



Sunday December 15, 2024
Third Sunday of Advent
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge



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Land Acknowledgement

It is a great privilege to gather, share stories of faith and worship God on this beautiful territory, which we now know as Township of Uxbridge but which has been the site of human activity – and therefore storytelling and worship – for many thousands of years. We wish to honour the ancestral guardians of this land and its waterways: the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississauga and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today many Indigenous peoples, including the Metis Nation continue to call this land home and act as its stewards, and this responsibility extends to all peoples, to share and care for this land for generations to come.

Today's Mass Setting: Proulx

Prelude

Carol of Joseph

Beaudoin

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Processional Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

CP 349

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

*Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are
seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive,
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you
alone are the Most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
Glory of God the Father.
Amen. Amen.*

Kyrie Eleison

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

Collect of the Day

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

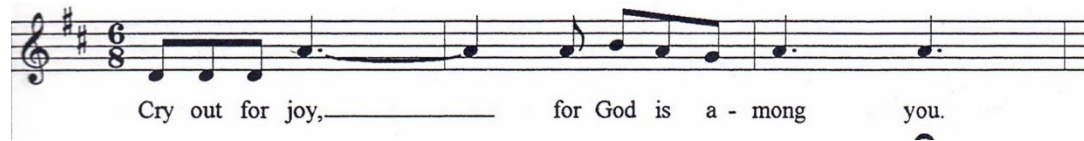
Reader: A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord. *(Zephaniah 3:14-20)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Canticle 3



Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (*Philippians 4:4-7*)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

You Servants of the Lord

CP 93

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to

gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. *(Luke 3:7-18)*

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

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

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.

Choir Anthem

The Promise of Advent

Besig

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

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, 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.

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

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

The Lord be with you

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest, hosanna in the highest.*

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days, you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command, **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us, we pray together

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: 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.**

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.*

Communion

During Communion

“Your Kingdom Come” – On Bended Knee

CP 116

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Doxology

Glory to God, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Let There Be Light

CP 572

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord.
Thanks be to God.

(to be sung by all)

Go Now in Peace

Besig

**Go now in peace ... never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen.**

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Postlude

Noel

Quef

*If you have another commitment today,
and need to depart the church during the postlude, feel free to do so quietly.*

Stewardship Gospel Tidbit: (Luke 3:7-18) John used his gift of preaching to exhort people to take care of others, to treat others with the respect and dignity due to all God's creation. How are we using our gifts to do the same?

Christmas Pastoral Letter – due to the ongoing postal strike we are unable to mail the Pastoral Letters to our parish family. They are available at the back of the church today.

This Week at St. Paul's

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

- 10:30 am – Mid-week Eucharist
- 11:00 am – Informal Bible Study in the Lounge

Thursday, December 19, 2024

- 7:00 pm – Choir practice

Sunday, December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 10:30 am – Eucharist

Readings for Next Sunday

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Canticle 18
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Christmas Eve there are two services. At 4:30 pm. a family service with the singing of carols, and then at 10:30 pm. the tradition service with carols. On Christmas Day there will be one service at 10:30 am. and children are invited to bring a toy they received and Richard will work them into the homily, and bless the toys during the Eucharist. Fun for all!

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, there will be no mid-week Eucharist and Bible Study. The mid-week service will resume on January 8, 2025.

Upcoming Events

- **Mid-week Eucharist and Bible Study** continues on Wednesday. The Eucharist is at 10:30 am in the church with the informal Bible Study beginning at 11 am in the lounge. All are welcome. The Bible study always begins with some free time, where you can ask Richard anything!
- **Memorial Flowers** – if you wish to have flowers in the church for Christmas please fill in the Christmas Flower Offering envelope at the back of the church and place on the offering plate, **TODAY, December 15th**.
- **Canadian Church Calendar 2025** – calendars are available at the back of the church. The calendars are \$7.00 each.