



**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH METCALFE, ON.  
DECEMBER 19, 2021 Advent 4  
Reverend Michael Fleming**

Celebrant: As we near Bethlehem, the heart of LOVE, we acknowledge that our parish sits on the unceded territory of the Ashanabee Algonquin peoples.

People: **May we live together in love, hope and harmony**

Celebrant: Prepare ye the way of the Lord

“ Behold, a young woman will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel.”

Creating and Giving God, source of all life and heart of all LOVE. Today we hold in our hearts your servant Mary whom you called blessed because she was faithful to your call to servanthood. At the risk of her future, she not only listened to your Voice, but consented to be the instrument of your giving and your peace. We thank you for her and ask that we too may hear and obey you when you call us by name to be servants to the world. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Lord of lords and embodiment of your Love, Jesus Emmanuel.

**Amen and Alleluia!**

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: Heavenly Father, you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour. Now fill us with your grace, that we may in all things embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Father, the greatest gift of all came that first Christmas and was not wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. It came wrapped in the flesh of a baby and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Father, in this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you Lord for loving us enough to send us Jesus and it is in his precious name we pray.

**Amen**

#### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MICAH

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. MICAH 5:2-5A

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

#### 18a The Song of Mary Luke 1.46–55

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.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

#### A Reading From Hebrews

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will."

He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. HEBREWS 10:5-10

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. Luke (St. Luke 1: 26-45)

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

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: Let us affirm 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**

Leader: God of all hope and joy, open our hearts to wonder and to welcome so that your Son Jesus at his coming may find in us a dwelling place for you. As we once again prepare for Christmas, help us to make time in all our busyness for prayer and reflection; that we may think about the wonder of your love for the world and allow the reality of our Saviour's birth to dwell in our hearts and spirits. May our

joy be deeper, our worship more real and our lives worthier of Christ's incarnation. Lord, grant us a share in your divine mystery.

People: **In your love, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, look with your loving compassion upon your Church throughout the world. We pray for the Staff of our Diocesan Office: The Rt. Reverend Shane Parker, The Venerable Linda Hill, The Reverend Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs, Sanjay Grover, Ringo Morella, Jane Scanlon, Heidi Fawcett, Ishita Ghose, Bill Gilbert, Glenn Lockwood, Patricia Myles, Titalayo Oyefi, Heidi Pizzuto, Sandra Purdy, Safiyah Rochelle.

As we struggle as a body to be worthy of Christ's name, we ask you to heal all the divisions and sources of disharmony which wound your Son and redirect our energies to focus on the great panorama of the coming kingdom rather than the small details of the route we travel. Lord, grant us a share in your divine mystery.

People: **In your love, hear our prayer**

Leader: Lord, we rejoice in the love of our homes and our families. We pray for all who have enriched our lives by their goodness, all who have accepted us and who have cared for us. We pray for all who are separated from those they love because of COVID, those separated by conflict in other lands, those whose families are fractured by disharmony. We pray today for those who are alone at this time of the year and for those who are always lonely. Lord, grant us a share in your divine mystery.

People: **In your love, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we pray for all those who want nothing more than to be accepted for who they are regardless of race, colour, creed or gender; for the ill among us Roy, Jeanette, Marjorie, Cheryl, Zachariah, Howard and Irene and their families; those who are anxious about family or friends; we pray for all those who have died, that they may find love in your promised Kingdom of Hope. Lord, grant us a share in your diviner mystery.

People: **In your love, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, you chose Blessed Mary to be the mother of your promised Messiah and Saviour; fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things and in all ways we may embrace and do your holy will and with Miriam of Nazareth rejoice in being called sons and daughters of your love. Lord, grant us a share in your divine mystery.

People: **In your love, hear our prayer.** (from Lay Anglicana adapted by RMF)

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 peace of Christ, the love of God and the empowering joy of the Spirit be with each and every one of us today and always.

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified Miriam the mother of your Son, make holy all that we offer this day in the name 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.**

Celebrant: It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and 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 for ever. 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 God, not as we ought but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave your world your only Son in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of 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 for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice of 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, said the prayer, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, said the blessing and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 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 sin. Whenever you drink this, do this for the 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 on us that as we receive these gifts we may partake of 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 or will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice acceptable to you. Knitting us together as one in Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever.

**Amen**

Celebrant: And as our Lord has gifted to his 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.**

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

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

We Share The Gifts Of God For The Children Of A Loving God

Celebrant: Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of our salvation. May we, like Mary, be obedient to your will and we ask this in the name of Jesus.

**Amen**

Celebrant: After the season is over, the Christmas lights come down, the smell of the tree disappears and Christmas music no longer plays we may ask, " what happens next?" The awe and wonder of Christmas is just beginning. Christmas reminds us that a child is born and has given us a purpose for living and what happens next is largely dependent upon how we embrace Jesus in our own lives. Jesus, as we celebrate your birth this week may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding that you give.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star is gone from the sky, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back in the hills, then the work of Christmas begins: to find the lonely, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, to release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make music with the heart and to radiate the Light of Christ every day in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas really begins. **Amen** (Howard Thurman from [www.Christianity.com](http://www.Christianity.com))

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: May Almighty God give us peace and joy in this holy season and in the one blooming on the horizon; may God scatter the darkness of our world and brighten our hearts with the light of holiness and the blessing of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit be upon us this day and for evermore.

**Amen**

Announcements, and Celebrations

Christmas Services Christmas Eve 7:30 PM

Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Sunday, Dec. 26 No Service

---

Sunday, December 26th Lessons & Carols Service 9:00am

All Saints Greely

PLEASE NOTE: Due to Covid, seating is limited. We ask that you reserve your place by contacting Grace at [gracemj@rogers.com](mailto:gracemj@rogers.com) or 613-316-0991

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

**Copyright © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.**

**All rights reserved.**

**Reproduced under licence from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library.**

**Further copying is prohibited.**

**CCLI #5062709**