



# St. George on Yonge Anglican

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December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. – Advent Lessons and Carols

## ***Welcome***

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



*The Annunciation - Henry Ossawa Tanner, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PS*

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### Advent Festival of Readings and Music

#### A Bidding for Advent

*Celebrant* Dearly Beloved in Christ,  
in these days of shadow and of hope let it be our duty and delight to listen to the story of our faith, and hear again the prophets' words of blessing and doom. And, as we prepare to celebrate again the birth of Jesus Christ as a baby, let us remember that he also comes to judge the just and the unjust, and to establish the reign of equity and peace.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us reflect on the time of our rebellion in **Genesis 3**; hear Micah's call to justice, kindness, and a humble walk with God in **Micah 6**; find hope in the promise that the blind will see, the deaf hear, the lame dance, and the silent burst into song in **Isaiah 35**.

With longing in our hearts for God's reign of peace, let us hear again the story of Christ's first coming, and join with Mary and Joseph, and all our forebears in faith, in offering our praise and worship. Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the poor, the oppressed, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And, remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for all creation, creatures extinct and at risk of extinction, for witnesses to hope in the darkness of this world; for equity, peace and justice on earth, and for the well being, unity and mission of the Church, the Body of Christ in the World, that we may be a sign of the age to come.

Let us pray for the advent of God's Kingdom and that God's will would be done on earth as in heaven.

#### The Lord's Prayer [Hymn #684]

*Celebrant* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

*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 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 Lessons

##### First Lesson

*Genesis 2.4b–9,15–25*

*Reader* A Reading from the book of Genesis.

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream

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would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Collect**

*Celebrant*   Let us pray.

Creating God,

*People*     **you call us to live in harmony with nature, one another, and with you.**

**Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for the world has been revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn #92** “O Day of God, Draw Nigh”

Text by R. B. Y. Scott

1    O day of God, draw nigh  
      in beauty and in power;  
      come with thy timeless judgment now,  
      to match our present hour.

2    Bring to our troubled minds,  
      uncertain and afraid,  
      the quiet of a steadfast faith,  
      calm of a call obeyed.

3 Bring justice to our land,  
 that all may dwell secure,  
 and finely build for days to come  
 foundations that endure.

4 Bring to our world of strife  
 thy sovereign word of peace,  
 that war may haunt the earth no more  
 and desolation cease.

5 O day of God, draw nigh  
 as at creation's birth;  
 let there be light again, and set  
 thy judgements in the earth.

### **Second Lesson**

**Genesis 3.1–20**

*Reader* A Reading from the book of Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for

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you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Collect

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

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.**

## Hymn #455 "Dear God, Compassionate and Kind"

Text by John Greenleaf Whittier

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | Dear God, compassionate and kind,<br>forgive our foolish ways.<br>Reclothe us in our rightful mind,<br>in purer lives thy service find,<br>in deeper reverence, praise,<br>in deeper reverence, praise. | 4 | Drop thy still dews of quietness<br>till all our strivings cease;<br>take from our souls the strain and<br>stress,<br>and let our ordered lives confess<br>the beauty of thy peace,<br>the beauty of thy peace.                      |
| 2 | In simple trust like theirs who heard,<br>beside the Syrian sea,<br>the gracious calling of the Lord,<br>let us, like them, without a word,<br>rise up and follow thee,<br>rise up and follow thee!     | 5 | Breathe through the heats of our<br>desire<br>thy coolness and thy balm;<br>let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;<br>speak through the earthquake, wind,<br>and fire,<br>O still small voice of calm,<br>O still small voice of calm. |
| 3 | O Sabbath rest by Galilee!<br>O calm of hills above,<br>where Jesus knelt to share with thee<br>the silence of eternity<br>interpreted by love,<br>interpreted by love!                                 |   |  |

**Third Lesson****Isaiah 40.1–11***Reader* A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.*People* **Thanks be to God.****Collect***Celebrant* Let us pray.

