

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025
Reverend Dr. Tom Hubschmid

Invitation to Worship

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us be grateful for the land on which we gather to worship today and acknowledge it as the ancestral, unceded territory of our neighbours the Algonquin-Anishinaabe.

All: **In a spirit of reconciliation, may we always seek to respect the history, spirituality, and culture of Indigenous Peoples and uphold our continuing responsibility as treaty people.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,
People: **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.**

The Song Of Mary

Celebrant: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *

All: **for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.**

Celebrant: From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

All: **the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.**

Celebrant: He has mercy on those who fear him *

All: **in every generation.**

Celebrant: He has shown the strength of his arm, *

All: **he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

Celebrant: He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

All: and has lifted up the lowly.

Celebrant: He has filled the hungry with good things, *

All: and the rich he has sent away empty.

Celebrant: He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *

All: for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

Celebrant: the promise he made to our fathers, *

All: to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

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

Celebrant: Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,
that when the 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 for ever.

All: **Amen**

Advent Wreath Lighting

Celebrant: We light a candle each of the four Sundays in Advent. The light of the candles grows brighter each week as we wait in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

All: **Each candle reminds us of the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that Jesus brings to the world. We receive these gifts, and we are called to share them with each other, and in our world. We light the candle of peace this week.**

The Proclamation of The Word

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: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the King your justice, O God,

All: **and your righteousness to the King's Son;**

Reader: That he may rule your people righteously

All: **and the poor with justice;**

Reader: That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,

All: **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

Reader: He shall defend the needy among the people;

All: **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Reader: He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,

All: **from one generation to another.**

Reader: He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,

All: **like showers that water the earth.**

Reader: In his time shall the righteous flourish;

All: **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Reader: Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,

All: **who alone does wondrous deeds!**

Reader: And blessed be his glorious name for ever!

All: **and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

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**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (3:1-12)

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

Celebrant: 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."

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily - Repent

(Mathew 3:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13)

God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, through Christ, our only Lord. Amen.

Some say John the Baptizer as the last of the Hebrew Prophets. They were these fiery, righteously angry, unkempt and wild-eyed yellers who announced God's words and plans to ancient Israel. One of the all-time favourites we hear from a lot in Advent, is the Hebrew prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah lived some 700 years before John, and the reason we hear from Isaiah so often in Advent is that Isaiah often spoke about the kind of future that we practice waiting for in the weeks of Advent. Through Isaiah, God promised a coming Kingdom of Heaven, not a Kingdom or nation of this world, but a rule and era made more by our Creator than we lost creatures. Isaiah foresaw the very nature of the earth changing, so that even lions and lambs live together in peace – a new heaven and a new earth. And these things would begin with the coming of a special Deliverer, a Christ, a Messiah. “The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding...” Isaiah foresaw. “...with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.” John the Baptizer held these words tightly. But John, unlike so many people of his time, and ours too, didn’t believe he was the special Deliverer. He believed someone else was coming. And he believed so with intense urgency. Heaven was about the breakout upon the earth, as far as John believed. And what’s so special about him, so challenging about his example, is that for John, the coming Kingdom of Heaven meant that he and everyone else should stop living the way we have learned among the Kingdoms of the earth. His message didn’t begin, “Gather!” or “Follow!” or even “Believe!” It began with a loving jolt, like yelling at your friend who is falling asleep at the wheel – “Repent! For the kingdom of heaven has come near!”

John is a strange looking man in his rough camel hair shirt and his thick leather belt and his food of locusts and honey – he looks like a wild man. But he doesn’t act like a dreamer or mad man. He acts like someone who has snapped out of it! Someone who has woken up from a bad dream and realized he doesn’t need what everyone in the world believes they need. When he yells, “Repent!” don’t here: “Shame!” Hear: “Look alive!” “Come back to God!” John wasn’t scary; he was infectious. He had a wild vitality. He was living proof that his people did not need what rich and powerful Rome was selling them at the expense of their souls. He lived on grasshoppers! People saw he had nothing of the valuables they had, but he had something better, a fire in his heart, while the values of culture were leaving them cold.

