

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, METCALFE, ON.
NOVEMBER 28, 2021 Advent Sunday
Reverend Michael Fleming

Celebrant: As we enter this most blessed season of Advent, we acknowledge that our parish sits on the unceded territory of the Ashanabee Algonquins.

People: **May we continue to journey towards reconciliation through mutual honouring and respect.**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – ADVENT 1

Celebrant: “Prepare the Way of the Lord” (in procession) Celebrant: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth and the earth was formless and void and the Spirit- breath hovered over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light.” Loving God, we thank you for the gift of light and HOPE to a world which finds itself in times of darkness. You offer HOPE to those who seek your love and your life. Make us hope-givers to one another so that your light may shine deeper and deeper into our lives and the world may be a more HOPE-FILLED oasis; we pray this on Advent Sunday in the name of the One who came among us as Emmanuel, your son and our brother Jesus. **Amen**

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

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: **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.**

Celebrant: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy, immortal One,

People: **Have mercy on us** (repeat three times)

Celebrant: Almighty God give us grace at this time to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen.**

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre and focus of our lives always and especially in this Advent season. **Amen**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." JEREMIAH 33:14-16

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 25: 1-9

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St Luke.

All: **Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." LUKE 21:25-36

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Celebrant: I believe in God the Father Almighty, People: 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**

Reader: Heavenly Father, as we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of our Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives more worthy of all that you have done for us through the coming of our Lord Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer and give us hope.**

Reader: We pray this new day for your Church; for the wider Christian family which will be celebrating this Advent time in so many different ways, in so many different languages, in so many differing circumstances yet united in Jesus. We pray for your Church under persecution and those unable to gather publicly to say, "Jesus is Lord". We remember our own diocese and parish at this time, praying for Marjorie, Howard, Irene, Roy, Jeanette, Graham, Kirsten, Cheryl and Zachariah and their families. We pray for Centre 454 and for their Executive Director Rachel Robinson. In our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem, we pray for The Virgin Mary Episcopal Church, Irbid, Jordan. Grant that all who enter this place be enabled to renew their relationship with you. Help us all to be glad of your presence and to rejoice at the coming of Hope. May your grace and love be upon all who gather with us and strengthen us to love and serve you more and more. Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer and give us hope.**

Reader: We pray this new day for peace in our world. Give peace and hope to all those who are the victims of humankind's inhumanity, for the refugees, the widowed and the orphans. Give us peace in our own families, to those with whom we have quarreled and lead us to reconciliation. Lord, we know that without justice there is no peace. Let

peace flow when all persons are respected, regardless of race, religion or orientation. Let peace come when the trading of weapons of destruction is considered to be a crime.

Let peace be when the earth's resources are not exploited but shared among all your creation. Let your peace and hope come through our transformation so that we may DO justice, love and random acts of kindness and walk humbly with you. Lord in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer and give us hope.**

Reader: Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of hope and peace to all your people. Help us to be peacemakers and hope-givers in our homes, our community, our places of work or wherever we meet people, so that the peace and goodwill of Advent and Christmas can find a dwelling place in the hearts of us all. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer and give us hope.**

Reader: We pray for the lonely, the homeless and for all refugees who have no land to call home. Let your blessings be upon those who work for their relief and give us the determination to help where and when we can. We pray for those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, a family member, a friend and for those whose loneliness stems from their feeling that no one cares. Remember those who are frozen by the loneliness which COVID has created and hold close to your heart all the front line workers. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer and give us hope.**

Reader: Merciful Father and Author of Hope, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus, Emmanuel among us today and always. **Amen** (from re:Worship adapted)

Celebrant: My dear sisters and brothers 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.**

Celebrant: May the God of peace who raised Jesus from the dead and gave hope and love to a broken world bless us and keep us today and always, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you**

Celebrant: God of love, hope and power, your Word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all that we offer you this day and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Celebrant: It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator all things, ruler of the earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in all generations and your Word endures forever. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name as we say,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost. Betrayed, reviled and nailed to a cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it forever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sin of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon, you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take, eat, this is my body 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 this, do this in remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts, we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith,

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may receive this bread and this wine, we may partake in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make our lives a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.** (Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 3 Anglican Church of Canada)

The Lord's Prayer Celebrant: And now as our Lord has gifted to his church, we pray,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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

We share the Gifts of God for the people of God

Celebrant: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

God of hope, be with us on this our Advent journey to the stable and beyond. Be with us in our meeting and our travelling together; be with us on our Advent journey to the stable and beyond. O God, our God of hope. **Amen** (from FaithandWorship)

Celebrant: Our God is the one who comes to us in a burning bush,
in an angel's song,
in a newborn child.

Our God is the one
who cannot be found
locked in the church,
nor even the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be, and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born
where God will be born,
but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready

God will come
even to a godforsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch...

for you know not when
God comes.

Watch, that you may be found wherever,
whenever

God comes.

Ann Weems, "The Coming of God" from Kneeling in Bethlehem 1985)

Celebrant: May the God of peace and hope that brought again the living from the dead be with us today and always and the blessing of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit pour upon us and set us free to love this day and always. **Amen**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: **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**

