



**Sunday December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Service of Lessons & Carols**  
**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.

|                          |   |               |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>Prelude</b>           | <b><i>O Wondrous Light of the Trinity</i></b> | Praetorius    |
| <b>Processional Hymn</b> | <b><i>Once in Royal David's City</i></b>      | <b>CP 123</b> |

### **Lighting of the Advent Candles**

**Celebrant:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. May he give water to all who thirst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

**Hymn**                      **Christ be the Light**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
Light for the world to see.

*Chorus:* Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

*Chorus:* Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
Shared until all are fed.

*Chorus:*

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## **Bidding Prayer**

**Celebrant:** Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from holy scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people.

Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.

Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**All:**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

**Celebrant:** The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

**Opening Anthem**

*Come Rejoice Believers*

Buxtehude

**FIRST LESSON *Genesis 3.1-15***

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent,  
‘Because you have done this,  
    cursed are you among all animals  
    and among all wild creatures;  
upon your belly you shall go,  
    and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel.'

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

**CP 101**

**SECOND LESSON *Isaiah 40.1-8***

*The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.*

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 for ever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*People, Look East! The Time Is Near*

**CP 91**

**THIRD LESSON *Zechariah 9.9-10***

*The Lord promises that the King will come to Israel in peace.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the warhorse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**CP 140**

**Anthem**

*What is this Lovely Fragrance*

Willan

**FOURTH LESSON *Haggai 2.6-9***

*The Prophet foretells the advent of the desire of all nations.*

For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendour, says the Lord of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**                    *Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth*

1. Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest Thy virgin birth:  
Let every age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.
  
2. Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, Thou art still  
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
The promised Fruit to man displayed.
  
3. The virgin womb that burden gained  
With virgin honor all unstained;  
The banners there of virtue glow;  
God in His temple dwells below.
  
4. Forth from His chamber goeth He,  
That royal home of purity,  
A giant in twofold substance one,  
Rejoicing now His course to run.
  
5. O equal to the Father, Thou!  
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.
  
6. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness breathe a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene,  
And twilight never intervene.
  
7. All laud to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee;  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To God the Holy Paraclete.

## **FIFTH LESSON *Isaiah 35.1-6***

### ***The Prophet foretells the glory of the kingdom of God.***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

### **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Hymn                      *See Amid the Winter's Snow***

1 See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

Refrain:

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

2 Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim! [Refrain]

3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what's your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep? [Refrain]

4 "As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo! we saw a wondrous light;  
angels singing 'Peace on earth'  
told us of the Savior's birth." [Refrain]

5 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was Thine,

thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this! [Refrain]

6 Teach, O teach us, Holy Child,  
by Thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble Thee,  
in Thy sweet humility! [Refrain]

## **SIXTH LESSON *Luke 1.26-35, 38***

### ***The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.***

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 for ever, 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. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

### **Anthem Solo      The Magnificat**

*And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his*

*servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.)*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SEVENTH LESSON *Mark 1.1-15***

### ***Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.***

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 [g] the Holy Spirit. In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

**Thanks be to God.**

**Closing Anthem**

***The Promise of Advent***

**Besig**

### **Advent Litany**

**Celebrant:** Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** That God may bind up the broken hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**Celebrant:** We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

*Silence is kept*

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

**The Collect**

**Celebrant:** We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

**All: In the midst of thy temple.**

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming; grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**All: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all God's people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

CP 89

Postlude

*Noel*

Quef

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

If you wish to contact Rev. Johanna, her email is, [revjohannapak@gmail.com](mailto:revjohannapak@gmail.com). For phone contact, please use the church 905-852-7016.

### This Week at St. Paul's

#### **Wednesday, December 17, 2025**

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

#### **Thursday, December 18, 2025**

- 7:00 pm – Blue Christmas – Service of Comfort and Hope

#### **Sunday, December 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 10:30 am – Eucharist

#### **Readings for Next Sunday**

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25

### Upcoming Events

- **Mid-week Eucharist and Bible Study** continues on Wednesdays. The Eucharist is at 10:00 am in the church with the Informal Bible Study beginning at 10:30 am in the lounge. All are welcome.
- **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 by **December 14th**.
- **Canadian Church Calendar 2026** – calendars are available at the back of the church. The calendars are \$7.00 each.

**Christmas at St. Paul's**

**Christmas Eve**

**4:30 pm – Family Service with singing of carols**

**10:30 pm – Traditional Christmas Service**

**Christmas Day**

**10:30 am – Traditional Said Eucharist (BCP)**

**For the health and comfort of those with allergies  
St. Paul's is a "scent free" facility.**