

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

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30am Holy Eucharist

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*The crèche (nursery) is downstairs and is available for use by parents of babies and toddlers.*

### Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

#### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

*We gather with song and prayer as the People of God*

**Hymn: #97** Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (*Tune: Regent Square*)

PLEASE STAND

Jesus came, the heavens adoring, came with peace from realms on high.

Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die:

Alleluia, alleluia! came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care.

Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heart-felt prayer,

Alleluia, alleluia! comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven.

Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia! Now the gate of death is riven.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heavens shall pass away.

Jesus comes again in glory: let us then our homage pay,

Alleluia, alleluia! till the dawn of endless day.

### 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

**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:** The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

Reader: We light this candle to remind us of Mary, who was willing, first of all people, to let the light of the Lord shine through her and bring the Saviour to the world. Because of her faithfulness and love, Jesus, the Messiah, was born to us.

*The fourth candle is lit.*

Presider: Let us pray.

Father, you called Mary to be the mother of your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to new birth. Help us also bring the light of Christ to birth wherever there is darkness and despair, and to work for the coming of your kingdom. **Amen.**

**Hymn:** Advent Gathering

Where is the heart whose "yes" is salvation?

Show us your face, O promise of dawn.

Where is the child whose life is our future?

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:** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

PLEASE BE SEATED

*A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)*

## The Magnificat (Luke 1:47-55)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord - I will re-  
joice, 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  
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Choir: 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.

**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: 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.

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

Choir: 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.

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

Choir: 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.

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

**Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

*A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)*

## Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

*Cantor:* 1. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! *People:* 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: Luke 1:26-38

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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.)*

**Offertory Anthem:** On This Day Earth Shall Ring

J. Rutter

**The Prayers of the People**

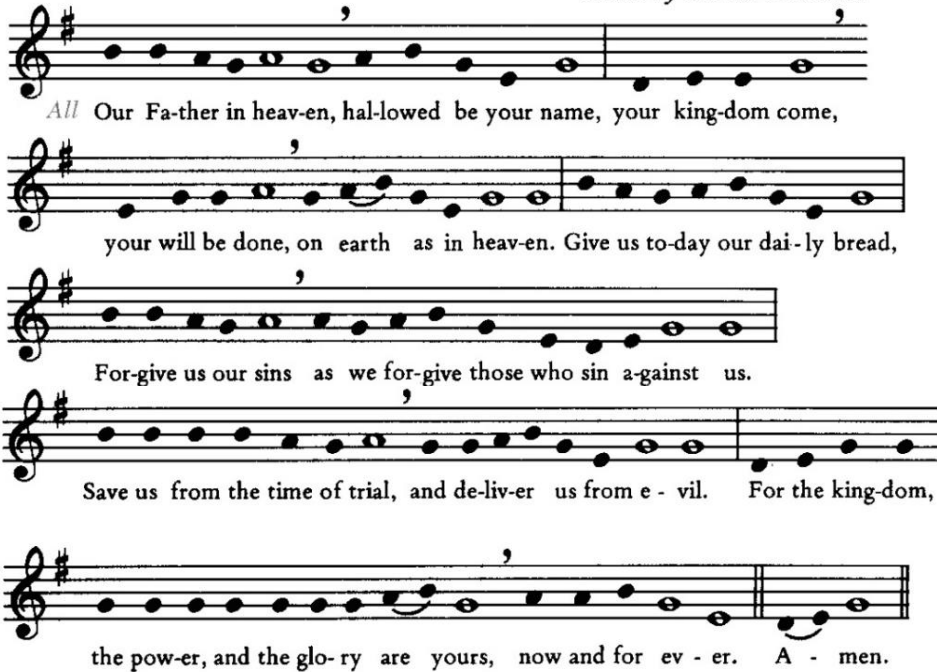
PLEASE KNEEL OR STAND AS YOU PREFER

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

## The Lord's Prayer

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

*Music by McNeil Robinson*



The musical notation consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "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-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."

## Hymn: CP #117 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright  
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Saviour, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

## 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 Blessing

### Closing Hymn: CP #109 When the King Shall Come Again

JOIN IN SINGING

When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,  
Splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;  
Earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,  
This is God's redemption day longingly awaited.

In the desert, trees take root, fresh from God's creation;  
Plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;  
Rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.  
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.  
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;  
Blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping!

There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,  
Nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:  
Ransomed people homeward bound all your praises voicing,  
See your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!

## **Dismissal**

## **Postlude**

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

4600 Dundas St West, Toronto ON M9A 1A5

[www.stgeorgesonthehill.ca](http://www.stgeorgesonthehill.ca)

416.239.2341 | [info@stgeorgesonthehill.ca](mailto:info@stgeorgesonthehill.ca)