

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17th, 2017 at 10.15 am

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 108

Hark! A Herald Voice is Sounding

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah the Prophet announced it.

The Spirit of God is with me, because I have been chosen to bring good news to the abused, to bandage the wounds of the heartbroken, and to release those who are in prisons of all kinds.

I am here to proclaim a good year in God's sight, a time when things will be set right.
I am here to comfort the grieving and to dress them for happy times instead of sad ones.

The people who are healed and comforted will be like strong trees, upright and loyal to God.

They will be like a forest planted to show God's glory. They will rebuild the world and show everyone God's power.

We wait for the day of God's joy,
and live in God's peace and hope, as we light these candles.

The first (hope), second (peace), and third (joy) candles are lit.

Loving God,
come and shine your light in the world!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that we will walk in the way of Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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 broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

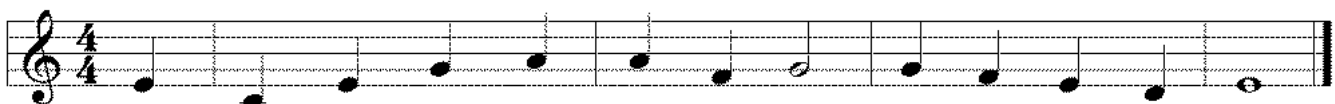
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks 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 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126



The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

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.

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.

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

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 105

Where Jordan Cuts the Wilderness

THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

ANTHEM

This is the Record of John (Orlando Gibbons)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

God our Creator,

we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God, who is both power and love, forgives you ✠ and frees you from your sins, heals and strengthens you by his Spirit, and raises you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 132

Of Eternal Love Begotten

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God 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.

Worship and praise belong to you, gracious God, in every place and at all times. You made us, all the people of the world, and everything that is.

You give us the daylight. Your Word lights up our minds. Jesus was born among us to be light in our darkness.

Your Spirit lives in us so that we can look at the world with your eyes.

One day we will be with you in heaven, but already we laugh with the saints and angels, and sing their joyful song:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory, ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Forgiving God, you never forget us or turn away from us, even when we fail you. You sent your Son Jesus who gave his life for us. He healed those who were sick, cared for those who were poor, and cried with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive.

For all your love we give you thanks in the way that Jesus showed us.

On the night before he died, while he was having supper with his friends, he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

So, as we do what he told us, we open our hearts to him; we remember how he died and rose again to live now in us.

Together with him we offer you these gifts: in them we give you ourselves.

Send your Holy Spirit on us ✠ and on this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ, and that, sharing your life, we may travel in your company to our journey's end.

With all your people, we give you thanks and praise through the Son and in the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,



Our Fa - ther in heav'n, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly
bread, for - give us our sins, as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the
king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

Lord, unite us in this sign.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

O Rex gentium (Gordon Johnston)

Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Loving God,

we have broken the bread which is Christ's body, we have tasted the wine of his new life. We thank you for these gifts by which we are made one in him and drawn into that new creation which is your will for all humankind; through him who died for us and rose again, your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the joy of the Spirit surround and bless you ✠ as you walk in the hope of the Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN 114

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

DISMISSAL

Go in joy to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<i>Presider</i>	The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff
<i>Preacher & Deacon</i>	The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros
<i>Organist</i>	Dr Gordon Johnston

Advent Wreath Lighting: Created and copyrighted by the Rev. Martha K. Spong, (NL 2014, RCL 2011). Liturgy: *Scottish Liturgy 1982 with Alternative Eucharistic Prayers*. Collect: *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002) alt. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm: ©2001 Gordon Johnston.

Prepare the Way

