

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
December 24, 2022
Reverend Michael Fleming

Celebrant: As we gather together at a manger, we remember that our parish sits on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

People: **May we live together in comfort and joy. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: The Lighting of the Christmas Fire “Show me the way to the Manger”
We praise you, O Lord our God, for giving us every spiritual blessing through your beloved Son and our blessed Saviour Jesus. Enlighten our hearts, hands and minds so that we may shine as your lights in this darkened world to the praise of your glorious name. May the Wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor direct us, the Strength of the Mighty God protect us, the love of the Everlasting Father embrace us and the Prince of Peace surround us and walk with us this night and always.

Amen and Alleluia!

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: Glory to God in the highest,

All: **and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true Light. As we have known the revelation of that Light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen**

Reader: The First Reading: Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our Psalm tonight is Psalm 96 Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

All: **Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.**

Reader: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.

All: **For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.**

Reader: For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

All: **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.**

Reader: Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: **Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.**

Reader: Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

All: **Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.**

Reader: Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

All: **Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.**

Reader: Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Reader: A Reading From Titus 3: 4-7

But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not

because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St Luke. (St. Luke 2: 1-20)

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

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,

All: 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: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: Let us pray for the church throughout the world regardless of denomination or creed, for the world in which the church shines as light in the darkness and hope in the midst of despair and, at this time of the year, let us pray especially for all children everywhere. Grant, Almighty God, that all who call you Lord may be one in your truth, live together in your love and show your love and glory in the world; Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Guide the people of our country and of all the nations of the world in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honour one another and serve the common good; Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for all the children who put chocolate fingers everywhere, who love to be tickled, who stomp in mud puddles and ruin their new clothes, who eat popsicles before supper and who can never find their shoes. We pray for those who have no shoes, who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire, who are born into places we would be so afraid to live in, who never go to a circus or a movie, who wait forever for someone to say, "I love you"; Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for the children who bring us sticky kisses and fistsful of dandelions, who sleep with the dog and the cat whenever they can, who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money, who cover themselves in band-aids and who sing offkey, who squeeze toothpaste all over the sink and for those who slurp their soup; Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer**

Reader: We pray for those who never get soup. Who have no blankets to drag around for security, who can't find any bread to eat, who don't have a room to clean up and whose monsters are real; Lord in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for all the children who spend their allowance before Tuesday, who pick at their food, who love to hear ghost stories, who shove their dirty clothes under the bed and never rinse out the bathtub, who get visits from the tooth fairy and who

don't like to be kissed by their mom or dad in public, who squirm in church and whose smiles make us cry. We pray for those who have no allowance, those whose nightmares come in the daytime who aren't spoiled by anyone, who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep ; Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for the children who want to be carried and for those who need to be carried, for those who never give up on and for those who deserve second and third and fourth and fifth chances and for those will grab the hand anyone kind and loving enough to offer theirs in friendship and compassion, for those who live in our village of Metcalfe and for those who live in the farthest corners of the world; Lord, in your mercy

People: **hear our prayer**

(Diocese of Niagara adapted by RMF)

Fr. Michael: Let us confess our sins before God and one another as we say,

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.**

Fr. Michael: May the God of Light who brought Light into our darkened world lead us into the light of his Kingdom; may the God of Love who came among us take our hand and walk with us; may the God of hope who blessed us in a stable this night hover over us and guide us into the Light this night and always.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And may the peace of the Lord Jesus be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Source of all life and goodness, accept all that we offer you on this joyful night of celebration and gifting. May we grow up in him who reached out his hands to shepherds and townsfolk to offer simple love to all the world and follow his example every day of our lives' in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

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

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Fr. Michael: We give you thanks and praise for the gift of the Christ child so long ago. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh through the faithfulness of Mary and her

husband Joseph. Held safe in his mother's arms and warmed by the animals, he was announced by the angels, praised by the shepherds and offered gifts by Magi from the East. Therefore with all who gathered around his manger with all the angels in heaven and with your children of every race, colour and age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim your glory,

People: **O Come, let us adore him; o come, let us adore him, o come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: We give thanks to you, Loving God, that in this child Jesus, Emmanuel, God is among us. In time this child grew up to proclaim the good news of your kingdom to all who would hear his voice. With his friends at his side, He healed the sick and ate and drank with those unloved by the world. He brought hope and peace to all God's children. On the night before he died, Jesus at supper with his friends took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and shared it with all who sat at table with him saying, "Take and eat; this is my body given for you."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, said the blessing and shared it with the company saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many so that sin might be forgiven. When ever you do this, remember me."

People: **O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Celebrant: And now as Jesus has gifted to his church, so we are able to 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

Fr. Michael: We break the bread of life and that life is the Light of the world.

People: **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Fr. Michael: We Share The Gifts Of God For The People Of God

People: **Thanks Be To God**

Fr. Michael: Father of all, tonight you have united heaven and earth in sending Jesus to take our human form and nature. May we who have tasted heavenly food share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: This Christmas spirit is that hope which tenaciously clings to the hearts of the faithful and announces in the face of any Herod the world can produce and all the inn doors slammed in our faces and all the dark nights of the soul that even now...unto us a Child is born !!! Alleluia

(Ann Weems. The Christmas Spirit, from Kneeling in Bethlehem adapted by RMF)

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

Fr. Michael: May Almighty God give you joy and peace this holy season, scatter the darkness of our world and brighten our hearts with the the light of God's holiness, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Spirit be upon us all and remain with us always.

All: Amen

And may God bless us everyone!!!!

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