

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

A Celebration of Holy Eucharist

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2020

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Your cooperation with all safety protocols is appreciated. In-person worshippers are asked to wear masks in the church. Masks may be removed by those who are speaking to the congregation when they are physically distanced.

Once seated in the church by the Greeters, the people are asked to remain seated in their place to assure that physical distance with others is maintained. The presiding celebrant will give instructions for the time of Holy Communion and for departing the church at the conclusion of the service.

The people are asked to use the hand sanitizer available upon entering the church, before and after receiving Holy Communion, as well as when leaving the church. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the church and its frequent use is encouraged.

Prelude

Welcome and Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Penitential Rite

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding celebrant begins.

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
We have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbour;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's grace your sins are forgiven and you are set free.

May you be strengthened in God's love, ✠ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Gathering Song

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Worshippers present in-person are asked not to sing; however, a cantor or soloist may sing the hymn or song for the people. Worshippers at home are welcome to sing along.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.

But your word, O God, is faithful,
your arm, O Lord, is strong;

you stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and give to the weary rest.

Music: ASCENSION: H. Hugh Bancroft, © 1938

Words: James Lewis Milligan , 1876-1961, alt.

Collect of the Day

The presiding celebrant says the prayer and all respond,
Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the
Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for
our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!'
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight”’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the

forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

The Prayers of the People

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions.

Watch over your church as your people wait expectantly. We pray for Susan our bishop; David and Brian our priests; Rob our intern; and for all who serve you in your church. With the worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain; in our Diocese of Niagara, for St. Thomas’s, St.

Catharines; in our neighbourhood, for Central Presbyterian Church; and in our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Roberta, Edie, Patty, Alex, Brianna, Brent, Rosalee, Nora, and Alida. Nurture our faith as we discern and participate in your mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. We pray especially for those who live in the Haldimand Treaty territory and for a resolution of the Caledonia land disputes. We pray for those caught in human trafficking. We pray for neglected elders. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Bless the work of agencies and partners such as Indwell and L'Arche. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We know that many lives have been touched with adversity in the midst of the pandemic. We remember the unemployed and the under-employed. We remember the lonely and the anxious. We remember those who are sick, those who have died, and those who mourn. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful

work, (especially Ambrose of Milan and the prophets of the Old Testament). Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Source: Sundays and Seasons, adapt.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

The people are welcome to share the Peace with one another by means of gestures from their places.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Table

Prayer over the Gifts

The presiding celebrant says the prayer and all respond,

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.

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.

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.

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

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 sons and daughters; 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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, bring us to your kingdom and teach us to pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The 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.

Prayer of Reception

Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. Many are made one.

The following prayer is said by all.

We receive you Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome your presence in us, and together proclaim our love for you; with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength, with the saints we worship you, with the angels we adore you, with your whole Church we proclaim your reign. Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.

The presiding celebrant then elevates the bread and says,

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ which is given for you keep you in eternal life. Feed on him in our hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

Amen.

The Communion of the People

Those seated in the choir and sacred ministers shall be communicated at the sanctuary gate. The people seated in the nave shall be communicated at a station at the chancel step.

The people shall be invited to come in turn to the chancel step to receive communion. Please sanitize your hands and wear your mask on the way to and returning from the altar. There are two stations. The first is at the centre of the chancel step where communion minister will deliver the host into your hand. Please proceed to the second station halfway along the step. Facing east, remove your mask and make your communion. Once you have made your communion, please replace your mask, and return to your seat.

Additional Prayers of Reception

The following prayers may also be said privately.

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in bread and wine, and present in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart, may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul, may you, who gives yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

Lord Jesus, I want to follow you: to see you more clearly; love you more dearly; and follow you more nearly. So come into my heart, so that we may share life together. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to us approacheth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,

as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

Text: The Liturgy of St James; trans. Gerard Moultrie (1864).
Music: PICARDY, French carol, 17th cent.

THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Prayer after Communion

The presiding celebrant says the prayer and all respond,
Amen.

Doxology and Blessing

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 presiding celebrant offers a blessing and all respond,
Amen.

Sending Hymn

People Look East! The Time is Near

Worshippers present in-person at the celebration are asked not to sing.

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 with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
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.

Music: BESANÇON; harm. Martin Shaw, 1875-1958; © Oxford University Press.

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is coming.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

In-person worshippers are reminded to maintain physical distancing when leaving the church. Following the postlude, please leave the church by either the southeast (front right) or southwest (main) doors, whichever is closest. Thank you.

Today's Liturgical Ministers

Presiding Celebrant

The Venerable Dr. David J. Anderson

Homilist

The Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan

Acolyte

Rob Miller

Reader

Gillian Webster

Intercessor

Deborah Bowen

Livestream Technical Director

Alex Urquhart

Music

Paul Grimwood

with members of

The Parish Choir

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