



Christ Church
Cathedral
Ottawa

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday | December 21st | 2025

10.30 am | Choral Eucharist | BAS

Messe d'Escalquens | Jean Langlais

The flowers are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the lives of Col. Ted Price, Mary W. Price and Karen S. Price

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 | *Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel'* | Alec Rowley

Announcements

Hymn 91 | *People, look east! The time is near*

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 all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, so that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared 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 7:10-16*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm | 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim. In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink. You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour, the one you have made so strong for yourself. And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading | Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual | An Old Carol | Roger Quilter

*I sing of a maiden That is matchless; King of all kings To her son she chose. He came all so still
There his mother was, As dew in April That falleth on the grass. He came all so still To his
mother's bow'r, As dew in April That falleth on the flow'r. He came all so still There his mother*

lay, As dew in April That falleth on the spray. Mother and maiden Was never none but she; Well may such a lady Goddes mother be.

Holy Gospel | *Matthew 1:18-25*

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.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Hymn 267 | *The God whom earth and sea and sky*

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 97 | *Jesus came, the heavens adoring*



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

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.**

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 | *The Holy Boy* | John Ireland

Lowly, laid in a manger, With oxen brooding nigh, The Heavenly Babe is lying His Maiden Mother by; Lo! The wayfaring sages, Who journeyed far through the wild, Now worship, silent, adoring, The Boy, The Heavenly Child! Leave your work and your playtime, And kneel in homage and prayer, The Prince of Love is smiling Asleep in His cradle there! Bend your heart to the wonder, The Birth, the Mystery mild, And worship, silent, adoring, The Boy, The Heavenly Child! Dim the light of the lantern, And bare the mean abode, Yet gold and myrrh and incense Proclaim the Son of God. Lowly, laid in a manger By Virgin undefiled, Come worship, silent, adoring, The Boy, The Heavenly Child!

The Sending of the Community

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.

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 116 | *"Your kingdom come" on bended knee*

Postlude | *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 700)* | J.S. Bach

Celebrant | The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff
Preacher | The Reverend Katherine Walker
Readers | Rebecca Officer | Mahira Remplet
Intercessor | Daniel Jerusalemiec
Duty Warden | Shawn Scromeda

Organist | Nick Veltmeyer
Director | James Calkin
Sung by | Women's Ensemble

Collect: *A New Zealand Prayer Book* (1989). 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 28th

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Advent | Christmas | New Year's Day | Epiphany

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 21st

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 Most 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)
