

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29th, 2019 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

Preludes on Carol-melodies by Denizot (A.P.F. Boëly)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 123

Once in Royal David's City

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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Loving God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148



Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded,
and they were created.

He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens, old and young together.
Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:13-23

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 after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he

had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

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 129

No Crowded Eastern Street

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask 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 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.

COMMUNION

The Old Year Hath Passed Away (J.S. Bach)

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask 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.**

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 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

DISMISSAL

Go, in love and new life!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Rigaudon (André Campra)

Presider & Preacher BGen (ret'd) The Venerable John Fletcher
Organist & Choirmaster Dr Gordon Johnston

Prayers of the Day: *The Book of Alternative Services* © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
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 Music by Gordon Johnston © 2011.
Eucharistic Liturgy: *Iona Abbey Worship Book* © 2016 The Iona Community, published by Wild Goose Publications (Permission for use given by the Bishop of Ottawa, January 2019).

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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