

WELCOME TO
ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
5 December 2021, Second Sunday of Advent

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude & Acknowledgement
Opening Hymn #89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lighting of the Traveling Advent Wreath
Speaker: The themes of Advent are hope, peace, joy and love. Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. The second candle represents peace.

Matthew: I leave you peace, my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. So don't let your hearts be troubled. Don't be afraid." (*John 14:27, ICB*)

The candles for hope and peace are lit.

Matthew: God of peace, you made peace between us and yourself through the gift of your son. You who bless the peacemakers, may the fruit of your Holy Spirit work PEACE in our hearts and in our lives so that, through our actions, through our words, through our treatment of others, Christ would be known in this world. In the name of the one who made PEACE between us and you, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRANT: 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.

CELEBRANT: Almighty God,

ALL: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God

**ALL: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

All: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us to turn our 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. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Baruch 5:1-9, Vicki Strang reading

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him. The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:68-79, The Nunc Dimittis, read responsively

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

That we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

The oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us

That we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

To give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Philippians 1:3-11, Joshua Johnson reading

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. The word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

The Gospel

Priscilla Koop: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

Vicki: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke.

PEOPLE: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Priscilla: The Gospel of Christ.

ALL: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: The Rev. Madeleine Urion

Music for reflection

The Nicene Creed

CELEBRANT: 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.

Prayers of the People, Lindsay Robinson leading

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence is kept.

CELEBRANT: 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.

CELEBRANT: 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

CELEBRANT: Know in your life the love of God, the forgiveness of sins and the joy of salvation. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE: And also with you.

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn #645 Come Down, O Love Divine

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

ALL: God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CELEBRANT: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

CELEBRANT: 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.

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth of your glory are full, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! (*sung twice*)

CELEBRANT: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; . . . Therefore, Father, according to his command,

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

CELEBRANT: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving . . . 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.

ALL: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer Music: Gordon Light

CELEBRANT: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

ALL: 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.

Breaking of the Bread

CELEBRANT: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

ALL: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

CELEBRANT: The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

All are welcome to receive Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

Agnus Dei Common Praise #747

ALL: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy upon us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.

Hymn after Communion #100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Prayer after Communion

ALL: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

CELEBRANT: Glory to God,

ALL: 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 Blessing

CELEBRANT: The love and light of God scatter the darkness from before you and guide your feet into the way of peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. And may you always know how beautiful and beloved you are in God's sight.

ALL: Amen.

Announcements (See below)

Final Hymn #5 Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

CELEBRANT: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship leadership today: Lynne Reckhow and Jeanette Buckingham, tech. Vicki Strang, Joshua Johnson and Priscilla Koop, readers. Lindsay, prayers. Aaron Parker, music. Mary Nelson, altar guild.

Prayer Requests

For those in need: David, John and family, Erin, Cindy, Heather, Anna, Richard, Alistair, Aariel, Lorne, Adriana, Mike, Ava, Cecelia, Grace, Elliott, Lorraine, Sarah, Merle, Ivor, Chandra and Sheila. In our world: the Diocese of Saskatoon, the Rt. Rev. Chris Harper, Bishop. All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton: Alexandra Meek, Rector and Dean; Ruth Sesink Bott, Vicar; Robin Gibbons, International Ecumenical Canon; Fr. Michael Lapsley, Honorary Canon for Healing and Reconciliation; Scott Sharman, Canon Theologian in Mission; Gwen Bright, Alan Perry, Honorary Assistants; John Gee, Honorary Vocational Deacon; Sara Kate Edwards-Smith, Executive Assistant. Buyé Diocese, Mbaba Parish: Jeremy Ndikumana, catechist. All First Nations people of Treaty 6.

Evening Prayer: Your local college of Anglican clergy is offering a short, quiet, contemplative moment of communal prayer at the end of each weekday to ground yourself in the beauty, challenge, and spirit of Advent. Every weekday evening at 7:00 pm in Advent on Zoom, November 29th-Dec 23rd. The link is available at: <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/events/advent-prayer-with-parishes-of-whitemud-deanery/2021-11-29>

Tune in once or tune in each day for all four weeks!

Advent Concert: Saturday, December 18th at 7:00pm at St. George's and on Zoom, Harmonia Chamber Music Ensemble will be treating us to a performance and a Christmas Carol sing-along! This is a fundraiser "by donation". We are required to cap the number of those in attendance personally, and an online registration portal will be offered closer to the date. Come for some live music and Christmas cheer!

Christmas Services:

The Longest Night Service Tuesday Dec 21 @ 7pm on Zoom. This is a service of prayer and reflection for those who deal with grief or who find the holidays to be challenging for any reason.

Christmas Eve Service of Holy Eucharist at 4:30 on Dec 24th, in person and on Zoom.

Christmas Day Service of Holy Eucharist at 10am on Dec 25th, in person.

There are now multiple ways to give to St. George's:

-our e-transfer email address is stgeorgeedmonton@gmail.com

- you can give through our website

- you can offer your gift by cheque or cash in an envelope

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Rector's Warden: Pat Kirkland
People's Warden: Jeanette Buckingham