



# CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

MEAFORD

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## **Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday** **Sunday, December 14, 2025 Holy Eucharist 10:30am**

Presider: The Rev. Brendon Bedford, Rector  
Lay Reader: Francis Richardson  
Organist: Keiko Yoden-Kuepfer

Cantor: Victoria Alcock  
Server: Sarah Howard  
Reader: Norma McCauley  
Greeter: Gene Latour



## Our Land Acknowledgement

We at Christ Church are gathered together on the territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and commit ourselves to the hard work of reconciliation.



## Our Mission Statement

Christ Church is committed to live in a generous and loving spirit in all its relationships.

## Our Contacts

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Christ Church office hours are Tues, Wed., Thurs., 9:00am to 2:00pm  
Ph: 519-538-1330; [office@christchurchanglican.ca](mailto:office@christchurchanglican.ca)

<p><b>MANY PEOPLE NO LONGER CARRY CASH OR CHEQUES.</b></p> <p><b>If you would like to support our mission to love and serve God and all our neighbours, know that you can donate online.</b></p>	<p>Point your phone's camera at the QR code below and scan.</p> 
 <p><b>CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN</b> MEAFORD</p>	<p>Tax receipts are provided by PayPal Giving Fund upon donation.</p>

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Post-Covid, we have curtailed the “passing of the plate” at Christ Church. There are offering envelopes in the pews and on the table at the back of the church. We thank you for your donation to the ministry and upkeep of the parish which can be placed on the offering plate as you enter the church.

**Prelude** Contemplation on "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" by Gilbert M. Martin

*Please stand as you are able.*

**INTROIT HYMN    O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – Verse 2   CP#89**

**Cantor:**    O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
                  who ordered all things mightily;  
                  to us the path of knowledge show  
                  and teach us in its ways to go.

**All:**            **Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel**  
                  **shall come to you, O Israel.**

## **OPENING SENTENCE**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN    Rejoice Today with One Accord   #318**

## **Gathering of the Community**

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

**People:**      **and also with you.**

## **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Presider:**    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.**

## THE TRISAGION

(Sung 3 times, #707 blue hymn book,)



## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Please be seated.*

### Children's Time / Advent Wreath

#### Candle 3 – Joy - the Prophets

**Presider:** Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets. I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

**People:** **Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The third candle is lit.*

**Presider:** Jesus is the light of the world!

**People:** **A light no darkness can ever put out.**

We sing (tune: CP #325)

**All:** Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory, “Come, Lord, soon,” we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness, changed for gladness on that  
Day.  
Prophet voices loudly crying, making pathways clear; glimpsing  
glory, self-denying, calling all to hear. Through their message –  
challenged, shaken – hearts awaken: God is near!

# The Proclamation of the Word

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

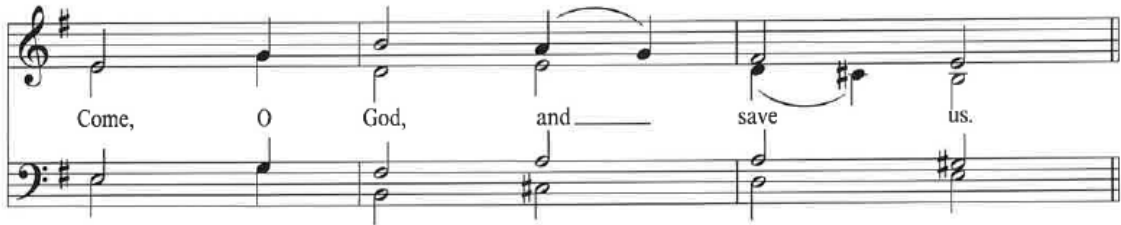
Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 146:4-9

*The psalm refrain is sung once by the cantor and is then repeated by the congregation.*



- (1) Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
- (2) whose help is in the Most High,
- (1) Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
- (2) whose promise abides for ever.
- (3) Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
- (4) and food to those who hunger. **R.**

- (1) It is God who sets the prisoners free
- (2) who opens the eyes of the blind
- (3) and lifts up those who are bowed down; **R.**

- (1) God loves the righteous
- (2) and cares for the stranger,
- (3) sustains the orphan and widow,
- (4) but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R.**

- (1) The Most High shall reign for ever,
- (3) your God, O Zion, throughout all generations
- (4) Hallelujah!

## THE SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Reader: A reading from the Letter of James.

*At the end of the reading*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia #190 Sing a New Creation**

*Alleluia is played once and **repeated by congregation twice.***

The musical notation for the Alleluia acclamation consists of two systems. Each system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains chords and the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The bass staff contains a simple melodic line. The chords are: D, A/C#, G2/B, D/A, G, D/F#, Em, A, D. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The music is in G major and 4/4 time.

