

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Metcalfe
ADVENT 2
December 4, 2022
Reverend Michael Fleming

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

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

Celebrant: "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord"

Fr. Michael: 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**

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.**

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

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Reader: A Reading From The Book Of Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. ISAIAH 11:1-10

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our Psalm today is Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,

All: **"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

Reader: Now our feet are standing

All: **within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Reader: Jerusalem is built as a city

All: **that is at unity with itself.**

Reader: To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

All: **the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

Reader: For there are the thrones of judgement,

All: **the thrones of the house of David.**

Reader: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

All: **"May they prosper who love you.**

Reader: Peace be within your walls

All: **and quietness within your towers.**

Reader: For my brethren and companions' sake,

All: **I pray for your prosperity.**

Reader: Because of the house of the Lord our God,

All: **I will seek to do you good."**

Reader: Lord Jesus, give us the peace of the new Jerusalem. Bring all nations into your kingdom to share your gifts, that they may render thanks to you without end and may come to your eternal city, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Reader: A Reading From The Letter Of Paul To The Romans

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in

accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ROMANS 15:4-13

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to Matthew [Matthew 3:1-12]

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

Fr. Michael: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

Celebrant: Let us now affirm our baptismal vows 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: 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 Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as The Diocese of Jerusalem and Archbishop Hosam Naoum, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Susan Johnson and Bishop Michael Pryse, and 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 Richard and Deb L., Marjorie, Howard, Irene, Beth, Roy, Zachariah, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl 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 in 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)

Fr. Michael: 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**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: 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**

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: 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.**

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: 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.**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Christ has gifted to his Church, so we pray,

People: **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: 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: We share together the Gifts of God for the children of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: The body of Christ

People: **Amen**

Fr. Michael : 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**

Fr. Michael: 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 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.

Fr. Michael: 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.

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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 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**

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

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