

*Joined by Faith, Recalling the Past, Embracing the Future*

If you are visiting us today or joining us for the first time, we extend a warm welcome to you and invite you to join in our worship. Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 15 2019**

*“Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.”*Psalm 24.7

The Order of Service For Holy Eucharist

The Book of Alternative Services

*The land on which we gather is on the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee), and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.**This territory was the subject of Treaty 19, also known as the Ajetance (ah-jet-ahnce) Purchase. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.*

Opening Hymn: #108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

The Gathering of the Community

Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

The Greeting:

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

**And also with you.**

The Collect for Purity:

Almighty God,

**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.**

Kyrie Elleison (Lord, have mercy): *(Please kneel or be seated)*

Turn to us again, O God our saviour,

and let your anger cease from us:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Show us your compassion, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The Collects:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

 The Readings for the Day

 (Please be seated)

The First Lesson**:** Malachi 3: 1-4

Read by David Finch.

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. 3He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Song of Zechariah (Luke 1: 68-79) Howard Jones

**Refrain:**

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel for He has redeemed his people and has given us a wonderful salvation,**

He spoke through the prophets

to save us from our enemies

and guide our steps

in the paths of righteousness.  **R**

He was mindful of his covenant

to keep us without fear

to serve him in holiness

for now and evermore. **R**

We will call you, O child,

the prophet of the Highest,

who goes before the Lord

to give knowledge of salvation. **R**

Sins will be forgiven

and dawn will break upon us,

shining in the darkness

and guiding us to ways of peace. **R**

Gradual Hymn: Prepare the Way of the Lord *(Please stand)*

**Prepare the way of the Lord,**

**prepare the way of the Lord,**

**and all people will see**

**the salvation of our God.**

The Holy Gospel Luke 3: 1-6

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

 “The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

[*z*](https://www.esv.org/Is42.16%3BIs45.2)and the crooked shall become straight,

and the rough places shall become level ways,

6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

 The Gospel of Christ.

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

Gradual Hymn: Prepare the Way of the Lord

**Prepare the way of the Lord,**

**prepare the way of the Lord,**

**and all people will see**

**the salvation of our God.**

The Sermon: Rev. Chris Dow *(Please be seated)*

**Affirmation of faith: This I Believe** *(Please stand)*

Our Father everlasting
The all creating One
God Almighty
Through Your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Saviour

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

I believe in You
I believe You rose again
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord (X2)

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus*

I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again

For I believe in the Name of Jesus

I believe in the Name of Jesus

Intercessions:  *(Please sit or kneel)*

Led by Irma Proctor.

The Confession & Absolution:

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore, in the light of Christ, let us confess our sins. 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.**

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.**

The Peace: *(Please stand)*

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: #106 There’s a Voice in the Wilderness

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above Ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Eucharistic prayer 3:

*\* Hand sanitizer is provided in the front pews for those who wish.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest,**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

 *(Sitting or kneeling we continue)*

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,

**we remember his death,**

**we proclaim his resurrection,**

**we await his coming in glory;**

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. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer:

Awaiting his coming in glory, as our Savior taught us, so we pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread:

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

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

The gifts of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

Agnes Dei (Lamb of God)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

*If you require a non-wheat communion wafer, bring this bulletin with you to the altar rail and you will receive a rice wafer.*

Communion Hymns:

 #93 You Servants of the Lord

 #116 Your Kingdom Come On Bended Knee

The Prayer After Communion:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever**. Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

**Glory to God, 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.**

The Blessing:

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Announcements:

Recessional Hymn: #102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

Dismissal: As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Please join us now for refreshments in the Parish Hall.**

Thank you to

Brenda Cassell, Chancel Guild

George Judge & Jim Cassell, Sidespeople

John Heighton, Sound Tech

**Please Remember in your Prayers this Week:**

**Those in Need:** Ross, Joan, Amanda, Carly, Camden, Beryl, Heleen, Pieter, Edna, Alex, Norm & Lois, Hal.

**Our Deanery:** Rev. Byron Gilmore and the people of Christ Church, Brampton.

**Our Parish:** Joanne Redhead & Brad Teeter, Elizabeth Sime, Steve & Jane Smith and their families.

**More of What’s Happening at St. James**

**Financial update:** currently our general purpose givings for 2019 are $82,055.48, while the budget for year-end is $108,000. Thus we still need to raise $25,944.52 by December 31. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**Today 2:00 pm - Joint Carol Service at Caledon East United Church.**

**Today 4:00 pm – Carol Service and BBQ at Trinity, Campbell’s Cross.**

**Wed. 18 Dec. 12:00pm** - Eucharist with study of  Ann Voskamp's The Greatest Gift

**Wed. 18 Dec. 7:00pm** - Small group study of Ann Voskamp's The Greatest Gift

**Sun. 22 Dec. 10:30 am. The service of Lessons and Carols**

**Tue. 24 Dec. 7:00 pm. Candlelight Choral Eucharist for Christmas.**

**Wed. 25 Dec. 10:00 am. Christmas Day Eucharist.**

**Sun. 29 Dec. 10:30 am. One service only.**

**A schedule for Sunday School curriculum and the opportunity to sign up for volunteering is on the bulletin board outside the office. Please consider** **donating your time to this very worthwhile endeavor**

**Next Week’s Roster – December 22**

Sidespeople: Al & Gill Lawrie

Readers: Betty & Geoff Clark, Donna Davies, John & Christina Heighton,

 Robin Holder, Irma Proctor, Claire Olorenshaw, Ruth Sowrey.

Chancel: Claire Olorenshaw

Sound Tech: David Finch

Intercessor: Claire Olorenshaw

Priest in Charge: Rev. Chris Dow

 Parish Administrator: Ruth Sowrey stjamesoffice6025@gmail.com 905-584-9635

Rector’s Warden: David Finch

People’s Warden: Claire Olorenshaw

Choir Director: Joanne Redhead

Organist: Mary Judge

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