

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 10th, 2023

10:30am Holy Eucharist

*The crèche (nursery) is downstairs and is available for use by parents of babies and toddlers.
Children are invited to head downstairs before the service for programming,
and will rejoin their caregivers during The Peace so they may participate together in Communion.*

Prelude: 'Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen'

J. Brahms

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God

Opening Hymn: CP #91 People, Look East! The Time Is Near

PLEASE STAND

People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled;

even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,

shining beyond the frosty weather,

bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming

with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Welcome & Greeting

Presider: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

The children are invited to come forward for the lighting of the Advent Wreath. During the singing of 'Advent Gathering', children may proceed downstairs for children's programming.

Reader: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Reader: At that time John the Baptism came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!'".

We light this candle to remind us of the last of the prophets, John the Baptist, who called all people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. He asked us all to search our own hearts, and rid ourselves of the dark things that keep us from God and from each other.

The second candle is lit.

Presider: Let us pray.

Father, you sent us John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah. Help us to prepare our hearts for Christ to be born in them, and to prepare our world for Christ to come and restore the kingdom.

Amen.

Hymn: Advent Gathering

Where is the peace you promised the widow? Show us your face, O promise of dawn.

Where is the home you promised the orphan? Show us your face, O Lord Jesus, come.

Come, O hope of your people. Come among us and stay.

Lead us in mercy up from the shadows, shine in our darkness, be here today.

Prayer of the Day

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read and respond to God's message in scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

PLEASE BE SEATED

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord - I will re -
 joyce, come to God, do not be a-fraid. Lift up your
 voi - ces, the Lord is near; lift up a voi - ces, the Lord is near

Music: J. Berthier
 Taizé Community
 © G.I.A. Publications

Choir: Show us your mercy, O Lord, * and grant us your salvation.
 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, * for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

People: **In the Lord I'll ever be thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice**
Come to God, do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

Choir: Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, * that his glory may dwell in our land.
 Mercy and truth have met together; * righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

People: **In the Lord I'll ever be thankful . . .**

Choir: Truth shall spring up from the earth, * and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, * and our land will yield its increase.

People: **In the Lord I'll ever be thankful . . .**

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

Cantor: *People:*

1. Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le, ha-le-lu-jah!

Cantor:

Hal-le-lu-jah, ha-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!

People:

Hal-le-lu-jah, ha-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah! *repeat v.*

The Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Michelle

(After the sermon, please keep a period of silence for reflection.)

The Apostles' Creed

PLEASE STAND

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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.

Presider: Having reaffirmed our faith, let us prepare to offer our prayers to God.

The Prayers of the People

PLEASE KNEEL OR STAND AS YOU PREFER

Please respond to the petition, "Come, O come," with the response, "let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Confession and Absolution

Presider: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Presider: 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

PLEASE STAND

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(We encourage you to share a sign of peace with those around you as you are comfortable.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We share God's banquet of love for this community of faith

Offertory Hymn: CP #106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

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.

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;

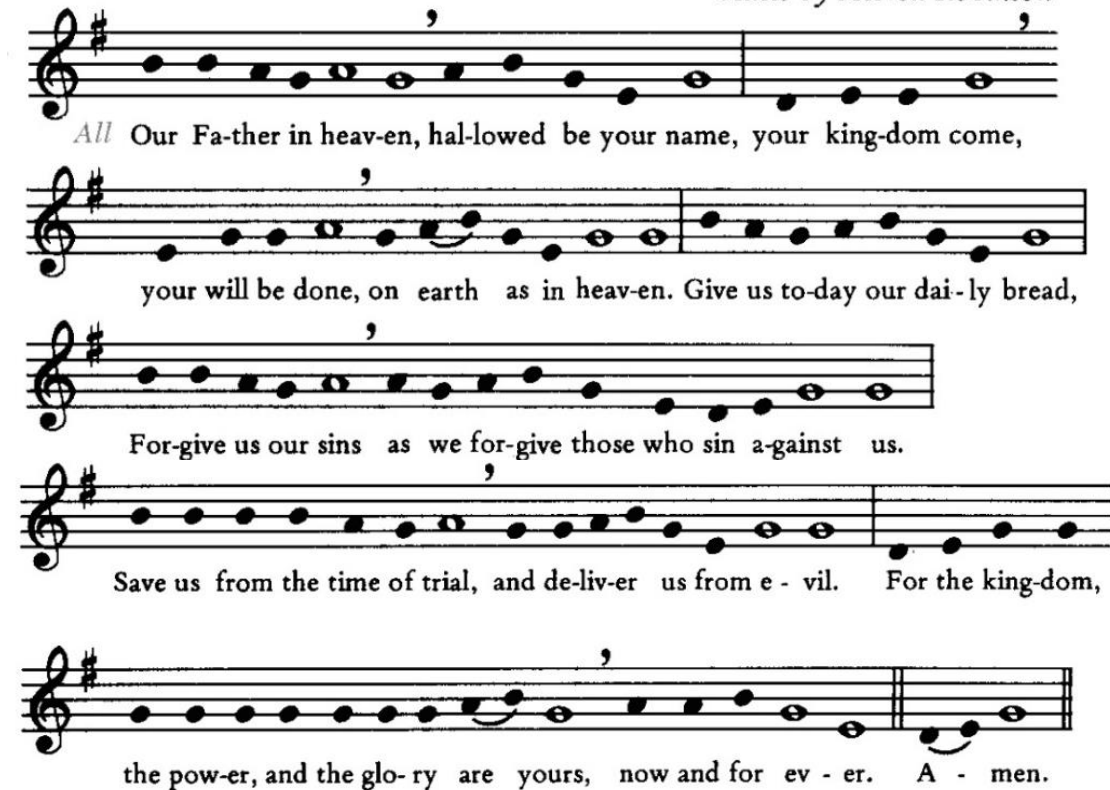
Make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

Prayer over the Gifts

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

Music by McNeil Robinson



All 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 to-day our dai-ly bread,
For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-against 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 #5

Presider: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

Song for the Breaking of Bread

Sing 5 times:



Ha-py are those who are called to the sup - per of the Lamb;
Al - le - lu - - - ia! ia, A - men!

*Music: D. Cowling
• copyright 1995*

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia!

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: Happy are those . . .

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

All: Happy are those . . .

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

All who are baptized are welcome to receive the sacrament of communion in the Anglican Church. Those who are not yet baptized are encouraged to come forward to the altar for a blessing – simply fold your arms across your chest as an indication of your desire for a blessing. This invitation is extended to all – children and infants included. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Music during Communion: O Come, Divine Messiah

G. Ridout

Prayer after Communion

PLEASE STAND

Doxology

Presider: Glory to God,

People: whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

Polychronia (“Many Years”)

(Tune: Tallis’ Canon)

Celebrant: Let us call down God’s blessing:

**All: God give you many, many years to thank him for his blessings here.
And many, many, many more to pray God still his grace to pour.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: CP #103 On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry

JOIN IN SINGING

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner stand;
Shine forth, and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent doth thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

Dismissal

Postlude: ‘Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme’

J.S. Bach

Today’s liturgy is drawn from the Book of Alternative Services copyright © 1985 and Common Praise copyright © 1998 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved.

Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.

Music & lyrics reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733388. All rights reserved.

St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church

4600 Dundas St West, Toronto ON M9A 1A5

www.stgeorgesonthehill.ca

416.239.2341 | info@stgeorgesonthehill.ca