God our hope,

*People* **hear again the cry of exiles, imprisoned in a dark land of war, hunger, and intolerance. Come among us with strength and healing and bring us back to the world of your just and holy purpose. We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.****Hymn #100 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

Isaiah 40:1–5; paraphrase by Johannes G. Olearius; translation by Catherine Winkworth

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|---|--|---|
| 1 | Comfort, comfort ye my people;<br>speak ye peace: thus says your God.<br>Comfort those who sit in darkness<br>bowed beneath oppression's load; | speak ye to Jerusalem<br>of the peace that waits for them:<br>tell her that her sins I cover,<br>and her warfare now is over. |
|---|--|---|

2 Hark! The herald's voice is calling  
 in the desert far and near,  
 calling us to new repentance,  
 since the reign of God is here.  
 Oh, the warning call obey!  
 Now prepare for Christ a way;  
 let the valleys rise to meet him  
 and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was  
 crooked;  
 make the rougher places plain.  
 Let your hearts be true and humble  
 as befits Messiah's reign,  
 For the glory of the Lord  
 now o'er the earth is shed abroad,  
 and all flesh shall see the token  
 that God's Word is never broken.

#### **Fourth Lesson Micah 6:6-8**

*Reader* A Reading from the Prophet Micah

'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?' He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

#### **Collect**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

God of our longing,

*People* **we cannot earn the wholeness we desire, nor win your healing grace by offering back the bounty we receive. Give us, we pray, hearts to learn your will, and wills to do your pleasure in works of justice and of peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn** There Is a Mighty Question

*ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D ("O Jesus, I Have Promised")*

There is a mighty question we ask when nations rage:  
 Just when will be Christ's coming, the ending of the age?  
 Take care, said Jesus clearly, for many will appear;  
 They'll claim to be Messiah, yet people should not fear.

For in the days of Noah, the people went along  
 In eating and in drinking, in merriment and song —

**Carolyn Winfrey-Gillette<sup>1</sup>**

Then suddenly the world changed with great, surprising power;  
 So too will be Christ's coming, and no one knows the hour.  
 So keep awake and watchful; salvation is at hand!  
 Our hope is in Christ Jesus, and by God's grace we stand.  
 The night is almost over, we wait for God's new day,  
 And through the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus' way.

Be ready in your living, for when you feed the poor,  
 Or give to thirsty children the water they long for,  
 And when you welcome strangers and help the ones in need,  
 Christ says: "Receive my kingdom, for you are serving me."

### ***Fifth Lesson    Isaiah 11.1–9***

*Reader*     A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

### **Collect**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

God our salvation,

*People*     **who by water and the Holy Spirit delivered us from sin and raised us to the new life of grace, give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and**



wonder in all your works. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

**Hymn #89** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Translation from Latin by John Mason Neale

1 O come, o come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

**Refrain**

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.

**Refrain**

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

**Refrain**

6 O come, O Dayspring from on high  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

**Refrain**

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of humankind;  
O bid our bitter conflict cease,  
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

**Refrain**

**Sixth Lesson**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

**Reader** A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

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At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Collect

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

God of our exile,

*People* **we pray for peace in a world of war, for health in a world of sickness for food in a world of hunger, for generosity in a world of greed, for harmony in a world of discord. Bring us home to the world as you would have it be, subject to the reign of your love and grounded in the mutual care of your children. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Hymn #95 "O Come, Divine Messiah"

Text by Simon-Joseph Pellegrin;  
translation by Sister Mary of St. Philip

1 O come, divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away.

2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for,  
whom priest and prophet long  
foretold,  
come, break the captives' fetters,  
redeem the long-lost fold.

### **Refrain:**

Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.

Dispel the night and show your face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, Divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away.

### **Refrain**

3 O come in peace and meekness  
and lowly will your cradle be;  
all clothed in human weakness  
shall we your Godhead see.

