

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1st, 2019 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness (J.S. Bach)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 89

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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

Our Advent journey begins with rules of the road. We are on the way to where God would have us be, and we're not there yet. But how shall we go?

We shall go together, as one body, living and trusting in one another.

We shall go as this community of faith, working side by side, and leaning into the grace of God every step of the way. We shall go in peace.

Isaiah says that in days to come, the nations shall stream to the mountain of the Lord, and there we will beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks; there, we will learn war no more.

God will teach us peace.

We light this first candle to burn as sign of peace among all people.

The first candle is lit.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, so that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 122



Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.

For there are the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

THE SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far

gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 88

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

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.

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

The Glory of the Father (Egil Hovland)

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 97

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.
And also with you.

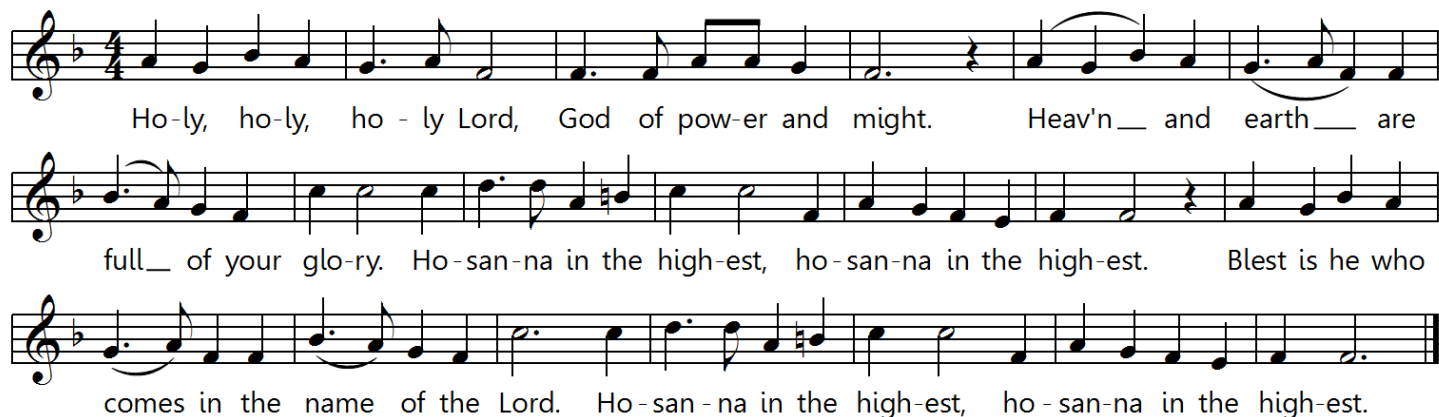
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to God.

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:



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.

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-owed 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.

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

Advent Antiphon (Gordon Johnston)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before your Son.
We ask this in the name of 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 114

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From Heaven on High to Earth I Come (Johann Pachelbel)

Presider & Preacher The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff
Organist & Choirmaster 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.

ST JOHN'S CONTACT INFO

The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff, Rector
beth@stjohnsottawa.ca

The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros, Deacon
caroline@stjohnsottawa.ca

The Right Reverend Dennis Drainville, Bishop in Residence
dennis@stjohnsottawa.ca

BGen (ret'd) The Venerable John Fletcher & The Reverend Canon Dr Gary Hauch,
Honourary Assistants

The Reverend Michael Hicks, Honourary Assistant Emeritus
Dr Gordon Johnston, Organist & Choirmaster
gordon@stjohnsottawa.ca

Laura Macdonald, Church Administrator
laura@stjohnsottawa.ca

154 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K2P 0H8
Monday to Friday, 9 am to 1 pm (613) 232-4500 www.stjohnsottawa.ca
