



Lessons and Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22 2019

Processional Prelude

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Bidding Prayers & Introductions

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the ﬁrst days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But ﬁrst, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and love within the Church he came to build, and especially in this community of Caledon.

*Silent prayer for peace, unity & reconciliation, in the world, in the Church, and in our own lives.*

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his Name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

*Silent prayer for those in need.*

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made ﬂesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one.

*Silent remembrance of our departed friends & loved ones.*

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**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 those who 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**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all. **Amen**.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3: 8-19 (The Fall)

*Read by Betty Clark.*

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Carol: #154 Joy to the World

Second Lesson: Isaiah 7: 14; 9:2, 6-7 (The prophesy of Messiah’s birth)

*Read by Geoff Clark.*

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol: #89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Choir Anthem: Emmanuel is Coming

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9 (The Righteous Branch)

*Read by Donna Davies.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and 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 of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol: #117 Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Fourth Lesson:Micah 5: 2-5a(The messiah will be born in Bethlehem)

*Read by John Heighton.*

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Carol: #121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35 (The Annunciation)

*Read by Christina Heighton.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark, the herald-angels sing
‘Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.’
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!'**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,**  **Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***

**Come, Desire of Nations, come,
fix in us thy humble Home.
Rise, the Woman's Conqu'ring Seed,
bruise in us the Serpent's head.
Now display thy saving power,
ruined nature now restore.
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***

**Adam's likeness, LORD, efface,
stamp thy Image in its place.
Second Adam from above,
re-instate us in thy Love.
Let us Thee, tho' lost, regain,
Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:
O! to all Thyself impart,
formed in each believing heart.**

***Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.***

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2: 1-16 (The Birth of Jesus)

*Read by Robin Holder.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Choir Anthems: In the Stable Howard Jones

 When a Baby is Born

Seventh Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11 (The Wise Men are led by the star) *Read by Irma Proctor.*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Carol: #122 In the Bleak Midwinter

Eighth Lesson: John 1: 1-14 (The Incarnation of the Word of God)

*Read by Claire Olorenshaw.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol: #118 O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1-4)

Ninth Lesson: Colossians 1: 9-19 ( The Supremacy of Christ)

*Read by Ruth Sowrey.*

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Carol: Of the Father’s Love Begotten #132

**Solo: Joanne Redhead**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.**Duet: Gordon Morton & Howard Jones**  | 2. At his Word the worlds were framed.He commanded, it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one; all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun, evermore and evermore. |
| 3. O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savour of our race, and the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore. | 4. This is he whom seers in old timechanted of with one accord;whom the voices of the prophetspromised in their faithful word.now He shines, the Long-expected;let creation praise its Lordevermore and evermore. |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Choir:**5. O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.**Congregation:****6. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,And, O Holy Ghost, to theehymn and chant and high thanksgivingand unending praises be,honor, glory, and dominion,and eternal victory,evermore and evermore.** |  |

The Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent:

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements:

Recessional: Instrumental Music

Dismissal: As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



**Please join us now for refreshments in the Parish Hall.**

Thank you to

Brenda Cassell, Chancel Guild

George Judge & Jim Cassell, Sidespeople

John Heighton, Sound Tech



**Please Remember in your Prayers this Week:**

**Those in Need:** Ross, Joan, Amanda, Carly, Camden, Beryl, Heleen, Pieter, Edna, Alex, Norm & Lois, Hal.

**Our Deanery:** Rev. David Bryant and the people of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Brampton.

**Our Parish:** Ruth Sowrey & Joe Campbell, Norm & Lois Taylor, June Tkach and their families.

**More of What’s Happening at St. James**

**Financial update:** currently our general purpose givings for 2019 are $83,975.48, while the budget for year-end is $108,000. Thus we still need to raise $24,024.52 by December 31. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**Tue. 24 Dec. 7:00 pm. Candlelight Choral Eucharist for Christmas.**

**Wed. 25 Dec. 10:00 am. Christmas Day Eucharist.**

**Sun. 29 Dec. 10:30 am. One service only.**

**A schedule for Sunday School curriculum and the opportunity to sign up for volunteering is on the bulletin board outside the office. Please consider** **donating your time to this very worthwhile endeavor**



**Christmas Eve Roster – December 24**

Deacon: David Finch

Server: Chris Mackey

Greeters/Sidespeople: Jim Farmer & Diane Allengame, John & Christina Heighton,

Donna & Chuck Davies

Reader: Cobina Price-Jones

Chancel: Christina Heighton

Sound Tech: Neil Price-Jones

Intercessor: Diane Allengame

 **December 29**

Sidespeople: Al & Gill Lawrie

Reader: David Finch

Chancel: Robin Holder

Sound Tech: Chuck Davies

Intercessor: Irma Proctor

Priest in Charge: Rev. Chris Dow

 Parish Administrator: Ruth Sowrey stjamesoffice6025@gmail.com 905-584-9635

Rector’s Warden: David Finch

People’s Warden: Claire Olorenshaw

Choir Director: Joanne Redhead

Organist: Mary Judge

Website: stjamescaledoneast.ca

Find us on facebook @stjamescaledoneast

 Follow us on twitter:  @StJamesCaledon