

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8th, 2019 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Adagio from Sonata III (Alexandre Guilmant)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 101

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Here let heaven and earth embrace;
here may God's people find home.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us.

There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet. We claim hope for the journey, because we follow the one who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

We place our hope in this one.

We light the candles of peace and of hope to give us strength for the journey.

The first and second candles are lit.

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of justice, clear our lives of hatred and despair and sow in us seeds of joy and peace; so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us as we await the coming of the Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19



Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 105

Where Jordan Cuts the Wilderness

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild

honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

Ecce Novum (Ola Gjeilo)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God,
in whom is power and compassion.

**We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing into space, shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.**

**God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each one of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.**

**He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity, forgave his enemies and changed lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us,
opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 106

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life: friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden potentials we never knew we had, and beauty – serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you have crafted and the words, the sounds, the colours with which people reflect and explore life.

We love you, holy God, for not leaving us alone, because in Jesus you became tangible: hands touched him, tears touched him, generosity touched him. And he has touched us. That is why we are here.

That is why across time and eternity we sing because we cannot keep silent:

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Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and earth are
full of your glo-ry. ____ Ho- san - na in the high-est. ____ Bless ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. ____ Ho- san - na in the high-est, ____ ho- san - na in the high - est.

God, we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, summoned to your table.

It was on a night when old, familiar stories were retold, that Jesus and his friends engaged in the sacred meal which Jews call Passover.

During that meal, rich in food and in memory, Jesus took a piece of bread. After he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

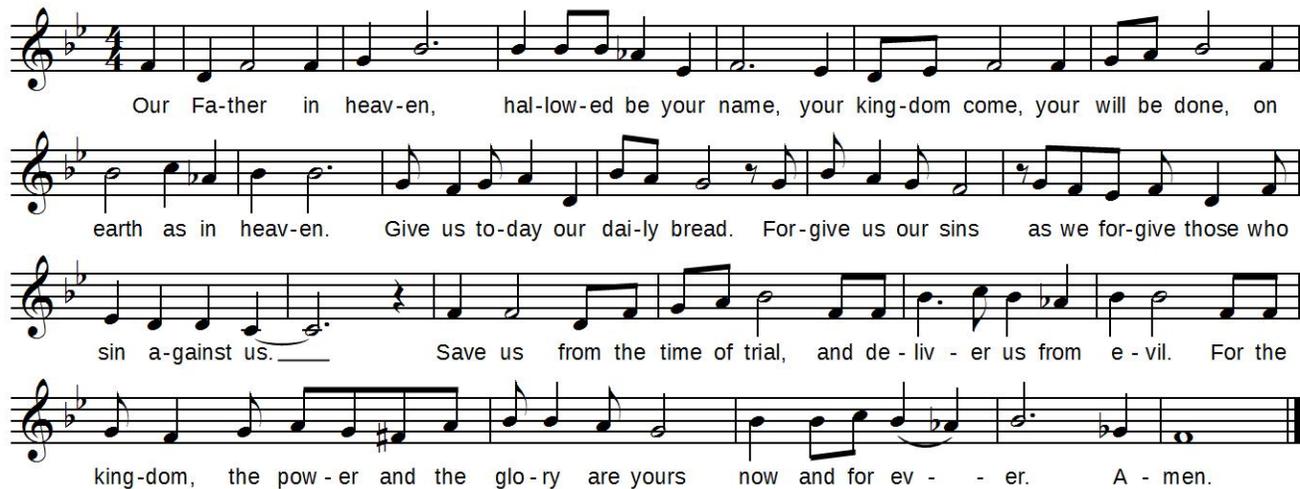
Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine, and having given thanks over it, he gave it to his disciples with the words, 'In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me.'

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality, God, let your Spirit move among us ✠ and be present in the food we share so that this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Open our eyes to see him, our hearts to hear him, our hands to hold him, our hearts to receive him, our souls to cherish him. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev-er. A-men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

As Jesus broke bread,
we break this bread.

As Jesus took wine,
we take this cup.

As his first disciples shared communion in an upstairs room,
we share these gifts and feed on them in our hearts with love and gratitude.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

O Rex gentium (Gordon Johnston)

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.**

Generous God,
**in our world some hunger for food, and others for meaning;
you have blessed this place and time, where we have been fed in many ways;
bless us now, as we go on – sharing food for the journey,
finding companions on the way. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Now go from here – may the Creator go with you, Christ companion you, the Spirit enliven you, and the Trinity bless you, ✠ so that you may know God's presence today and every day. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 111

Herald, Sound the Note of Judgement

DISMISSAL

Go in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune and March (Jeremiah Clarke)

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| <i>Presider</i> | The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff |
| <i>Preacher & Deacon</i> | The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros |
| <i>Organist & Choirmaster</i> | Dr Gordon Johnston |

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To find out what is happening in the parish, please see This Week at St John's (TWSJ) on our website (www.stjohnsottawa.ca) or pick up a hard copy on the table at the Elgin Street entrance.

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