

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH METCALFE, ON.
DECEMBER 12, 2021 Advent 3
Reverend Michael Fleming**

Celebrant: As we come with joy to celebrate this season of preparation and hope, we acknowledge that our parish sits on the unceded territory of the Ashanabee Algonquin peoples.

People: **May with grow together in reconciliation with hope and hope as our companion.**

Celebrant: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" (sung three times)

Celebrant: When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (Matthew 2: 10-12)

Celebrant: Lord, we come to you in the footsteps of the Magi, the Wise Ones who came following your star. We stand and kneel with them in utter joy before the awesome majesty of a feeding trough and a royal court of shepherds, sheep, goats and cattle. We thank you for the gift of this Child who came so that we might live in new and different ways, following your Light and being light to those who live in the land of darkness and the shadow of desperation. We pray this in the name of the One who is Lord of lords and Light of lights, 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.**

All: **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy, immortal One, Have mercy on us**
(repeat three times)

Celebrant: 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, so that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe, wonder and joy for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

Celebrant: Loving and Giving Father, we come before you this day for all sorts of walks of life and all conditions of our humanity. We honour today the Magi from the East whom you led with a pillar of fire by day and a great star through the darkness of night. May we bring to Jesus what gifts you have blessed us with and offer these without reservation to all who come seeking hope, peace and joy for their lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

A Reading From The Book Of Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

On that day they will say to Jerusalem,

"Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

"I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they have suffered shame.

At that time I will gather you;

at that time I will bring you home.

I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,"

says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Song of Thanksgiving

Isaiah 12.2–6

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence,

and he will be my Saviour.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

A Reading From Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel

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 Matthew.

(Matthew 2: 1-12)

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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On

coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Celebrant: 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

Reader: O God, Emmanuel, your Son Jesus calls us to follow him and to follow you in our lives, in your special love for people who have neither power nor influence. In your struggle against the powers of evil and destruction, show us the way to travel, we pray and give us strength and courage. Lord, hear us

People: **and let our cry come to you.**

Reader: We pray for the powerful of the world, for heads of states and the leaders of large corporations, especially for those who have the means to save our fragile home from environmental disaster. Deliver them from the lure of power for power's sake and give them the strength to fight against the concept of the love of wealth. Give them compassion for those who have little power or wealth.

As members of the human family, teach us to serve the common good and to cherish those who own the least. In our Diocesan cycle of prayer this week, we remember The Well, and their Executive Director Rachel Robinson. In our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem, we pray for Redeemer Church, Amman, Jordan.

Lord, hear us

People: **and let our cry come to you.**

Reader: Jesus our friend, you healed the sick and brought God's love to ordinary folk. We pray for those we know who are ill, for Roy, Jeanette, Marjorie, Graham, Kirsten, Cheryl and Zachariah, Howard, Irene and their families, asking that they will know your presence encompassing them with love on every side, bringing healing and peace. We pray for those who have died and for those who grieve and mourn, for those who have lost family members in this pandemic and for those who are lost in sadness, loneliness and grief. Lord, hear us

People: **and let our cry come to you.**

Reader: Jesus, we give thanks for your love that knows no end and for your call to follow you. We give thanks for the purpose and direction that call gives our lives and for faith that deepens and grows as we journey with you. We thank you for the hope you pour upon us and help us to hear the voices of those who proclaim the beauty and goodness of your creation so we may cherish the world you made and rejoice in its mystery, wonder and beauty. Lord, hear us

People: **and let our cry come to you.**

Reader: Lord God, you blessed us with minds to think and hearts to feel – empower us more and more day by day to see you more clearly, to love you more dearly, and to follow you more nearly day by day by day.

Amen

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.

Celebrant: 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 God be ever-present to us and with us; may we be healed and made whole and may we sing your praises for the undeserved love you pour upon us each day; we pray this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Celebrant: And may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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

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.**

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do.

In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful 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.

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death.

By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

All: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you." After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord,

in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: As our Lord Jesus has gifted to the church, so 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.

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE CHILDREN OF A LOVING GOD

Celebrant: Merciful God, may this Eucharist free us from our sin, fill us with unending joy and prepare us for the birthing day of your Son Jesus who is Lord now and always.

Amen

Celebrant: Lord, at this time, hearts are broken with the memory of the death of fourteen young engineering students at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal twenty-five years ago. As we remember them, help us to rid the world of misogyny, racial and gender hatred and create that peaceable Kingdom in which all persons of all colours, races, status and gender are one in the Spirit and one in you. We remember Anne-Marie Lemay, Anne-Marie Edward, Annie St-Arnault, Annie Turcotte, Barbara Daigneault, Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz, Genebieve Bergeron, Helene Colgan, Maryse Laganiere, Maryse Leclair, Maud Havierbick Michelle Richard and Nathalie Croteau.

Hold in your arms of compassion their families and friends, and be especially gentle at this time with all those who survived the terror of that day and who live with the memory to this moment. May their deaths make us all more aware of the fragility of life and the commitment we make to ensuring that peace and justice will flow like a river. In Jesus' name we pray.

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

Celebrant: God of hope, who brought love into the world, be the love that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought peace into the world, be the peace that dwells between us. God of hope, who brought joy into the world, be the joy that dwells between us. God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centering force of our lives always, and particularly in this season of Advent. And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us and lead us this week and always.

Amen

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.

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