

St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke

The First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021
10:30 Eucharist

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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

Introit *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* - violin & piano arr. Michael Tyree

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, in excelsis Deo.

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


Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

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

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.**

Children's Time

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of all the ages,
rouse us from sleep,
deliver us from our heedless ways
and form us into a watchful people,
so that, at the advent of your Son,
we may be found doing what is right,
mindful of all you command.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain
and whose day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Breaking Open the Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14—16

Reader: Chiagozie Azuh Snr.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25.1—9

Holy One, to you I lift up my soul.

I trust you! Do not let me be shamed.

O my God, do not let my enemies rejoice over me.

Truly, all who wait on you are never shamed.

Empty, treacherous people are shamed!

Make your ways known to me, Holy One,
and teach me your paths.

Direct me in your truth! Teach me!

You are indeed my saving, helping God.

I long for you all day long

because of your goodness, Holy One.

Remember your acts of mercy
and your enduring, faithful love!

Do not remember my youthful sins

nor my transgressions,

but be mindful of your faithful love.

The Holy One is good and upright,
teaching sinners the way they should go,

Guiding the humble with true justice,

and teaching them the right way.

All God's ways are loving, faithful, and true

for those who keep the holy covenant and decrees.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9—13

Reader: Michele Parkin

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 21.25—36

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars,
and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of
the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of

what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: The Reverend Mike Stuchbery

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming – violin & piano arr. Brenda Portman

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: Greg Lane

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

God of the prophets hear 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 hear 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 hear 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, hear 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:

Lucio, Gail, Wilf, Sofia, Grayson, Shirley, Bill, Ralph and Fred. All those we carry in our hearts and any whom we have forgotten.

God of the shepherds hear 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 hear 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 hear 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.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
welcoming sinners and inviting them to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

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.

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 of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

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

Elise Wiesinger *Siciliano* from Bach's *Sonata in g minor* for violin

Prayer Over the Gifts

Let us pray.

God of love and power,
your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

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

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,

**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

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

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.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Jesus, I believe that you are present with us
in the sacrament of bread and wine.
I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life.
Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you and unite myself to you;
never let me be separated from you. Amen.*

Breaking of the Bread

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sonata for violin & piano Op 4 2nd movement Poco Adagio – Felix Mendelssohn

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord.

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.**

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.

Closing Hymn 88 *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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.**
2. **Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
3. **Born thy people to deliver;
born, a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever:
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
4. **By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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