Music: Norah Duncan IV, 1987. © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.



*Please turn to face the Gospel reader.*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*After the Gospel is read.*

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia #190 Sing a New Creation**

*As before the Gospel, repeated by congregation.*

*Please be seated.*

## THE HOMILY

The Rev. Brendon Bedford

Priest & Rector

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## THE NICENE CREED

Lay Reader: 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 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.**

## DEDICATION OF A VOTIVE CANDLE STAND

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation, .....  
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**People: Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

*The candle stand is presented by the donor(s)*

Donor(s) I/We offer this gift to the Church in memory of Harry and Vera Parker, and ask that you dedicate it to the glory of God.

Presider: On behalf of this parish of Christ Church, I thank you for this gift. In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, I dedicate this votive candle stand to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Harry and Vera Parker.

*A candle is lit, and a short time of quiet is kept.*

Presider: Let us pray.

.....  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*Please sit or stand, as you're able.*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Francis Richardson

Lay Reader

*Please stand as you're able.*

## **THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Lay Reader: 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.

Lay Reader: 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.**



*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE PEACE

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of peace.*

*Remain standing, as you are able.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** People, Look East! The Time Is Near #91

(blue hymn book)

## THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

### The Celebration of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer #3 (BAS, pg 198) with preface for Advent.

**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.**

**Preface for Advent** (p. 219)

**Presider:** 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.

### THE SANCTUS (HOLY) - sung

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - #735 (blue hymn book)

**All:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might**

**heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

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

Presider: 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: .....  
... 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 (sung)**

#684 (blue hymn book)

Presider: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (FRACTION RITE)**

Lamb Of God (Agnus Dei) sung

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### **THE COMMUNION**

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive  
communion at God's altar.*

*If you are not baptized, you are very welcome to come forward to the communion rail for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms over your chest.*

***If you are interested in exploring baptism, please speak to the priest after the service.***

*Gluten free host (wafers) are available at the altar rail upon request.*

**COMMUNION HYMN** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #48  
(blue hymn book)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **THE DOXOLOGY (Said)**

**All:** **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 FINAL BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** Rejoice, the Lord is King #379  
(blue hymn book)

### **THE DISMISSAL**

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

*Please be seated.*

### **THE POSTLUDE**

People, Look East! based on a French Carol by Kristine Langlois

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Psalm from The Psalter, George Black; Lamb of God, David Clark Isele.

Advent Wreath liturgy attributed to The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski; Advent Candles, Copyright © 2002 Mark Earey

### **This Week's Prayer List**

(We invite you to hold all on our list in your prayers for the coming week.)

**The Diocese:** We hold in our prayers the people and clergy of: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Windsor St David & St. Mark, Windsor St. John's (Sandwich), Windsor St. Mary's (Walkerville), Windsor.

**The Parish:** We hold in our prayers: Ted & Elizabeth Appleyard, Doug & Muriel Armitage, Greg & Mary Anne Ayrheart and their families as well as all those serving in the Canadian Armed Forces at home and overseas.

**The Wider Church:** We hold in our prayers the clergy and people of the Diocese of Jerusalem; the clergy and people of Bath Abbey and St. Giles, Cripplegate, UK, as well as bishop Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury-elect.

**Intercessions:** For healing and hope we hold up to God: Charlie & Marg, Deanie, Doug, Fraser, Gord, Katharine, Rachel, Ted, and their families, and any others who are in need of our prayers.

**Repose of the Soul of the Departed:** Pat Riley.

***Memorial Flowers on the Altar***

*Flowers at the altar today are given to the glory of God and with grateful thanks for the life and ministry of past members of the Chancel Guild.*

**NEXT WEEK**

**December 21, 2025, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**The readings are:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We thank Keiko Yoden-Kuepfer for offering her musical talent today.**

Please join us for **refreshments** after the church service in the Parish Hall.

**The Midweek Eucharist** (said BCP) is offered **every Wednesday at 12:00noon**, followed by the Advent Project – the reading of Luke at 1:00PM.

**Poinsettias to decorate the windows** - As in past years, if you would like to donate \$15 per plant, please fill out the form below.

✂-----

**Poinsettia Order form**

Name of donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: (please print with spelling that you would like to see) \_\_\_\_\_

(or “in appreciation of”, or Merry Christmas or your choice of words).

Amount \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE CASH OR CHEQUE MADE OUT TO CHRIST CHURCH MEAFORD (with poinsettias in the memo line) BY DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**