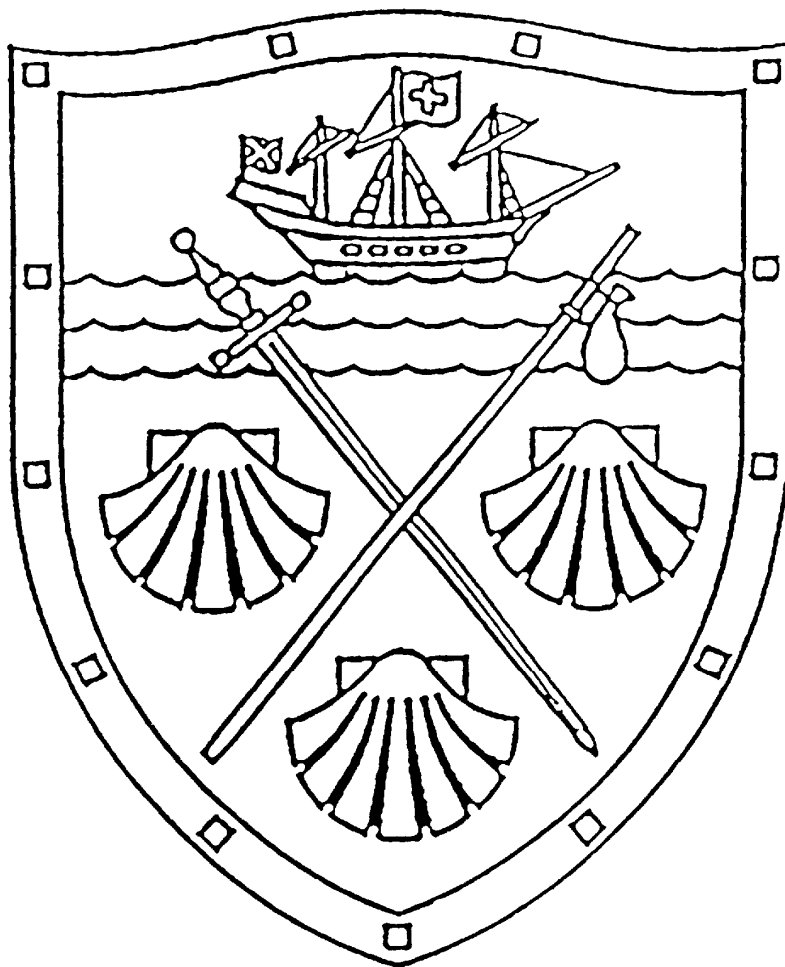


The Cathedral Church of St. James

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

Ante-Communion at 11:00am



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

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Rorate Coeli

Jeanne Demessieux

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn: CP 103 On Jordan's Bank

Text: Charles Coffin; tr. John Chandler, alt.; Music: Melody
Musicalisches Hand-Buch, Hamburg, 1690; Tune: Winchester New

Cantor On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

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 with thy spirit.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Glory to God in the highest heaven

All **And on earth peace, goodwill among people.**

The third candle is lit.

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

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

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

Please remain standing.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to
prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy
mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the
hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming
to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who
livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world
without end.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

Reader 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 brokenhearted, 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Please remain seated.

Psalm 126

One When the LORD restored the fortunes of Sion,
then were we like unto them that dream.

All **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with joy.**

One Then said they among the nations,
'The LORD hath done great things for them.'

All **Yea, the LORD hath done great things for us already;
whereof we rejoice.**

One Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
as the rivers in the South.

All **They that sow in tears
 shall reap in joy.**

One He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth his seed,
All **shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.**

The Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

Reader Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand, as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Cantor Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

All **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Gospeller 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.

Gospeller
People

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Homily

The Nicene Creed

Please stand, as you are able.

Officiant
All

I believe in one God
the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us all and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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Offering Hymn: CP 99
Break, Day of God, O Break

Text: Henry Burton; Music: Charles Steggall;
Tune: Christchurch

Cantor Break, day of God, O break! The night has lingered long.
Our hearts with sighing wake; we weep for sin and wrong:
O bright and morning star, draw near; O Sun of Righteousness, appear.

Break, day of God, O break! The earth with strife is worn;
the hills with thunder shake, hearts of the people mourn:
break, day of God, sweet day of peace, and bid the shout of warriors cease.

Break, day of God, O break, like to the days above!
Let purity awake, and faith, and hope, and love.
But lo! We see the brightening sky; the golden morn is drawing nigh.

Offering Prayer

Officiant All things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.
People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Anthem This is the Truth sent from Above *Arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams*
Cantor This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love:
Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run, that he would redeem us by his Son.

And at this season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear,
And here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say:

"Go preach the Gospel," now he said, "To all the nations that are made!
And he that does believe on me, from all his sins I'll set him free."

The Intercession

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, hear our prayer

People **And let our cry come unto thee.**

At the Thanksgiving for the departed:

Intercessor Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,

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

Officiant God of joy, 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

Merbecke

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

Cantor 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 them that 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.

Confession and Absolution

Officiant Let us humbly confess our sins to almighty God.

Please kneel, as you are able.

Officiant Almighty God,

All **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**

For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting 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 with thy spirit.**

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 111

Text: Moir A.J. Waters, alt.; Music: Melody Joachim
Neander, alt.; Tune: Neander (Unser Herrscher)

Herald! Sound the Note of Judgment

Cantor Herald! Sound the note of judgment, warning note of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness, till once more we sing the song.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ the Saviour King has come!

Herald! Sound the note of gladness! Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ the Saviour King has come!

Herald! Sound the note of pardon! Those repenting are forgiven;
God restores the wayward children, and to all new life is given.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ the Saviour King has come!

Herald! Sound the note of triumph! Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power, granting victory in our strife.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ the Saviour King has come!

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Fugue from "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

Max Reger

Officiant: Claire Latimer-Dennis

Homilist: The Very Reverend Stephen Vail

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

UPDATE REGARDING CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Due to the pandemic, we will not be holding in-person Christmas services this year. We invite you to join us for **live-streamed services** with Bishop Andrew Asbil on **Christmas Eve at 7:30pm** and **Christmas Day at 11:00am**. You can watch services on the Diocesan Facebook page at www.facebook.com/torontoanglican. Stay safe and know we pray for the people of the city and diocese each day.

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.

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 to receive the Zoom Meeting link and password.

LESSONS & CAROLS: FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST

Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of Canada, invites you to a national service of Lessons and Carols on **Friday, December 18 at 8:00pm**. Your Cathedral will be involved and we hope you can attend. To register and attend go to www.anglican.ca/lessonsandcarols. This sounds like a wonderful event!

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.

VIRTUAL HYMN SING

Do you miss singing together at church? Join us for our next Virtual Hymn Sing 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 irenecourage105@gmail.com.