

**HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH METCALFE, ON.**  
**DECEMBER 5, 2021 Advent 2**  
**Reverend Michael Fleming**

Celebrant: As we continue our Advent journey from darkness into the Light, we acknowledge that our parish lies on the unceded territory of the Ashanabee Algonquin peoples.

People: **May we seek for reconciliation through mutual respect and hope.**

Celebrant: "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord" Celebrant: A voice of one crying in the wilderness, "prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. For every valley shall be raised up and every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level and the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all the peoples will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." (Isaiah 40:3-5)

As we enter more and more into our Advent time, help us to prepare our hearts as well as our homes for the gifting of your Son Jesus. Help us to remember as we set about the tasks of our day that we have the opportunity to witness to our faith, not through overbearing lectures or veiled threats, but through our simply being present to one another. Help us to see the world through your eyes and empower us through your Spirit to make the pathways straight and the desert oases of hope, joy and love. In all that we say or do this week, make us to make a place in our hearts and in our lives for you and for your Son, your Gift of gifts, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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: Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptizer to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah. When Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF Malachi 3:1-4

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,

**he has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,

**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old that he would save us from our enemies,  
**from the hands of all who hate us,**

He promised to show mercy to our ancestors,

**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

free to worship him without fear,

**holy and righteous in his sight**

**all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

To give his people knowledge of salvation

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.** Luke 1.68–79

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 Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

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.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar— when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Tracoonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God's salvation.” John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don't collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with

water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. 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 barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison. When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:1-22)

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

Celebrant: Let us now affirm our baptismal vows as we say, 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: In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and in our lives. Lord in your mercy

People: **hear us and bless us this day.**

Reader: In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in mission, that the hope within will be the song we sing and the melody of our lives. In our Diocese this week, we pray for Cornerstone and for their Executive Director Sarah Davis. We pray for the residents, staff, and Chaplains of the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre and we pray for all vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear us and bless us this day.**

Reader: In this Advent of expectation, draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity. As we serve You through those whom you place before our paths this week, we pray for Marjorie, Howard, Irene, Roy, Jeanette, Graham, Kirsten, Cheryl and Zachariah and their families. May we, through our dedication to others, open hearts to your Son and shine light into darkened and saddened lives. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear us and bless us this day.**

Reader: In this Advent of expectation as we prepare Your way, help us to remember all those who sacrifice so much for us all – the front line workers in our hospitals and care centres, those who work on our stores, those who ensure the safe management of our resources, the leaders of our village, our province and our country and the leaders of all the nations, that together they may help us bring into being your peaceable kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Light of light, the Hope of hope and Life of life. Amen. (from Faith and Worship 2020)

Confession and Absolution

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.

All: **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.**

Celebrant: May the God of Light and Hope walk with us on our Advent pilgrimage towards Bethlehem and light in the stable; may His love be upon us and those whom we love this day and always.

**Amen**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you**

Celebrant: God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all that we offer you this day as you sustain us in your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **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 that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

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: Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will. On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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." Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: And now as Christ 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 those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

We share together the Gifts of God for the children of God

Celebrant: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear you. As we prepare we remember another, John the Baptist with their seasonal offering of carols. our prophets call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen**

Celebrant: This is Advent, the season of preparation. The shops are full of gifts that we might give or receive. Streets are decorated and as we prepare we remember another, John the Baptist, who came to prepare the people for the arrival of Messiah. John, who would prepare with family, friends and re the world through a call to repentance, so that hearts and minds and souls would be ready to receive the One who was to come. Father, prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing the good news of the Gospel with family, friends and co- workers should the opportunity arise. Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk about the love that came down to this good earth and walked among us, Jesus.

Celebrant: In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound,  
we experience our own Advent in his.  
When we are Bethlehem-bound,  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars,  
nor hearing angels' voices.  
We can no longer excuse ourselves  
by busily tending our sheep or our kingdom.  
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.  
In the midst of shopping sprees,  
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of gifts.  
Through the tinsel,  
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.  
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,  
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.  
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places.

(Ann Weems, In Search of our Kneeling Places from Kneeling in Bethlehem, Westminster Press 2010)

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 the Lord bless us and keep us. May he show his face to us and may he turn his countenance to us and give us peace. May the Lord be with us always, wherever we are, and may we be with him always. We pray this in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**