

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Metcalfe

ADVENT 3

December 11, 2022

Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we continue our journey towards Bethlehem, let us acknowledge that the land upon which we live and worship lies on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe peoples.

People: **May we share the land and its resources in harmony and unity.**

Lighting of Advent Candle for Week 3 "Prepare ye the way of the Lord"

Fr. Michael: The third Sunday of Advent reminds us that the birth of Jesus has the power to bring us great joy. This isn't dependent upon what's going on in our lives or the people we're with. It doesn't depend on the gifts we give or receive, for no earthly thing can give us complete joy. Our joy comes from knowing and loving the Lord. That joy which flooded the hearts of the shepherds, the Magii, the angels, Joseph and Mary is the joy that has the power to overwhelm our hearts with rejoicing. May the joy of this season fill us with all hope and help us to shine for our Lord in the dark corners of our world. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: As community called in hope and in joy, we pray, 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.**

People: **Holy God, holy and mighty; holy immortal One have mercy on us (3 times)**

Fr. Michael: God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove all those things that hinder our love for you so that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. **Amen**

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35: 1-10) The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be

called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 146

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

All: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Reader: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

All: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Reader: The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

All: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

Reader: A reading from the letter of James to the Church

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (James 5:7-10)

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Matthew (St. Matthew 11: 2-11)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at

me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Homily

Fr. Michael: Let us join one another in declaring who we are and whose we are as we say, " I believe in God the Father Almighty,

All: **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: Let us pray now to our loving God who always keeps His promises and who knows us and values us all so very much. Loving God, keep your Church faithful in telling the Good News, in loving all who seek you, in striving for justice, and bringing freedom to all through the joy of your forgiving love. In our prayer cycle this week, we remember Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as Our Community Ministries: Centre 454; St Luke's Table; The Well, Centre 105, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Loving God, we pray for our continuing work and witness here at Holy Trinity. We pray for all who exercise ministry among us and ask you to strengthen all whom you call into service this week. We ask you to watch over all our parish family, remembering especially Marjorie, Richard and Deb L., Howard, Irene, Beth, Roy, Zachariah, Sarah, Jeanette, and Cheryl. May we, by example, draw others towards the glorious Light of the World.... Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Reader: Caring and Giving One, we ask your presence to all who are struggling in this time of pandemic, especially those who feel isolated, abandoned and alone. May they feel your presence and hear you whisper to them, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you always" We pray for all those dedicated to the care of those for whom this time is

particularly dark and lonely – for those who have experienced the loss of loved ones, those who are alone, those who do not see themselves as being loveable. Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Reader: We ask all this in the name of Jesus , the Light and Hope of the World. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Dear friends 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.**

Fr. Michael: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: 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.

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: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn 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.**

Fr. Michael: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in

these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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." Therefore, Father, according to his command, All: **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Fr. Michael: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen

Fr. Michael: And now, as Jesus has gifted to his Church, we pray, Our Father, who art in heaven,

People: **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: 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.**

Fr. Michael: The gifts of God for all the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Fr. Michael: Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Today is White Gift Sunday when we bring before the Lord our fervent prayers for the wholeness of all people and offer before God our gifts. As we receive these, we ask the Lord to bless our offering and pray that many who are hopeless and alone at this time of joy may know through our gift-offering that they are loved. We pray

this in the name of the One who gave His All for us from a sheltering cave - Jesus.
Amen.

Fr. Michael: 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 the God who entered the brokenness of our world and who offers us a taste of the Kingdom and the love of eternity be with you and yours today and always. And the blessing of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – be with us all now and forever.

Amen

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.