

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 29 2020



If you are joining us online for the first time, we extend a warm welcome to you and invite you to join in our worship by saying the parts printed in bold.

You can call in to the service by telephone:

Canada: (647) 497-9373

Access Code: 526-327-477

(Please wear your mask throughout the service, refrain from singing and speak softly.)

OPENING HYMN: O COME O COME EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: EXPECTATION OF HOPE

Today, this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first Advent candle in our wreath.

This is the candle of expectation and hope.

May it remind us of God's great promise to us. He is our hope, He is our Redeemer, and He is our Saviour.

In the Scripture, Jeremiah says,

“The days are coming, declares the LORD, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah... I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line... he will be called the Lord, our Righteous Saviour.” (Jer.23: 5-6)

(One family member then lights the candle)

Heavenly Father, during the Advent season may we be reminded of your promises to us. Help us to prepare our lives for His Advent within us. Amen.

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.

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; though Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. *(said twice)*

THE COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

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.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 64: 1-9

Read by Ruth Sowrey.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people. (ESV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: #80: 1-7, 17-18

SHINE ON US (*Musical accompaniment*)

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

stir up your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears

and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Let your hand be on the man of your right hand,

the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! *Alleluia!*

Alleluia!

Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life,

and we will call upon your name! *Alleluia!*

THE SECOND READING:

ROMANS 13: 8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (ESV)

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN: **LO HE COMES** *(Please remain seated)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: **MARK 13: 34-37** *(Please stand)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[Jesus said to his disciples]“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

(ESV)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GRADUAL HYMN: **LO HE COMES**

THE SERMON:

REV. CHRIS DOW

(Please be seated)

THE APOSTLES CREED:

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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.

INTERCESSIONS:

(Please be seated)

Led by Claire Olorenshaw.

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)

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY:

Blessed are you, LORD God of Israel, forever and ever. All that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.
(1 Chron. 29:10, 11, 14)

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

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.

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.

(Please be seated)

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:

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.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:

Thank you for joining us today via livestream. While those gathered in-person are receiving Communion, you may wish to do the following:

Reflect on the past week and on your relationships.

- What good things have I received from God?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do tomorrow and this upcoming week?

You may wish to say or pray:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You may wish to read and meditate on the Scripture lessons read earlier in the service.

To make your Spiritual Communion, say the following prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen. (Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

You might then add one or more of the following prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of

us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS: HOW THE WORLD LONGS FOR YOUR BIRTH COME, O LORD, AND SET US FREE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

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..

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:

May 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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLOSING HYMN: COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

DISMISSAL:

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Thank you for the music today:

Joanne Redhead

Mary Judge

Sharon Mulder

Thank you to

Christina Heighton, Chancel Guild

Neil Price-Jones, Gordon Morton, Sound Tech & Video Crew

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER DECEMBER 6

Reader:	John Heighton
Intercessor:	Joanne Redhead
Chancel Guild:	Robin Holder
Sound & Video:	Neil Price-Jones, David Finch, Shane Wieler

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:

Those in Need: Hal & Barb, Shireen & Irik, Anne, June, Marjorie, Muriel, Lois, Ross & Joan, Stan & Edna, Laurie, Caleigh, Rachael, Lee & Robin, Carey, Liz, Paul.

Those who have died: Alex McKinnon, and those who mourn, Pam and family.

Our Deanery: Rev. Monique Taylor and the people of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Brampton.

Our Parish: Howard & Valerie Jones, George Judge, Mary Judge and their families.

The World: including schools and public health authorities and the United States of America.

MORE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JAMES

Thank you to Todd and Chris for sharing the joy of their Christmas lighting.

Children's Time with Fr. Chris - Fridays at 7:00pm on Facebook Live.

Be a Christmas Angel to a friend at St. James - shop and deliver a package of cheer to a fellow St. James parishoner. We will supply ideas and the name & address of the recipient. Please let us know by December 1st. **OR** send a cheque or e-transfer marked 'Parish Outreach' to St. James by December 1st and we'll do the shopping and delivery.

Be a Christmas Angel to the community - send a cheque or e-transfer marked 'Community Outreach' to St. James and we will see that it goes to the Bridge Prison Ministry, Choices Youth Shelter and the Elizabeth Fry Society. Please send your contribution by December 6th. For more information on our Christmas Angel initiative, please contact our Outreach Coordinator Valerie Jones <valerie.jones@live.com>

Watch for the Light - join us as we read this remarkable book of Daily Devotions for Advent. The book is available from Amazon. We will meet online weekly in December for discussion. Please register with Fr. Chris.

Anglican Rosary Prayer Group meets for Advent this Thursday, 3 December, 7:00 pm via Google Meet. Please register with Fr. Chris.



Incumbent: 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