



The First Sunday of Christmas December 27, 2021

Welcome

Minister

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
(*Colossians 3.15, 16*)

Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth;
you open our eyes to see the wonders around us, and our
hearts and mouths to praise you. Now give us strength for
loving service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Minister

Let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Minister

Most merciful God,

All

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.

Minister

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all our sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 148

1 Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.

**2 Praise him, all you angels of his;
praise him, all his host.**

3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

**4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

5 Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.

**6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

7 Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

**8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

9 Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

**10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and wingèd birds;**

11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

**12 Young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

13 Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

**14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

The Reading: Luke 2.22-40

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that

he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Matthew Waterman

Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
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, he is seated at
the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 Offertory - *Please take a moment to prayerfully present your financial offering to God.*

Prayer over the Gifts God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Prayers

Minister The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Minister Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that 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.

Minister O Lord, show your mercy upon us;

People **And grant us your salvation.**

Minister O Lord, guide those who govern us;

People **And lead us in the way of justice and truth.**

Minister Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People **And let your people sing with joy.**

Minister O Lord, save your people;

People **And bless your inheritance.**

Minister Give peace in our time, O Lord;

People **And defend us by your mighty power.**

Minister Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Minister Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People **And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

Leader O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored. You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayer, and so we turn to you in our hour of need. Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required, "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God". Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity. Be with us O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by

this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious Lord, you are the comfort of those who mourn and the strength of those who suffer. We pray for those who are in any need and for those who have asked for our prayers....for Stella, Norma, Shirley, John, Amini, Evelyn, Jackie, Leila, Alicia, Gary and family, and for all those we name now, silently or aloud... **Amen.**

The Blessing May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas and forever more. And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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In our prayers this week:

The Anglican Communion

Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement
His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome
His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches
Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council
The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

The Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer

ACC Director Joe Vecsi and the staff of Communications and InformationResources;
Director Hannah Goschy and the staff of Financial Management and Administration
ELCIC Rev. Lyle McKenzie, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship

Diocese of Toronto

The Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Social Justice and Advocacy Committee:

The clergy and people of Christ Church, Brampton; Christ Church, Deer Park; Christ Church, Holland Landing and their outreach activities.

The Church of St Mary and St Martha

In our parish cycle: Gloria Brown, John and Mintrude Bullen; Berta Cabral; Dian Cammock and Mario
Celebrating a Birthday: Felysha Leander-Cobham, Bernice Yorke

Clergy

The Rt Rev Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto
416 363 6021

The Rt Rev Jenny Andison, Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley

The Most Rev Anne Germond, Metropolitan of the Province of Ontario

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