

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22nd, 2019 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Prière à Notre Dame (Léon Boëllman)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 111

Herald, Sound the Note of Judgement

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

One thing we have learned on our Advent journey is that it is better not to go alone. We live in a do-it-yourself culture that celebrates the individual. But faith is not something that we can do on our own.

We need companions on the journey; we need others to support us and strengthen us and encourage us. We put our journey in the hands of many people around us; and although it is a risk, we are better for it.

We learn to trust that someone has our back, as we make this journey of faith.

Matthew reminds us that when God chose to come to earth the first time, God chose to trust in people to help make it happen. God trusted in Mary, and God trusted in Joseph.

In turn, we trust in God to be faithful to the promise and to sustain us through many others as we continue our journey of faith.

We light the candles of peace, hope, joy, and love, as our circle is complete.

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

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms. Grant perseverance and patience to all who long for your Son's return, so that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

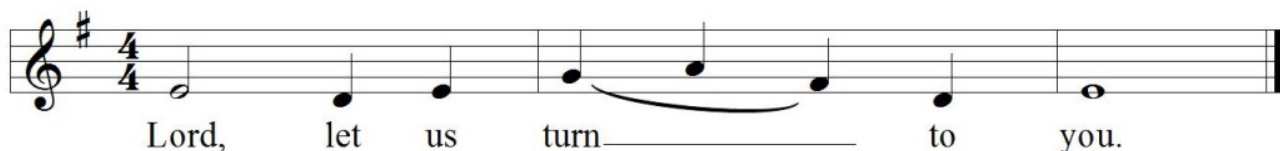
Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?"

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 269

Heavenly Message

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

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.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

Of a Rose, a Lovely Rose (John Rutter)

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 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

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

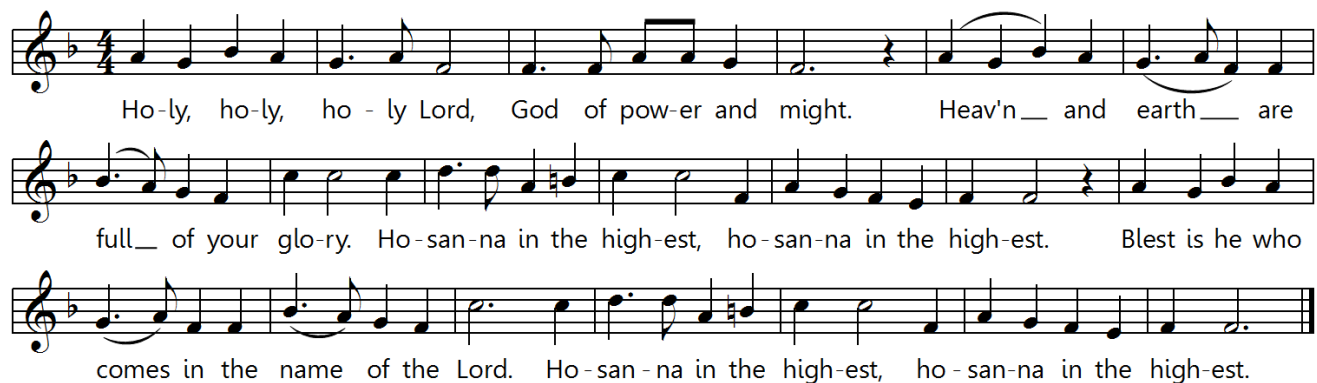
Let us give thanks to our Creator.

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 ears 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-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.

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

Gabriel's Message (Traditional Carol)

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.**

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 89

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

DISMISSAL

Go in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Finale jubilante (Healey Willan)

<i>Presider</i>	The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff
<i>Preacher</i>	The Reverend Canon Rob Heard
<i>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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