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.

- **Hymns during Communion** **8, 33_**

- **Hymn after Communion** **74**

Prayer after Communion

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.**

- **Doxology** **p. 214**

The Blessing

- **Recessional Hymn** **154**

Dismissal

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.

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.

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.

Pray K7A

Come and pray for Smiths Falls and area. The last Sunday of each month Christians from across Smiths Falls gather to pray for the town and area, to sing praise to God, and to encourage each other. **This month (December 31 at 7pm) we'll gather here at St. John's Parish Hall (2 George St., South).** We'll be giving thanks to God for the year that is ending, and seeking God's blessing for the year to come for the town and area. We will be handling music in the style of an Open Mic night or a good old fashioned Irish Ceilidh, so bring an instrument and/or some praise music you love.

OFFICE HOURS

Christmas and New Year holiday office hours:

Dec. 25 to 28 office closed;

Friday, Dec. 29 regular office hours;

Wednesday, Dec. 27 no Communion;

January 1, 2024, office closed

For pastoral emergencies, call Thomas (613) 207-6296.

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

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 & Preacher: Rev. Canon Jim Roberts
Reader & Intercessor: Cindy Penman
Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis/Donna Howard
Greeters: Gail Brennan & Faye Moore
Readings for next Sunday, December 31, 2023 ~
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Mt 2:1-12

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
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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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