

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

In the Bleak Midwinter

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.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894.
Music: CRANHAM: Gustav Holst, 1874-1934.
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Collect of the Day

The presiding celebrant says the prayer and all respond,

Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the
oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant
with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the
nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has
blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and
praise
to spring up before all the nations.

**The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

John 1.6-8, 19-28

**The Lord be with you.
And also with you.**

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name
was John. He came as a witness to testify to
the light, so that all might believe through

him. He himself was not the light, but he came
to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

The Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. We pray for Susan our bishop; David and Brian our priests; Rob our intern; Charles, today's homilist; and Gareth, our musician for today. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favour for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. We pray especially for Justin, the Prime Minister; Doug, the Premier; Fred, the mayor;

and all who serve with them. We pray also for your church throughout the world, especially remembering, with the worldwide Anglican Communion, the church in the Falkland Islands; in our diocese, for St. Barnabas, St. Catharines; in our neighbourhood, for First Christian Reformed Church; and in our parish, for Bettina, Craig, Adrienne, James, Tamara, Rowan, Hazel, Finnegan, John, Sarah, David, Miriam, Tom and Giselle. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Empower the work and partnerships of the Primates World Relief and Development Fund, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. We remember those who have asked us for our prayers, especially Jason and Mary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (especially Lucy, martyr of the church). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. 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 Song

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Communauté de Taizé.

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994.

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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 Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!*

O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [*Refrain*]

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. [*Refrain*].

Words: Latin, 9th cent.?; trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866).
Music: VENI EMMANUEL; harm. David Willcocks, b.1917; arr. Healey Willan, 1880-1968.
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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

Charles Meeks

Reader

Sarah Wayland

Intercessor

Rob Miller

Livestream Technical Director

Alex Urquhart

Music

Gareth Inkster

www.rockonlocke.ca

Our Clergy

Bishop

The Right Reverend Susan J.A. Bell

Rector

The Venerable Dr. David Anderson

Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Dr. Brian Ruttan

Pastoral Intern

Rob Miller

Staff

Parish Administrator

Frances Ward

Director of Music for Discovery Service

Gareth Inkster

Organist and Choirmaster

Paul Grimwood

Churchwardens

Steve Doucet Campbell, Bonnie Munn

Margaret Wilding, Deborah Bowen