

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

## Welcome

*Hearing Assistive Devices and Large Print service leaflets are available  
Please ask an usher for assistance*

*Please ask an usher for a copy of the service music*



## The Gathering of the Community

**Processional Hymn #88** “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

**Greeting**

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*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.**

**Hymn #107** “Prepare the Way” (sung twice)

**Advent Candle Lighting      The Fourth Candle – a Candle of Joy**

*Reader 1* Christmas is coming! Be joyful and celebrate!

*Reader 2* Some people just celebrate because that’s what you do at this time of year; some celebrate because they think they are going to be given good gifts! But for us it is different. Very, very different.

*Reader 1* Joy came into the world at Christmastime with the birth of a baby two thousand years ago. That joy is in our hearts, and is bursting to get out, so let it out! The world needs all the joy it can get!

*Reader 2* Christ is coming! As we wait expectantly for Christmas day we light this fourth candle as a sign that the joy and love and peace that arrived with the birth of Christ are still here with us today, and we want to share them with everybody around us.

*The first, second, third, and fourth candles are lighted.*

*People* **Lord of celebration, thank you for the joy that you have brought to this world. Let it burst out of us in every word, every action, every smile so that all around us will be touched by it and will begin to feel a little of that same joy. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

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*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.**

**Kyrie Eleison** [Arranged by Michael Leach]

*Cantor* Kyrie eleison.

*People* **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

*Cantor* Christe eleison.

*People* **Christe eleison. Christe eleison.**

*Cantor* Kyrie eleison.

*People* **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

### The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Micah 5:2–5a

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Micah.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47–55) [**Hymn #362** “Tell Out, My Soul”]

Second Reading:

Hebrews 10:5–10

*Reader* A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn** “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Text from traditional liturgical text

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**Repeat**

Holy Gospel:

Luke 1:39–55

*Subdeacon* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

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

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

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of

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your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

<sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup>

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.”

*Subdeacon* The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

### The Apostles' Creed

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*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*People* **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.**

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**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.**

### The Prayers of the People

*Leader* In joyful expectation, we pray.

*People* **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

### Confession and Absolution

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*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.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*People*

**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. **Amen.**

### The Peace

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

*People* **And also with you.**

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### Offertory Hymn #93 “You Servants of the Lord”

### The Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer #3**

Proper Preface Advent

*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.

*People* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
Lord God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full,  
full of your glory.****Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna  
hosanna in the highest.****Blessèd is he who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.****Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna  
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."

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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,

*People* **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; 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** [Hymn #684]*Celebrant* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowèd 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 them 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.****The Breaking of the Bread #5**

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*Celebrant* 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.**

**O Lamb of God** [Hymn #685]

*People*    **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us.**  
**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:  
have mercy upon us.**  
**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world:  
grant us thy peace.**

**The Communion**

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*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the People of God.*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

*All are invited to share in Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.*

**Communion Hymn "A Candle Is Burning"**

Text by Sandra Dean

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way,  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.
- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.
- 5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

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**Prayer of Thanksgiving***Celebrant* All your works praise you, O Lord.*People*    **And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, bring life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Blessing****Announcements****Recessional Hymn #89 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"****Dismissal***Subdeacon* Go in peace full of expectation to love and serve the Lord.*People*    **Thanks be to God.**

***Please join us for refreshments following the service.***

## Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)

BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a "harbour for love," where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.

衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。

盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。

BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language

Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Assistant Curate	The Rev. Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria