

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke

The First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020

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We welcome you to worship this morning. Our celebration is joyful, reflective, playful and reverent, as we thank God for new life through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we gather on this sacred land, we acknowledge that this is the Dish with One Spoon Territory created in Treaty by the Anishinabee, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee binding them to share and protect this land. Subsequent indigenous nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. May we faithfully fulfill our treaty commitments to the land and its people.

This land has also been the place of Christian worship since the 1820's.

Gathering of the Community

Welcome and Announcements

The prayer bell calls us to silent preparation

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

And also with you.

Behind the corridors of space,
before the world began,
beyond all understanding...
God.

♪ **Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Fathering time,
mothering creation,
parenting all people...
God.

♪ **Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

waiting for the right moment,
preparing the right way,
intending the right woman...
God.

♪ **Gloria, Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

We believe in one God,
maker and mover of heaven and earth..

Lighting the Advent Wreath

♪ **Hope is a star that shines in the night,
Leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Refrain

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship
almighty God, let us confess our sins.

Emmanuel, we want to believe you are with us dwelling in this and
every moment,

But we pine for the past and rush toward the future.

We want to be found wide awake, alert with love, as you appear in
this and every moment,

**But we slumber through and laze away the miracle of ordinary
days.**

We want to wait for you alone, with desire and hope,

But our trust fails, our longing grows cold, and our hope dims.

We want to make room in our hearts, a safe and warm place, for you
to be born,

But we close our hearts, and harden them to you and your people.

We confess our failures at love.

We are sorry; we ask your forgiveness.

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we
may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of unveiled truth,
in times of darkened sun and waning moon,
lift up our hearts and waken our love
to announce the coming dawn of unexpected peace;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

Amen.

Breaking Open the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1—9

Reader: Chiagozie Azuh Snr.

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80.1—7, 16—18

Israel's Shepherd, please, oh please listen!

**Joseph's guide, enthroned on cherubim,
flash forth in splendour of your people!**

Rouse your boundless powers!

Come, set us free!

Sovereign God, how long?

How long will you fume at your people's prayers?

You fed us misery for bread;

You mad us drink overflowing tears.

**You made us fair game for our neighbours;
our enemies sneer in our faces.**

You plucked a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the peoples, planted a vine.

**May your arms support the people of your right hand,
those made strong for yourself.**

Then we will never desert you.

Give us life!

We will always call upon you.

The Holy Gospel: Mark 13.24—37

The Holy Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.


Jesus said, ²⁴ "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: The Reverend Mike Stuchbery

Chant *Heaven and Earth Shall Pass Away*

 **Heaven and earth will pass away,
But my words will not pass away.** (*repeats*)

An Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God, who bends and kneels toward our world,
drenching it with love, making it new with every breath.

We believe!

We believe in Jesus, God become human,
who brought every person a spark of the divine.

We believe!

We believe in the Spirit, hovering God, present among us,
abiding, upholding, awaking all things to her grace.

We believe!

We believe we are called to do justice, love kindness, and walk
humbly with God and each other, ready for God's reign, awake
and alert, as we work to bring it near.

We believe!

We believe we are called, as Christmas comes close, to lift up our
hearts in hope and in love, seeking God's advent in each moment
and person, each challenge and heartache, each blessing and joy.

We believe!

This we promise to do. Keep us faithful, Lord Jesus, and come soon.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Janet Churchill

God of the prophets, give your church courage to speak truth, and to
tell of your love.

God of the prophets here us and help us!

God of the angels, give your church voice to sing your presence into
the world. Give the world a freedom song, and help us to speak peace
throughout the earth.

God of the angels here us and help us!

God of Mary and Elizabeth, give your church grace to be pregnant
with hope and to bring forth new life for a barren world.

God of our mothers here us and help us!

God of Zechariah and Joseph, give your church dreams and visions,
and the courage to follow them.

God of our fathers, here us and help us!

God of the shepherds, give your church humility, and to all who sit in
darkness, alone, and afraid, a light from heaven proclaiming peace.

We pray for those we know to be in particular need at this time:

Bruce, Grayson, Karen, Shirley, Pavini, Victoria, Teresa, Mae, Carly,
Ty, and Teslyn, Gail Chard, other members of Pat Miller's family and
all who mourn. All those we carry in our hearts and any whom we
have forgotten.

God of the shepherds here us and help us!

God of the magi, give your church gifts, and the will to leave home to
find you among the poor.

God of the magi here us and help us!

God of the Holy Innocents, give your church power to stand against
violence and to protect the powerless.

God of the victim here us and help us!

God our Sovereign, you are always coming into the world. Come to
us now, soon, and forever, and let us receive you as the Child of
holiness and the Wind of change, through whom, this day, we pray.

Amen.

The Offertory

We offer ourselves and our monetary gifts for the support of the ministry of the Church.

Hymn Hymn 89 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* vs. 1, 2, 3

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.**

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

Refrain

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

Prayer Over the Gifts

Let us pray.

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope
as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son,
our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom
come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our
daily bread. 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.**

**Glory to God,
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn 114 *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending* vs. 1, 2, 4

1. **Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**

2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.
4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly!
O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Final Blessing

God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
the angels in heaven,
and the child in the womb,
**Give us your benediction,
Your good word for our souls,
that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.
Amen.**

May God keep you in all your days.
May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
May the Holy Trinity drive all darkness from you
and pour upon you blessing and light.
Amen.

Postlude

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