So, let’s back up a minute to try to understand what John believed about the Kingdom of Heaven, which was drawing near in his Day. I want to notice what Isaiah foretold about the Deliverer in particular. And let it sink in that his way of conquering and establishing his Kingdom would have a force that is tear-jerkingly beautiful and different than the violence that has destroyed humanity in every generation. Isaiah foretells, “...he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.” Okay: I am convinced that killing the wicked in this passage means what so many of us—who are very much still alive—experience when Jesus’ words break into our hearts and cut down the false and lost and foolish and mean and destructive person within us. “[T]he rod of his mouth” and “the breath of his lips” isn’t the power of the sword or gun to

take life from the living; it's the power of God's Spirit to take death from the living. It's like our hearts are crusted over in stone, and Jesus' first act of Delivering us from despair and evil is to break that stony heart, so that the real, soft, pulsing, living thing can move again. His love "slays" us, in the way a new love makes us feel somehow stricken but all the more alive.

So, it should be music to our ears, "Repent! The kingdom of heaven has come near." Jesus comes not just to deliver us from one bad regime or one ideology or another; he comes to drive the axe of his love and word right down to the root of all that's wrong with our world and ourselves, and to root out our vices, our lies, our fears, our unhealthy attachments.

So, in that Spirit, please allow me to put my finger on three areas of life in our time and place where the stone crust of sin and death needs to be broken to let in the love and vitality of Jesus' Spirit.

Our culture makes us busy rather than devoted. But it's not busyness that gives us the sense of connection we desire. Devotion is the source of real connection. Devotion can look like time in the morning or evening to reflect, pray, read the Bible or spiritual writing, go to church on Sunday. Devotion can look like working slowly, unrushed, with love and attention. Devotion can look like taking the time to eat with your loved ones, listen to them, share with them, play with them. Connection with God and each other comes from devotion. Busyness seeks connection but misses the point. Sometimes we need to quit certain involvements to make more space for devotion.

Our culture makes us combative rather than convicted. It's not combativeness that changes people minds or helps us grow. It's conviction. Paul in the Romans passage today doesn't tell the fighting believers to "persuade" each other. He says, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you." Conviction is focused on finding the truth, not proving others wrong. Having conviction means being able to learn from others. Conviction is infectious. Combativeness is frustrating.

Lastly, spirituality is physical. Poor diets, vices, bad sleeping habits, too much screen time – all these things are physical practices that wreck our spirituality. Get physical with God! Sometimes it's a walk and some reflection we need, not news, Netflix, or social media. Sometimes is a break from sugar and alcohol to clear our senses and rest up. Sometimes it's coffee with a friend, or Bible Study, or quiet time we need. Get physical with God. Spirituality is bodily.

Now, I'll close with word of Gospel hope. Christ came into the world to save sinners, not condemn sinners. There's no act of devotion, or conviction, or spirituality that earns us our good standing with God. Only Jesus earns us our good standing with God. This is a story of God's grace and gift, not our merit or righteousness. If our busyness and combativeness and vices have made us in anyway far from God, Jesus at his cross enters into the furthest reach of that distance and cancels it out for those who will say yes to his proposal. He crosses the distance between us and God.

Repenting is our practical way of accepting his proposal. We don't trust in our own ability to change. We try to change, trusting that we're good with God however much we fail, so we might as well try.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Silence For Reflection

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Reader: In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth, patiently abiding the rulers of our world: come and teach us how to live.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai, and through Christ you have grafted all peoples into a new covenant to establish your Church: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: O Lord, behold and come to the aid of your servants in the Church. We pray for Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of Canada; Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, as well as our Diocesan Partners: Kairos Ottawa and Saint Paul University. Come and bring down the fire of your light.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and Bishop Carla Blakely. Come and help us.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare to elect a new bishop: for those discerning a call to let their name stand for election; for the candidates; for Members of Synod; and for our diocesan Administrator, Bishop Michael Bird. Come, Holy God, and make our paths straight.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

All: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Reader: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness, shine your light on those for whom we have been asked to

pray: Brian, Liesa, Willy, Marjorie, Kelly, Louise, Zabrina, Zachariah, Randy, Deb, Richard, Irene, Howard, Beth, Jeanette and Cheryl, come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

All: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Reader: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

All: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: 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.

Silence is kept.

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: 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.

All: **Amen.**

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

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: God our strength,
we are nothing without you.

Receive all we offer you this day
as you sustain us with your mercy;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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: 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.

All: **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 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.”

Celebrant: 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;**

Celebrant: 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;

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

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

All: **Happy are those who are called**
to the supper of the Lamb.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Communion

Prayer After Communion

Celebrant: Faithful God,
we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet.
Help us always to hear the prophet's call
to turn our hearts to you;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen**

Doxology 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: Be steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope,
and untiring in love
all the days of your life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services
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