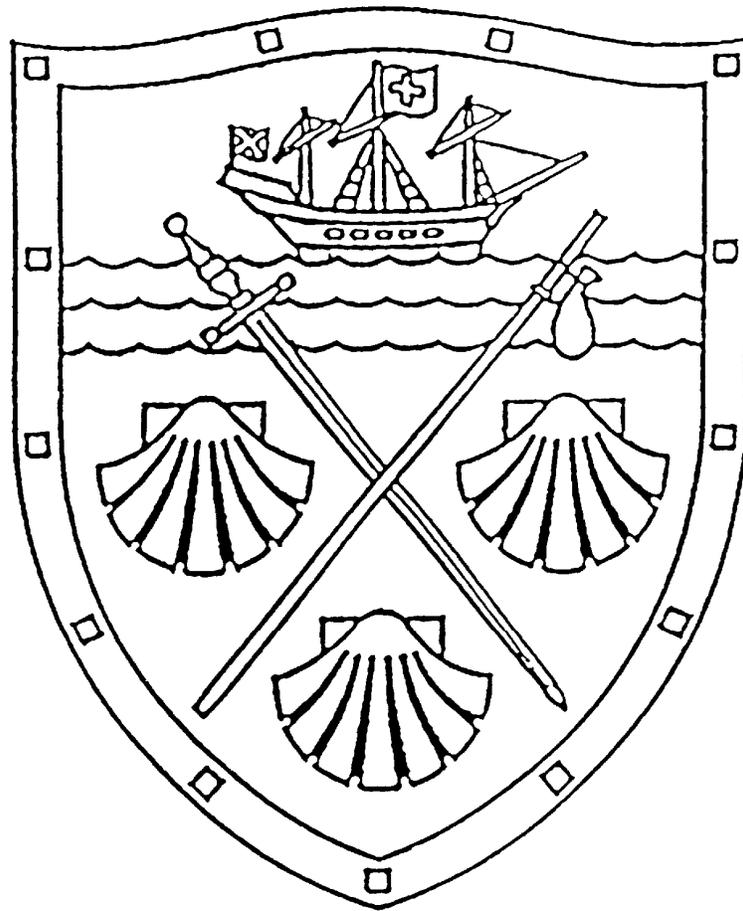


The Cathedral Church of St. James

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

Ante-Communion at 11:00am



*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,
(Come, Saviour of the Nations) BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn - CP 102
Prepare the Way, O Zion

Text: Frans Mikael Franzen; tr. composite; adapt.
Charles P. Price; Music: Melody *Then Svenska*
Psalmboken, 1697; Tune: Bereden Väg För Herran

Cantor Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Greeting

Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant 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 Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord

All **My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour**

One He has come to the help of his servant Israel

All **For he has remembered his promise of mercy.**

The second candle is lit.

One Lord Jesus, we look for your coming as the peace of the world.

All **Kindle your peace in our hearts, we pray.**

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

Please remain standing.

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Reader O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Please remain seated.*

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

One You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

All **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

One I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

All **Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

One Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

All **Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

One The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

All **Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

The Second Reading

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Reader But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

One Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

One Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

All **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1: 1-8

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Gospeller 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."

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Nicene Creed

Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant 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 again 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.

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Offering Hymn - CP 110

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Cantor

“Sleepers wake!” A voice astounds us;
the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight’s peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
“The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.”

Text: Philipp Nicolai; tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr.;
Music: Melody Hans Sachs;
adapt. Philipp Nicolai; Tune: Wachtet Auf

Zion hears the watchmen singing.
 Her heart with joyful hope is springing;
 she wakes and hurries through the night.
 Forth he comes, her bridegroom glorious
 in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
 her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 Now come, most worthy Lord,
 God's Son, incarnate Word, alleluia!
 We follow all and heed your call
 to come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
 let saints and angels sing before you,
 as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
 Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
 through them we stream to join the immortals
 as we with joy your throne surround.
 No eye has known the sight;
 no ear heard such delight: alleluia!
 Therefore we sing to greet our King;
 forever let our praises ring.

Offering Prayer

Officiant All things come of thee; and of thine own have we given thee.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Anthem Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze from Cantata 61
 "Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Cantor Öffne dich, mein ganzes Herze,
 Jesus kömmt und ziehet ein.
 Bin ich gleich nur Staub und Erde,
 Will er mich doch nicht verschmähn,
 Seine Lust an mir zu sehn,
 Daß ich seine Wohnung werde.
 O wie selig werd ich sein!

