



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday | December 14th | 2025

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | BAS

Alde Sandlings Mass | Alan Bullard

The flowers are given to the glory of God

Welcome

Children are welcome to fully participate in the service
and activity sheets are available at the entrance to the Cathedral.
Sidespeople can provide headsets for those who need hearing assistance.
Please turn off or set mobile devices to silent mode.

*Our diocese was founded on the homeland of the Anishinaabe Algonquins.
May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude | *Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn* | *Dieterich Buxtehude*

Announcements

Hymn 88 | *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms. Grant perseverance and patience to all who long for your Son's return, so that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading | *Isaiah 35:1-10*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18 | *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.

Second Reading | *James 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | *People, look East | arr. Malcolm Archer*

People, look East. The Time is near Of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

Holy Gospel | *Matthew 11:2-11*

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.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 117 | *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

Prayers

Let us pray.

God of life and hope, in our weariness you are strength; in our shadows you are dawn. In this season of watching and waiting, help us pray with our hearts and our lives. Into each concern we hold before you, come with your steadfast love.

Emmanuel, God with us,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for moments of joy, for love shared, for friendships and family, and for every glimpse of your presence. Keep us awake to seeing Christ in one another.

Emmanuel, God with us,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the churches of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Church of Canada; for Shane our Primate and Anne our Metropolitan. Bless all discerning a call to let their name stand for election in our diocese, the members of Synod, and our Diocesan Administrator, Bishop Michael Bird. Renew your Church with hope.

Emmanuel, God with us,

hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and all nations, especially where justice is fragile and peace is threatened. Guide leaders in wisdom, mercy, and courage.

Emmanuel, God with us,
hear our prayer.

We remember places of conflict—especially Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine—and all who suffer from violence or fear. Bring peace, healing, and reconciliation.

Emmanuel, God with us,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are ill, grieving, or anxious.

Silence.

Surround them with your love and strengthen all who care for them. Bless our homes with safety and joy.

Emmanuel, God with us,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you hold all souls in life. We give thanks for those who have gone before us and now rest in your light.

Silence.

Keep us in communion with them until all your people are gathered in your kingdom.

Emmanuel, God with us,
hear our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, one God, source of light and life, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence.

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 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn 100 | *Comfort, comfort ye my people*



Thank you for donating to the ministry of our Cathedral! You may also make an offering via the collection plate or tip-tap machine in the foyer, by going to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/5519> or by e-transfer to info@ottawacathedral.ca.

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

But we turn against you and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again, you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages, you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn: *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.*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei

Communion

All are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you wish prayers for healing before receiving Communion, please carry an Order of Service with you; to receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the bread in the wine.

Motet | *No wind at the window* | John Bell

No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor; no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear: just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear. "This child must be born that the kingdom might come: salvation for many, destruction for some; both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine." No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed. Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, "Tell God I say 'Yes.'"

The Sending of the Community

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.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God, the Creator, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn 102 | *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Postlude | *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)* | J.S. Bach

Celebrant | The Reverend Canon Doug Richards

Preacher | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff

Readers | Leslie Kirk | Peter Webber

Intercessor | Trudy Seliger

Duty Warden | Stephen Giles | Margaret Porter

Organist | Nick Veltmeyer

Director | James Calkin

Sung by | Voces Cathedrae

Collect: *Opening Prayers* (1997) alt. Liturgy: *The Book of Alternative Services* ©1985, *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV)* Anglicized Edition, ©1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Readings Next Sunday | December 21st

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Advent | Christmas | New Year's Day | Epiphany

Wednesday | Thursday | December 17th | 18th

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21st

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist

4 pm | Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve | Wednesday | December 24th

7 pm Story, Carols, and Choral Eucharist

10 pm Festal Eucharist with Brass

Christmas Day | Thursday | December 25th

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Choral Eucharist with Children's Story

First Sunday after Christmas | December 28th

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

The Naming of Jesus | Thursday | January 1st

Noon Choral Eucharist and Festive Reception with The Right Reverend Dr. Shane Parker,
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

The Epiphany of the Lord | Sunday | January 4th

8.30 am Holy Eucharist | 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday | Thursday | January 7th | 8th

12.05 pm Iona Creation Eucharist | Iona Contemplative Prayer

The Baptism of the Lord | Sunday | January 11th

8.30 am Eucharist | 10.30 am Holy Baptism and Choral Eucharist

Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa

Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan | A place of prayer on Algonquin territory

The Anglican Cathedral in the Nation's Capital

Cathedral of the Canadian Forces Anglican Military Ordinariate

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Vicar | The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards (ext. 191)

Deacon Residentiary | The Reverend Dr. Jarrett Carty

Honorary Assistants | LCol (ret'd) The Venerable Michelle Staples | Lt (N) The Reverend Katherine Walker

Lay Readers | Daniel Jerusalemiec | Ted Livingstone

Director of Music and Organist | James Calkin (ext. 201)

Associate Director of Music | Andrew McAnerney (ext. 121)

Music Associate | Nick Veltmeyer

Algonquin Teacher in Residence | Albert Dumont (Oshki Nodin)

Church Wardens | Jane Morris | Katherine Spencer-Ross

Director of Operations and Development | Nicholas Galambos (ext. 171)
