St. George on Yonge
Anglican

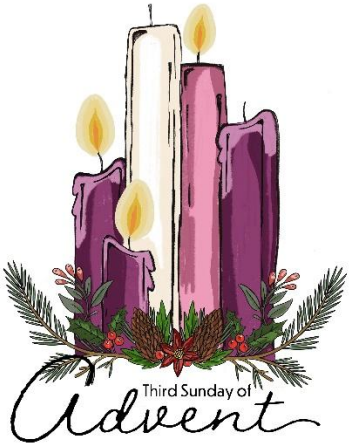
December 14, 2025

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



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The Gathering of the Community

Lighting the Advent Candle for Joy (please remain seated)

Reader One When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, people who are homeless, people who are ill, people in trouble, people who have become invisible and forgotten.

Reader Two When I look around, I see shadows of grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one, because they're recently divorced, because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone.

(Light the third (pink) candle in the Advent wreath and then the other two).

Reader One In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy.

Reader Two In the face of grief, we light a candle of joy.

Reader One May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader Two May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader One Friends in Christ, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

All **God of Joy, we seek You. During this holy season of Advent, help us to bring joy to all whom we encounter.**

Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray. In your Christ, O God, we discover salvation coming to all who need. Our past has been made new, our futures restored, the earth rejoices with your spiral of beauty—grant, we pray, that our lives be fulfilled in this your fulfilment for us; through Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Musical Meditation

Hymn #101 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Text by James Montgomery

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.

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.

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.

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 page 185

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.**

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 **God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1–10

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

[1] The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus [2] it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
[3] Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
[4] Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."
[5] Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
[6] then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
[7] the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
[8] A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
[9] No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
[10] And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4–9

Arrangement by Christopher L. Webber
Tune Hymn #352 New Britain

1 Happy are they whose hope is in
The God whom Jacob knew;
Who made the heavens, earth, and sea,
Whose promises are true.

2 To those oppressed, the Lord our God
Gives justice constantly;
He feeds the hungry and all those
In prison he sets free.

3 The Lord lifts up all those bowed down
And gives the blind new sight;
The stranger, widow, fatherless,
He strengthens by his might.

4 God brings the wicked to their doom,
And he will reign always;
From age to age, O Zion, sing
To God unending praise.

Second Reading: James 5:7–10

Reader A reading from the Letter of James.

7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the
precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late
rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is
near. 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See,
the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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: Matthew 11:2–11

Subdeacon The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Subdeacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3
and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus
answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the
lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have
good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."
7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go
out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out
to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal
palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a
prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead
of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the
Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he . . . "
Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Apostles' Creed page 189

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.
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 page 191

Celebrant A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

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 page 192

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #362 "Tell Out, My Soul"
Luke 1:46–56 (Song of Mary); paraphrase by Timothy Dudley-Smith

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 for evermore!

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 C

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 It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe.
People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being. From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of your creation.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Savior. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Michael Leach

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant Therefore, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, creator of all.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever**. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer [Michael Leach]

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People **Our Father in heav'n, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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 #5 page 212

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 #690]

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.**

All are welcome to receive communion with us

As the ushers pass your pew, please line up in the centre aisle.

- ***To receive a blessing,*** *as you reach the priest with the bread, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat after receiving the blessing.*
- ***To receive the bread****, hold your hands in front of you, palms up.*
- ***To receive the wine from the cup****, take the bottom of the cup and the base and guide it to your mouth.*
- ***If you prefer to take only the bread,*** *you may indicate this to the cup bearer by crossing your arms over your chest, or simply walking past them.*

Communion Hymn #96 "Creator of the Stars of Night"

Translation from Latin by John Mason Neale

1 Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

3 When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a maiden mother's womb.

4 At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
and things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms. Grant perseverance and patience to all who long for your Son's return, so that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. Amen**

Blessing

Celebrant Christ the light of our lives shine upon you,
scatter the stumbling blocks from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the Blessing of God, creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be upon you now and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #101 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" Text by James Montgomery

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dismissal

Subdeacon Followers of Jesus, Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Serve the World God Loves!
People **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Allan Kirk from Janet Kirk and family.

Please join us for refreshments following the service.

Today's Scripture Readings	Next Sunday's Scripture Readings
Third Sunday of Advent	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
Is 35:1-10	Is 7:10-16
Psalm 146:4-9	Psalm 80:1-7,16-18
Jas 5:7-10	Rom 1:1-7
Mt 11:2-11	Mt 1:18-25

We are a faith community dedicated to being a safe and inclusive place for all people to experience God's love.
We celebrate God's gift of diversity by honouring and welcoming people from all gender identities, sexualities, marital statuses, family configurations, ages, abilities, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic circumstances.
No matter who you are, you are welcomed, loved, and valued.

We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .

Congregation Cycle
Prince Philip A & Subba P, Miraa & Mika / Nigel P / Joanie P / Rudy P / Rakesh & Sangeeta R, Roanna, Ryan, & Naomi

Celebrant	Rev. Ali McIntosh	Organist	Michael Leach
Subdeacon& Preacher & Chalice Bearer	Margie Lyttle	Videographer	Egan Done
		Altar Guild	Margie Lyttle
Chalice Bearer & Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling	Ushers	Ann-Marie Waithe Powell, Hazel Perkin
Crucifer	Christian Ajubiga	Duty Warden	Craig Robertson
Server	Soroush Javaheri	Welcome Table	Michael R. Leach
Readers	Geraldine Sperling, Michael R. Leach	Coffee Hour Hosts	Aili Maki, Joanie Piluke

Territorial Acknowledgement

The land on which we gather is 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 the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase. Today, Toronto is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.
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.