

Sunday, December 13, 2020: Advent 3 – Joy

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. (Isaiah 61:1)*



**Opening Song: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee  
Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

Hark a herald voice is sounding

Christ is nigh it seems to say

Cast away the dreams of darkness

O ye children of the day

Honour, glory, might, and blessing

To the Father and the Son

With the everlasting Spirit

While eternal ages run

**Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy**

**All: In a distressing and despairing world, we are called to share God’s joy, a joy that cannot be purchased or packaged.**

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet announced it. The Spirit of God is with me, because I have been chosen to bring good news to the abused, to bandage the wounds of the heartbroken, and to release those who are in prisons of all kinds. I am here to proclaim a good year in God’s sight, a time when things will be set right.

Reader Two: I am here to comfort the grieving and to dress them for happy times instead of sad ones.

Reader One: The people who are healed and comforted will be like strong trees, upright and loyal to God. They will be like a forest planted to show God’s glory. They will rebuild the world and show everyone God’s power.

Reader Two: We wait for the day of God’s joy, and live in God’s peace and hope, as we light these candles.

*Please pause as we light three candles, then respond:*

**All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world! Grant us the courage to share Your joy, as we proclaim the joy of the world, God-with-us, Emmanuel.**

**Penitential Rite**

Leader: Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence is Kept*

**All:** **Most merciful God, 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.**

Leader: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.

**All:Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

Leader: Lord, open our lips,

**All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

Leader: The kingdom of God is at hand: O come, let us worship.

**All: Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

**The Reading of Scripture**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*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 favor, 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.**

Canticle: Psalm 126

*1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \**

*then were we like those who dream.*

*2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \**

*and our tongue with shouts of joy.*

*3 Then they said among the nations, \**

*“The Lord has done great things for them.”*

*4 The Lord has done great things for us, \**

*and we are glad indeed.*

*5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \**

*like the watercourses of the Negev.*

*6 Those who sowed with tears \**

*will reap with songs of joy.*

*7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \**

*will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.*

*Prayer: Praise to you, God of our salvation. Your generous gifts surpass all that we can ask or imagine. You have delivered us from the exile of sin and restored us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Glory and honour and praise to you for ever and ever. Amen.*

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*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.**

**Processional Chorus – *Ready My Heart***

Ready my heart

For the birth of Immanuel

Ready my soul

For the Prince of Peace

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, Christ the Saviour will come

**The Gospel Reading**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

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

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

*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.*

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Worship Through Song**

***Ready My Heart***

Ready my heart

For the birth of Immanuel

Ready my soul for the Prince of Peace

Heap the straw of my life

For His body to lie on

Light the candle of hope

Let the Child come in

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, Christ the Saviour will come

Mine is the home

That is poor and is barren

Mine is the stable of cold and stone

Break the light to each corner

Of doubt and of darkness

Now the Word is made flesh

For the birth of me

Alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, Christ the Saviour will come

***Even So, Lord Jesus Come***

Even so, Lord Jesus come

O divine and glorious Son

Though we live as your body

Here on earth

Even so, Lord Jesus come

Holy Father, sovereign Lord

Your creations one adored

By Your hand we receive Your majesty

Even so, Lord Jesus come

Holy Spirit, breath of life

Light a path through darkest night

In Your care

We confess our deepest sigh

Even so, Lord Jesus come

(*Repeat first verse*)

**Listening Time**

**Sermon by Alison Hurlburt – Sermon Notes:**

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**Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed**

**All:**  **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Leader: In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer,

saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!” O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires. Remembering those in the St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer: Paul, Jennifer, and Caroline Jacquier; Laurier and Margot Byer; Betty Kavuma; and Val Tilburn; as well as all of those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Leader: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

**All: Lord Jesus, come soon! Amen.**

**The Collect**

Leader: God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he come, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Leader: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All: 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.**

**Congregational Announcements *(Rev. Myron)***

**Closing Song: *There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying***

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying

A call from the ways untrod

Prepare in the desert a highway

A highway for our God

The valleys shall be exalted

The lofty hills brought low

Make straight all the crooked places

Where the Lord our God may go

O Zion, give voice to good tidings

Ascend to the heights and sing!

