



The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 20, 2020

Welcome

Minister

I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word. *(Luke 1.38)*

Prayer

Remember us, gracious God, when we cannot see your way and purpose, and renew in us the joy of your kingdom of light. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent means “coming” and in this season before Christmas we prepare for the coming of Jesus, not just as an event that happened long ago in Bethlehem but a reality today and a future promise of when Jesus will come again. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of anticipation and reflection.

All

Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Reader

The Psalmist received a vision from God, who said, I have put a crown on the head of a new king, a mighty one chosen and anointed with oil. My hand will always be with him; my arm will strengthen him. My faithfulness and steadfast love will be with the one I’ve chosen. We wait for God’s love coming to us. The day of God’s joy is soon coming. We live in God’s peace and hope as we light these candles.

Four candles are lit and then we respond.

All

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

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.

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Magnificat - Luke 1.47-55

Hymn - Tell Out My Soul

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1.26-38

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Rev Canon Dr Murray Henderson

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 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 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.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Blessing

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 remain with you always. Amen.

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In our prayers this week:

The Anglican Communion

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

The Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer

ACC The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry; Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

ELCIC Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations;
Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership

Diocese of Toronto

Anglican Church Women (Enid Corbett, Diocesan President)

Social Justice and Advocacy Committee:

The clergy and people of the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River;
the Parish of Campbellford, Hastings and Roseneath; and for Christ Church, Bolton and their outreach activities.

The Church of St Mary and St Martha

In our parish cycle: Livingstone Brathwaite; Mavis Breckenridge; Anne Brown

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

The Rev Mark Regis, Priest in Charge
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