



Lessons & Carols Fourth Sunday of Advent

St Mark the Evangelist Anglican Church

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Rev. Mary-Cate Garden, Priest-in-Charge

We gather today on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

10:00 AM, HOLY EUCHARIST,

Prelude

Prelude on 'Irby,'

D. Willcocks

Processional Hymn 123 Once in Royal David's City
verse 1 solo

(IRBY)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed;
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1: Today is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah. We are in awe of Jesus' birth—that God came to us in this way, in a weak and vulnerable baby. The mighty God of the universe has become Emmanuel, "God with us."

Reader 2: The first Advent candle reminds us to have hope for a better world. The second Advent candle reminds us that God's dreams for peace can become real in the world. The third Advent candle reminds us that God calls us to share joy by being part of the healing of the world.

Reader 1: Today we light the fourth Advent candle. It reminds us of God's promise to be with us and to love us, now and always.



(The fourth candle is lit)

All: Loving God, we thank you for your promise that you will be with us always. We rejoice in your faithfulness. Give us courage to respond with the same love and compassion shown by Jesus. Amen

Hymn 368 He Came Down (vs 1)

(HE CAME DOWN)

He came down that we may have love x 3
hallelujah for evermore.

Bidding Prayer

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

All pray in silence for a while.

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 40:1-8

The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile
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 forever.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Antem: Gaudete

ANON FROM PIAE CANTIONES, 1582

Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!

SECOND LESSON: ISAIAH 35: 1-10

The prophet foretells the Return of the Redeemed to Zion

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

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.
Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
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.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
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;
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.
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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
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.
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.
The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 101 Hail to the Lord’s Anointed

(CRUGER)



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.

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.

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.

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.

THIRD LESSON: ISAIAH 7: 10-14

The Prophet foretells the birth of Emmanuel – God with us

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: Love Came Down at Christmas

MARK SIRETT

Hymn 95 Oh Come, Divine Messiah!

(VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE)

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



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.*

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

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

S.J. PELLEGRIN TR SISTER MARY OF ST PHILLIP

FOURTH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary

ARR. CH. WOOD



FIFTH LESSON: LUKE 2:1-7
St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: Betelehemu

YORUBA CAROL, ARR. ANDY BECK

We rejoice, for we have a trustworthy Father.

Where was Jesus born? Betelehem, city of wonder.

Praise to you. We thank you for this day, gracious Father.

Praise be to the merciful Father, the Father that created us

SIXTH LESSON: LUKE 2:8-20
The shepherds go to the manger

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see



this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Choir: Balulalow

MARK SIRETT

Offertory Hymn What Shall We Give to the Child *(CATALAN CAROL)*

What shall we give to the child in the manger?
What shall we give him that he will enjoy?
Milk and wild honey for this little stranger,
food to give strength to a new little boy.

What shall we give to the first born of Mary?
Things that will nourish a new life begun:
fruits of the forest and figs from the fig tree,
nurtured in soil and ripened by sun.

This child must grow to inherit a kingdom,
blossom and ripen like fields of good corn
bearing a seed that will fall and lie buried,
springing up new in the bright Easter morn.

What shall we give to the child in the manger?
What shall we give him that he will enjoy?
Give of the best to the one who will save us,
food to give strength to this man still a boy.

STEPHEN DEAN

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Prayer over the Gifts



Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

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 We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.
He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.
In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.
By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.



All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

HYMN 735

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant

Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks,
saying, "Take, and eat:
this is my body which is broken for you."
In the same way he took the cup,
saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you.
When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one
all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit
and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you
and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son,
with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
now and for ever.

People

Amen



The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **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 those 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 Breaking of the Bread

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

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

The Communion

Hymn 685 Agnus Dei

J. MERBECKE

Hymn 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

(FOREST GREEN)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently thy wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven.



No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

PHILLIPS BROOKS

Anthem: A Maiden Most Gentle

ANDREW CARTER

Lord God, as we prepare our hearts to receive your Son, give us his humility, that we may know him in the lives of others; give us honesty, that we may speak out against all that brings cruelty and violence; and give us his joy, that we may come to know this whole world as your gift, that in all that we do and say his presence would be made known and his name glorified, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

SEVENTH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14 (*Please stand*)

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

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.

Choir: Sing Noel!

ARR. VICTOR C. JOHNSON

The Dismissal

Celebrant Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and those whom you love, this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 154 Joy to the World

(ANTIOCH)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reign; let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our curse is found, far as our curse is found,
far as, far as our curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

ISAAC WATTS

Then the deacon or the celebrant says,

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Noel Suisse

L.C. Daquin



Prayer Calendar

Diocese of Ottawa: For Staff at Ascension House, For Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff The Reverend Canon Douglas Richards. Deacon Jarrett Carty

Anglican Church of Canada/Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada/Moravian Church in Canada: ACC The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator ELCIC Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship MOR The Rev. Melissa Johnson, president of the Eastern District Executive Board of the Moravian Church Northern Province

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Uganda

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