Proclaim to a desolate people

The coming of their King

The works of pride all perish

Like flowers they shall decay

The power and pomp of nations

Shall pass like a dream away

But Your word, O God, is faithful

Your arm, O Lord, is strong

You stand in the midst of nations

And You will right the wrong

You will feed Your flock like a shepherd

And fold the lambs to Your breast

In pastures of peace You’ll lead them

And give to the weary rest

(*Repeat first verse*)

**The Dismissal**Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Giving Options**

Many of you have asked how to give while the building is closed for in-person services. The following giving options are available:

* E-transfer: E-transfers may be emailed to office@stpauls-anglican.ca.
* Credit Transaction (one time or monthly): If you would like to set up a one-time or monthly credit gift, please email the office and RJ will send you the correct form.
* Pre-Authorized Debit (one time or monthly): If you would like to set up a one-time or monthly pre-authorized debit giving, please email the office and RJ will send you the correct form.
* Cash or Cheque: Cash can be dropped off at the church. Please check in with RJ or Myron before coming to make sure we are onsite. Cheques can be left in the church mailbox, dropped off during open hours, or mailed to the church office at any time. Please do not leave cash in the mailbox.

**No In-Person Services at St. Paul’s until at least January 10**

Following the Government of Alberta declaring a state of public health emergency, along with stricter, mandatory measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, Bishop Jane has made the decision to keep church buildings in the Diocese closed until at least Epiphany (January 6, 2021) which means we will not be having in-person services until at least January 10.

Services will continue to be live streamed at 10:00AM on Sunday mornings. The Christmas Eve service will be live streamed at 7:00PM on December 24 and a special Christmas Day service will be pre-recorded and available for viewing on our YouTube Channel from 9:00AM onwards on December 25.

The office will remain closed over this time with staff working from home as much as possible. If you need to meet with any member of staff, please email them directly to set up an appointment.

Please keep each other in your prayers over this unusual time.

**2021 Offering Envelopes**

2021 Offering envelopes are available to pick up in the foyer. If you do not currently use/have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact the office. Of course, picking up the envelopes is a bit tricky at the moment but if you want them prior to when the church reopens for in-person services, please let RJ or Myron know and we will figure out a time that you can come by to pick them up.

**RightNow Media Subscription Ending**

Thank you to all who responded to our fall survey a few months ago. As part of that survey, most of those that responded indicated they were not accessing RightNow content consistently and the decision has been made to not renew the subscription for St. Paul's. Content will continue to be available until the end of 2020 but our subscription expires on December 31, 2020 and users associated with St. Paul's will no longer be able to access subscriber content past that point.

**Community Corner for December 13**

**Grovenor Elementary School** is aiming to provide a few hampers to the families who are most in need in their community. We are waiting on final numbers. Please watch for an extra email that will be sent in the next few days from Michelle Schurek, as we need to clarify details of whether we can only provide gift cards or actual hampers. Right now the estimate is 6 hampers or about $1500, as the various recipients have 4-6 children in each family.

Do you know about Alberta's 211 line? Need assistance with mental health or other needs? 211 is an essential service that helps Albertans find the right resource or service for whatever issue they need help with at the right time. 211 is available 24/7 by phone, text and chat. The service is free, confidential and available in over 170 languages over the phone. Visit their website <https://ab.211.ca/> for more information.

How about a **fun murder mystery** to share with friends online? Visit <https://www.mymysteryparty.com/virtual-murder-mystery-games/> for full details!



**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Diocese of Central Newfoundland: the Rt. Rev. JohnWatton, Bishop. St. Timothy, Edmonton: Lorne Manweiler,Rector; Donald Gray, Honorary Assistant; PamGaskin,Parish Secretary. Buyé Diocese, Giheta Parish: AudaceGahungu, Rector. Louis Bull Tribe.

**Next Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Jodi and Team

Service Team: None (no in-person service)

Reader/Prayers: Jodi and Team

**This Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Andrew and Team

Service Team: None

Reader/Prayers: Andrew and Team

**St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer:**

Paul, Jennifer, and Caroline Jacquier;

Laurier and Margot Byer;

Betty Kavuma;

Val Tilburn

**For Care/Concern Team   
or other prayer requests,** **email**:

office@stpauls-anglican.ca

**For urgent prayer requests call**

the church office: (780) 455-0771

**For pastoral emergencies call:**

(587) 334-2130

@StEdmonton

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**St. Paul’s Vestry:**

Paul Dowie, *Rector’s Warden*

Margot Byer, *People’s Warden*

David Heritage, *Treasurer*

Barb Dixon, *Vestry Member*

John Green, *Vestry Member*

Deanna Kalles, *Vestry Member*

David Parker, *Vestry Member*

Carol Rudat, *Vestry Member*

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed: Fri/Sat/Sun and Stat Holidays

**St. Paul’s Anglican Church**

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**St. Paul’s Staff:**

*Rector:* The Rev. Myron B. Penner  
*Community Outreach:* Michelle Schurek

*Youth Leader:* Abigail Harding

*Office Administrator:* RJ Chambers