### **Refrain**

## **Seventh Lesson**

**Luke 1.5–25**

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the

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commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

*Reader*     The Word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*Celebrant*  Let us pray.

Almighty God,

*People*     **you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

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## Hymn #106 "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

Isaiah 40:3–11; paraphrase by James Lewis Milligan

- 1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!
- 2 O Zion, give voice to good tidings,  
ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
The works of pride all perish,  
like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away.
- 3 But your word, O God, is faithful,  
your arm, O Lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations,  
and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a  
shepherd,  
and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,  
and give to the weary rest.

***Repeat verse 1***

## Eight Lesson

**Luke 1.26–38**

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

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## Collect

*Celebrant* Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord,

*People* **that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Ninth Lesson

**John 1.1–14**

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## Collect

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Eternal Wisdom,

*People* **creating, ordering, and saving, we give thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our wills, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Advent Litany**

Leader: 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: come and teach us how to live.

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

Leader: 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: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

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

Leader: 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.

*People* **Lord Jesus, Come soon!**

Leader: 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.

*People* **Lord Jesus, Come soon!**

Leader: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

*People* **Lord Jesus, Come soon!**

Leader: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

*People* **Lord Jesus, Come soon!**

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

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

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Christmas Collect**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God,

*People* **you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Blessing****Hymn #128 "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"**

Text from West Indian carol; adaption by Edric Connor

1 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name was  
Jesus.

**Refrain:**

He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious  
kingdom.

He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious  
kingdom.

O yes, believer! O yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious  
kingdom!

2 The angels sang when the baby was  
born,  
the angels sang when the baby was  
born,  
the angels sang when the baby was  
born,  
and proclaim him Saviour Jesus.

**Refrain**

3 The wise men went where the baby was  
born,  
the wise men went where the baby was  
born,  
the wise men went where the baby was  
born,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.

**Refrain****Dismissal**

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

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

**About Advent**

The season of Advent is, in recent tradition, a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas, the Lord's Nativity, His First Coming in history, and for His Second Coming at the end of time.

In earlier in Church history, Advent was also preparation for the season of Epiphany, a celebration of Christ's manifestation to the Gentiles, those outside the boundary of God's covenantal promises to Israel.

Like Lent, Advent was a time of preparation for baptism, for those coming within the boundary of God's covenant in Jesus Christ.

Western Advent traditions date to the sixth century in Gaul. The four Sundays of this penitential season of watching and waiting provide the opportunity for sustained meditation on the themes of salvation, judgment and our ultimate destiny.

# 16

The covenant people of God, the Israelites, the remnant of whom came to be known as Jews, looked forward to the coming of God's Kingdom, Reign or Realm. This Kingdom would be the sign of a new age, a new moral order of justice and righteousness, which would be the basis for that cosmic harmony, suggested by the word shalom, translated as peace. The early Church saw that the Kingdom had been inaugurated and experienced through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, but still prayed 'Thy Kingdom come,' looking forward to the Second Coming and the final consummation or fulfillment of all things.

Our worship today, reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the First Coming of Christ in Christmas, and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is fulfilled.

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

## Next Sunday's Scripture Readings

### The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;

Ephesians 3:1-12;

Matthew 2:1-12

## We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .

### Congregation Cycle

Hugo & Carolina C / Cynthia C / Ruby D & Ariana / Cheryl D & Matthew /  
Michael & Nancy D

Celebrant & Preacher	Fr. Ian LaFleur	Videographer	Egan Done
Subdeacon	Margie Lyttle	Usher	Ann-Marie Waithe Powell
Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling	Altar Guild	Margie Lyttle
Readers	Ravi Andrews	Welcome Desk	Doug Heyes
	Geraldine Sperling	Coffee Hour Host	Colette Lyttle, Lorraine LaFleur
	Hazel Perkin		
Music	Michael Leach	Counters	Lorraine Baillie, Craig Robertson

**Please note:** All donations must be received by the morning of Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> to be included on your 2023 income tax receipt.

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