

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

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025, 10:30am Holy Eucharist

**Prelude:** Veni Emmanuel

R. Bonington

### Welcome & Announcements

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

#### Processional Hymn: #102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

PLEASE STAND

- 1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.  
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

#### Welcome & Greeting

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

#### The Story of Advent: The Kings

#### The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*A child will light one candle on the Advent Wreath during the following hymn. The children will then proceed to children's programming.*

#### Advent Hymn: Prepare the Way

Pre- pare the way of the Lord! Pre- pare the way of the Lord!

Make a stright path for him, make a straight path, pre -

pare the way of the Lord!

## The Prayer of the Day

### THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

*We read and respond to God's message in scripture*

PLEASE BE SEATED

*Read by Linda Javorski*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16

*A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.*

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."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

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

**The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)**

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED & JOIN IN SINGING

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:** 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 be ever 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 be ever 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 be ever 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 be ever 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.**

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

*Read by Mary Bartle*

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

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.

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: Matthew 1:18-25**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

People: **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.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Sermon:** Rev'd Jess

*(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 offer our prayers to God.

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Led by Linda Javorski*

*Please respond to the petition "We pray to the Lord," with the response, "Lord Jesus, come soon."*

**All:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. 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 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: #108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding**

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

- 1 Hark, a herald voice is sounding: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say.  
"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"
- 2 Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;  
Let us all, with deep repentance, pray that we may be forgiven,
- 4 That when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,  
With his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honour, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,  
With the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

## Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

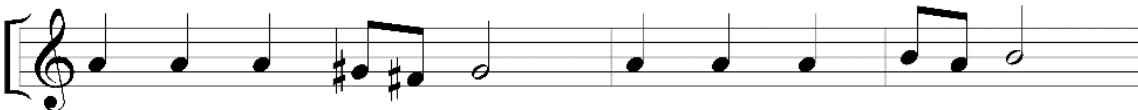
*The Presiding Celebrant acclaims the life-giving power of God in the story of salvation and calls on us to join all creation in the song of the angels. We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus following:*



1. Lord God of pow'r and might, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
2. Bless - ed is he who comes, comes in the name of God,  
3&4. (below)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!



Your glo - ry fills the heav'n, your glo - ry fills the earth,  
Ho - san - na ev - er - more, ho - san - na ev - er - more,  
3. Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry for ev - er - more!  
4. Glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo - ry for ev - er - more!



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
Glo ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to you!  
A - men, A - men, A - men.

*The Presiding Celebrant recounts God's continuing love in the history of humanity and in the sending of his son, Jesus Christ. We join Jesus as he celebrates his Last Supper and acclaim his giving of himself in the gifts of bread and wine. After the words over the cup and the elevation of the chalice, we sing the following:*

People: (verse 3) **Glory to you, O Lord; glory for evermore!**  
**Glory, glory, glory to you!**

*The Presiding Celebrant calls on the Holy Spirit to bless the gifts and strengthen us until we come to share the joys of eternity. We praise God's endless love and at the elevation of the bread and cup we sing the following:*

People: (verse 4) **Glory to you, O Lord; glory for evermore!**  
**Amen, amen, amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread #5

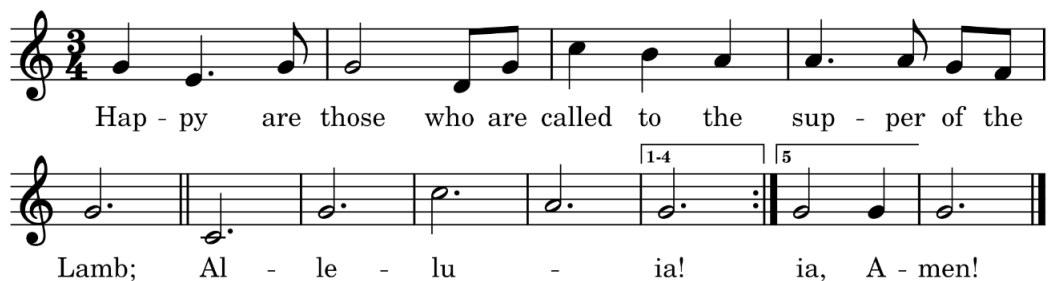
Presider: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

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

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### Song for the Breaking of Bread



*Music: D. Cowling © 1995*

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

People: **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.

People: **Happy are those . . .**

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

People: **Happy are those . . .**

### The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

*All who seek God in Christ are welcome to receive the sacrament of holy communion.*

*If you would prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate this.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Music during Communion:** Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

M. Praetorius

### 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.**

### Blessing

**Recessional Hymn: CP #95** O Come, Divine Messiah

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1 O come, divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

#### Refrain:

*Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.*

*Dispel the night and show your face,*

*And bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, Divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day*

*When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
Come, break the captives' fetters, redeem the long-lost fold. *Refrain.*

3 You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be;  
All clothed in human weakness shall we your Godhead see. *Refrain.*

**Dismissal**

Presider: Go in peace to serve the world God loves.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anon.

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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)