

THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

A Celebration of Holy Eucharist Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 20, 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 Hymn

Tell Out My Soul

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.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

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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

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

A reading from the Book of Second Samuel.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of

cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1.26-38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her..

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Homily

The Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths, especially, Beth Jacob Synagogue, St Joseph Roman Catholic Parish, Blessings Christian Church, Melrose United Church, Central Presbyterian Church, First Christian Reformed Church, and Holy Trinity Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Inspire the faith of their people. We pray also for the mission agencies of the Anglican Communion, including the Mother's Union; in our diocese for St. Columba, St. Catharines. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our communities. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations as well as of our own, that they might amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbours in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence, Jean, Olga, Stephen, Alistair, and Mary. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for those who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. We pray for Susan, our bishop; David and Brian, our priests; Rob, our intern and homilist today; for the rest of our ministry and support staff, Paul, Gareth, and Frances. We pray also, in our parish cycle of prayer for Brian, Peggy, Gillian, Marjory, Lynda, Richard, Lynda Woodward. 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.

Music during Communion

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 Advent Carol

Joy to the World

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

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Public Domain.
Music: ANTIOCH, George Fridric Handel, 1685-1759; adapt. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.
Public Domain.

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

Rob Miller

Reader

Alex Urquhart

Intercessor

Rob Miller

Livestream Technical Director

Alex Urquhart

Music

Paul Grimwood

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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