

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa

Anishinabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan.
This land we are upon is the traditional territory of the Algonquin people.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 23rd, 2018 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Prière à Notre Dame (Léon Boëllman)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 111

Herald, Sound the Note of Judgement

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Grace and peace from God our Creator, and the Lord Jesus Christ,
be with you.

And also with you.

"In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David."

Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband,
doing what was necessary for the sake of his family,
the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God.
There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

**Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us,
migrating far from home when there is no choice,
fiercely devoted to the ones they love,
unwavering in their belief that there is room for all
in the kin-dom of God.**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who
knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

The first, second, third, and fourth candles are lit.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Merciful God, you come into our midst longing for communion with us, becoming one of us. Break our resistance to life with you, show us the path toward just relations, and bring us into your unimaginable love; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

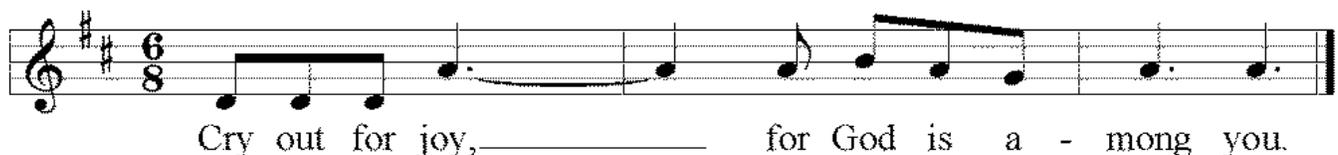
You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 18

Luke 1:47-55



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 269

Heavenly Message

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day (John Gardner)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because he loved us first.
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

God our Creator,

**we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God, who is both power and love, forgives you, ✠ frees you from your sins,
heals and strengthens you by his Spirit, and raises you to new life
in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 362

Tell Out, My Soul

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your
Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus
Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might. Heav'n__ and earth__ are
full__ of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est. Blest is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving God. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

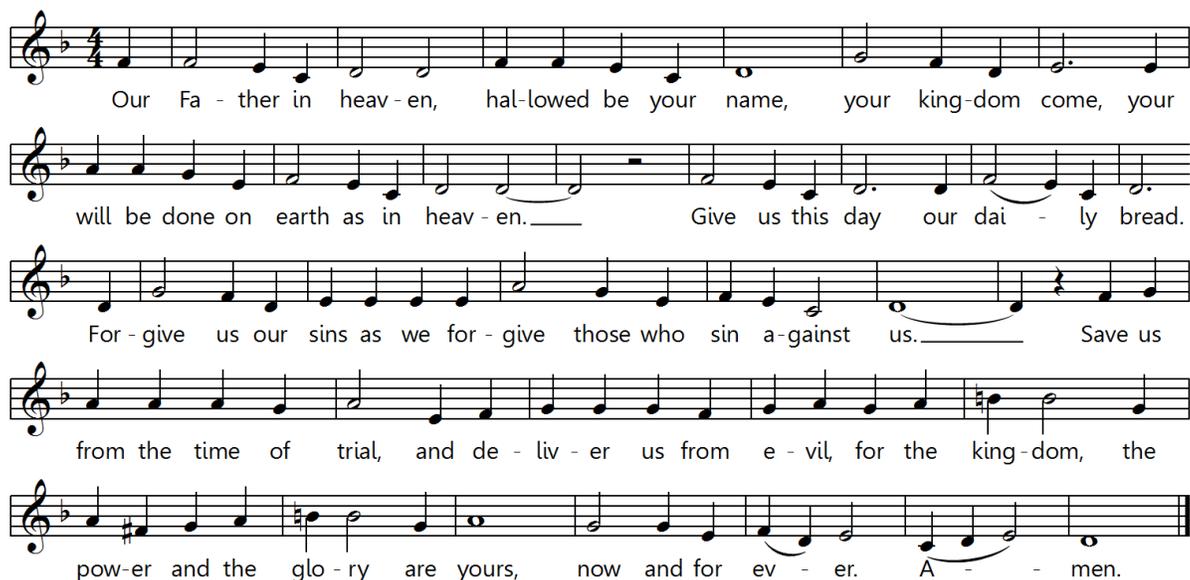
Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us ✠ and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav - en. — Give us this 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.

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

Hail, Blessed Virgin Mary (Charles Wood)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.

May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Loving God,

your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son.

May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom,

live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love,

until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you

and scatter the darkness from before your path;

and the blessing of God be upon you ✠ this day and always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 89

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

DISMISSAL

Go in love, to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O How Shall I Receive Thee? (Carman Milligan)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Presider</i> | The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff |
| <i>Preacher</i> | Bryan Bondy |
| <i>Deacon</i> | The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros |
| <i>Organist</i> | Dr Gordon Johnston |

Advent Wreath: *Discipleship Ministries* is an agency of The United Methodist Church © 2018 Discipleship Ministries. All Rights Reserved.
Liturgy: *Scottish Liturgy 1982* © The Scottish Episcopal Church, published by the General Synod Office of the Scottish Episcopal Church.
Collect: *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* © 2012 John Knox Press. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm: ©2001 Gordon Johnston.

ST JOHN'S CONTACT INFO

The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff, Rector
beth@stjohnsottawa.ca
The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros, Deacon
caroline@stjohnsottawa.ca
BGen (ret'd) The Venerable John Fletcher,
The Reverend Canon Dr Gary Hauch,
The Reverend Michael Hicks,
Honourary Assistants
Dr Gordon Johnston, Organist
gordon@stjohnsottawa.ca
Laura Macdonald, Church Administrator
laura@stjohnsottawa.ca