Open yourself, my whole heart,
 Jesus comes and enters in.
 Even though I am only dust and earth,
 yet He does not scorn
 to reveal His joy to me,
 so that I may be His dwelling.
 O how happy will I be!

The Prayers of the People

Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, looking for the advent of our Saviour, let us pray for the Church and the world.

Intercessor God, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer.**

At the Thanksgiving for the departed:

Intercessor Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

All **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Officiant God of peace, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people. Mercifully accept our requests and grant that we may wait with patience and hope for your Son's Advent among us. We ask this for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

McNeil Robinson

Cantor As our Saviour taught us, let us 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.

Confession and Absolution

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Please kneel, as you are able.

Officiant 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.**

Officiant 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.**

The Peace

Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Blessing

Officiant Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Hymn - CP 114

Text: John Cennick, Charles Wesley, Martin Madan, alt.; Music: Melody attrib. Thomas Olivers and Martin Madan; Tune: Helmsley

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

Cantor Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected, thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

Officiant: The Very Reverend Stephen Vail

Homilist: Claire Latimer-Dennis

Organist: David Simon

Cantor: Rebecca Gray

Lockdown can be a lonely experience for many members of the Cathedral. Not only does it take away the opportunity for in-person worship until at least December 21, it adds the burdens of isolation and disconnectedness to so many who live alone. If you know anyone who would benefit from a call from our pastoral care team, please be in touch with Canon Beth Benson at bbenson@stjamescathedral.ca. Thank you.

LOOKING FOR THE LATEST CATHEDRAL NEWS?

**Sign up for our weekly E-Connections at stjamescathedral.ca
(scroll to the bottom of the page).**

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CONNECTIONS

A REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS FROM THE DROP-IN

During the Christmas season there are many joys and challenges that we all face but this year there are even more because of the COVID pandemic. **The Drop-In will be open on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and we need volunteers for both days.** The meals and gifts will be takeout this year, but we will be celebrating by providing a traditional Turkey Dinner. Volunteers can assist with preparing the meal, packing, serving, and cleaning up at the end of the day. There will also be a small gift to each of our guests. **In addition, donations of chocolates and gloves for adult men and women would also be appreciated.** Thank you for your consideration. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Biasi at 416-364-7865 x. 222 or kbiasi@stjamescathedral.ca.

COMPLINE FOR ADVENT

As we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our Lord, and the coming light into the darkness of our world, join us for a service of Compline every Sunday evening during Advent, at 7:00pm over Zoom. It will be a short family-friendly service (no more than half an hour), with candles, readings, prayers, and time for silent reflection. Email Claire at clatimerdennis@stjamescathedral.ca for the link.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

A beautiful way to remember a loved one at Christmas is through the memorial poinsettias that will be placed in the Cathedral for the season. This year, we will also be placing poinsettias on the Altars and other settings and all names submitted will be noted on the general memorial poinsettias list. Names can be emailed to info@stjamescathedral.ca or called in to the clergy extension at 416-364-7865, ext. *232. We are asking for donations of \$40 (minimum) per name or per couple. Donations will be designated to the Cathedral Flower Fund and are tax-receiptable. Please indicate whether you will be making your payment for your memorial by credit card online or by cheque by mail. **The deadline for submitting memorial names and payment will be Thursday, December 10.**

WHEN CHRISTMAS IS A DIFFICULT TIME

Grief, illness, stress, financial pressures, and painful memories can make Christmas a difficult time for some of us. We invite you to attend a short service of prayer and reflection to help prepare you for the holiday in faith and hope – despite your losses. This year's service "When Christmas is a Difficult Time" will be held on **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:00pm via Zoom**. If you would like to participate in this virtual service, please email info@stjamescathedral.ca or leave a message on the clergy line at 416-364-7865, ext. *232. The Zoom meeting link and password will be distributed during the week of December 6, 2020.

VIRTUAL HYMN SING

Do you miss singing together at church? Join us for our next Virtual Hymn Sing on **Tuesday, December 8 at 7:30pm**. This session will be repeated on **Friday, December 18 at 4:00pm**. We will meet over Zoom to share some hymns sung by members of the Parish Choir and friends. During Virtual Hymn Sing, your microphone is muted when you sing, so you need not worry about how you sound. To receive an invitation, please email irencourage105@gmail.com.