



St. George on Yonge Anglican

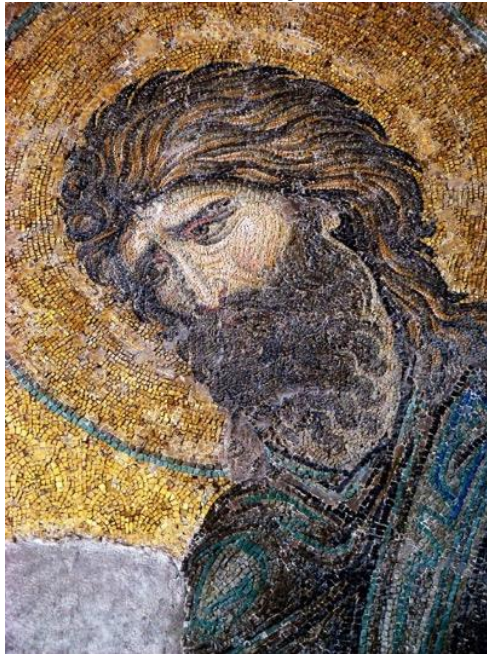
December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. – Sung Eucharist

Welcome

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



John the Baptist, Mosaic, Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkiye

St. George on Yonge Anglican Church, 5350 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2N 5R5 416 225-1922
office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca www.stgeorgeonyonge.ca

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The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn #101 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Text by James Montgomery

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|---|---|
| 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity. | 3 Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end. |
| 2 He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains
shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow. | 4 O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever:
that name to us is Love. |

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.**

Collect for Purity

page 185

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.**

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Advent Canticle 18b The Song of Mary Tell Out My Soul Hymn # 362

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name -- the Lord, the mighty one.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

People God of light,

**who sent the Baptist to offer hope
and to face the world's scorn:
open our ears to hear the cries from the margins,
exposing our fears, sharpening our vision
and calling us to faith; through Jesus, the Christ,
the One who is to come. Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1–4,8–11

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of

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many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Reader Psalm 126, responsively, beginning with the refrain.

REFRAIN The Lord has done great things for us.

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

REFRAIN The Lord has done great things for us.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

REFRAIN The Lord has done great things for us.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.

REFRAIN The Lord has done great things for us.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was, in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

REFRAIN The Lord has done great things for us.

Second Reading:

I Thessalonians 5:16–24

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God

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of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #107 "Prepare the Way"

Luke 3:4,6; paraphrase by Taizé Community (France)

Prepare the way of the Lord,
prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.

Repeat as needed.

Holy Gospel:

John 1:6–8,19–28

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Apostle's Creed

Hymn #44 "I Believe in God Almighty"

Paraphrase by Sylvia G. Dunstan

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| <p>1 I believe in God almighty,
 Father of all things that be,
 maker of the earth and heavens,
 keeper of the sky and sea.
 I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
 now for us both Lord and Christ,
 of the Spirit and of Mary
 born to bring abundant life.</p> <p>2 I believe that Jesus suffered,
 scourged and scorned and crucified;
 taken from the cross, was buried—
 true life there had truly died.
 I believe that on the third day
 Christ was raised up from the grave,
 then ascended to God's right hand.
 He will come to judge and save.</p> | <p>3 I believe in God's own Spirit,
 bonding all the saints within
 one Church, catholic, and holy,
 where forgiveness frees from sin;
 in the body's resurrection,
 for the breaking of death's chain
 gives the life that's everlasting:
 this the faith that I have claimed.</p> |
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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.**

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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 #98 "Hark the Glad Sound!"

Text by Philip Doddridge

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| 1 | Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song. | 3 | Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasures of grace
to bless the humble poor. |
| 2 | Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield. | 4 | Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name. |

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

People God of hope,
**renew in us the joy of your salvation and
make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Proper Preface Advent

page 198

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.**

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

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." 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 children; through Jesus

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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.**

Lamb of God Common Praise

People **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Communion

page 213

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Dear friends, if you are present or elsewhere and are unable to receive the sacrament at this time, I invite you to join me and the whole church in spiritual communion to receive Christ, who is present in this Sacrament of the Altar. Let us pray.

People **Lord Christ, present in the Sacrament of the altar and in your people, gathered in spirit, come and abide in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; transform my life and actions that they may reflect the image of your holiness; and, by the power of your liberating love, overthrow all that threatens or disrupts the justice and truth of the reign of God. In your name I pray. Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you would rather not receive the bread and wine, please feel free to come forward for a blessing.

Communion Hymns**Hymn #109 “When the King Shall Come Again”**

Text by Christopher Idle

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| <p>1 When the King shall come again,
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated,
this is God’s redemption day
longingly awaited.</p> <p>2 In the desert, trees take root,
fresh from God’s creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth;
mountains, greet the morning!</p> | <p>3 Strengthen feeble hands and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these,
seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping!</p> <p>4 There God’s highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!</p> |
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Hymn #88 “Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”

Text by Charles Wesley

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| <p>1 Come thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.</p> <p>2 Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.</p> | <p>3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever:
now thy gracious kingdom bring.</p> <p>4 By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.</p> |
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Hymn #93 “You Servants of the Lord”

Text by Philip Doddridge

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| <p>1 You servants of the Lord,
each in your calling wait,
observant of his heavenly Word,
and watchful at his gate.</p> | <p>2 Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
attentive stand, as in his sight,
for awesome is his name.</p> |
|---|--|

3 Watch; 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

4 How happy shall we be
if in his service found!
We shall our Lord with rapture see
and be with honour crowned!

5 Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise each faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

Prayer after Communion

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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

Recessional Hymn #91 "People, Look East! The Time Is Near"

Text by Eleanor Farjeon

1 People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to
nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to
build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch: when night is
dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as the sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

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- 5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace full of expectation to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please join us for refreshments in the parish hall following the service.

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols
Eve of Christmas
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14,

We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .
Congregation Cycle
Helen C / Mary Elizabeth C & Robyn / Margaret C / Jackie C / Yan C

Celebrant & Preacher	Fr. Ian LaFleur	Videographer	Egan Done
Subdeacon	Doug Heyes	Usher	Ann-Marie Waithe Powell
Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling	Altar Guild	Nancy Dodsworth
Reader	Hazel Perkin	Welcome Desk	Ravi Andrews
Music	Michael Leach	Coffee Hour Host	Aili Maki

ⁱ Holy, Holy, Holy Lord - Common Praise # 689