



HOLY EUCHARIST

for the First Sunday in Advent

November 28, 2021

9:30 am

St. John's Anglican Church

West Toronto

As we gather as a community

Those worshipping at home may wish to create a sacred space by lighting a candle.

For those worshipping with us today in person:

Thank you for being with us today to share in worship.

It is important to us that we gather as safely as possible and that we follow all of the government and diocesan guidelines. This means that we must do the following whenever we meet together in the church:

- *Enter through the main door*
- *Answer the screening questions the greeter will ask you as you enter*
- *Sign in at the contact tracing table*
- *Wear a mask at all times while inside the church building, being sure to cover both your mouth and your nose (disposable masks are available at the door)*
- *Use hand sanitizer as you enter*
- *Sit one household to a pew*
- *Maintain a 2 metre (6 foot) distance between yourself and others (not including members of your own household or 'bubble')*
- ***Congregational singing is now allowed. Please follow all other safety measures, including wearing a mask and maintaining a 2m distance from those outside your household while singing.***
- *Follow the instructions for passing the Peace and receiving Communion*

Please note *that if you are experiencing any unexplained recent symptoms such as cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, sneezing, or sore throat, if you have travelled outside the country in the last 14 days, or if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, you will be asked not to enter the building. Contact your health care provider or telehealth (1-866-797-0000) for further instruction.*

If you have been asked to stay home, you can still join us for online worship. Visit www.sjw.ca for the link and instructions.

Thank you for taking these measures with us so that we can safely reopen for in-person worship. Your attention to the wellbeing of others is an important way of loving your neighbours as yourself.

** The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*
https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa8
Retrieved 2021 March 8.

Cover Image by Susan Rynasko

Our liturgy is taken from the Book of Alternative Services (1985) © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.

Scripture readings from The Inclusive Bible, © 2007 Priests for Equality. Authorized for non-commercial use.

Unless otherwise noted, music is from Common Praise (CP), © 1998 by The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Please see specific copyright notice below each hymn/song.

Today's Readings: *Jeremiah 33:14-16, NRSV; Psalm 25, The Voice; I Thessalonians 3:9-13, NRSV; Luke 21:25-36, Inclusive Bible.*

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Deacon:	The Rev. Evelyn Butler
Preacher:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Gospeller:	The Rev. Evelyn Butler
Prayers of the People:	Susan Rynasko
Piano:	Dan Gooch
Vocalists:	Genesis Bovas, Brandyn McKinson, and Alie Rutty
Technical Support:	Alan Harnum, Chris Rutty and Bailey Brown

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Deacon: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

All: Jesus, come quickly.

Deacon: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in the land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. (Isaiah 9:2)

We light this candle to remind us of the hope of all people for a Saviour who will bring us freedom and peace. This hope was

promised by the prophets of the Hebrew Testament, who shared their vision of justice coming to the earth by the mighty acts of God.

The first candle is lit.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: you awaken in us the desire for the coming of your Son Jesus. May he kindle in us the light of his love, and bring the reign of peace and justice you promise for the whole earth. Amen.

HYMN Open Wide Your Heavens (tune: CP 122) Alie

Open wide your heavens! Let your name be known!
So the world will know, God, we are not alone.
You who once did awesome deeds — show your presence here!
Open wide your heavens! Let us know you're near.

In this Advent season, God, we wait and pray:
Why do you seem hidden? Are you far away?
Though your faithfulness is sure, we have often sinned;
Like the leaves we're fading, carried by the wind.

Carried by our culture, we seek more and more;
As we long to prosper, we forget the poor.
As we yearn for earthly things, we forget your name.
Open wide your heavens! Make us whole again.

God, you are the potter; we are simply clay.
Take the lives we offer; mold us more each day.
In this holy Advent time, show us all anew:
You reach out and bless us, when we wait for you.

Biblical Reference: Isaiah 64:1-9

*Tune: Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906 (CP 122 "In The Bleak Midwinter")(CRANHAM),
Public Domain*

Text: Copyright © 2011 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant: The grace of Jesus the Christ, and the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

**All: Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when Christ shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the Hebrew Testament book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says God, when I will fulfill 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: "God is our righteousness."

PAUSE

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God

THE PSALM

The Psalm is printed in the bulletin. We will read alternatively.

Always I will lift up my soul to You, Eternal One, because You are my God and I put my trust in You.

Do not let me be humiliated. Do not let my enemies celebrate at my expense.

Certainly, none of the people who rely on You will be shamed, but those who are unfaithful, who intentionally deceive, they are the ones who will be disgraced.

Demonstrate Your ways, O Eternal One. Teach me to understand so I can follow. Ease me down the path of Your truth.

Feed me Your word because You are the True God who has saved me. I wait all day long, hoping, trusting in You.

Gracious Eternal One, remember Your compassion; rekindle Your concern and love, which have always been part of Your actions toward those who are Yours.

Do not Hold against me the sins I committed when I was young; instead, deal with me according to Your mercy and love.

Then Your goodness may be demonstrated in all the world, Eternal One.

Immensely good and honorable is the Eternal; that is why God teaches sinners the way.

With Justice, God directs the humble in all that is right, and shows them the way.

Reader: Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit

**All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Church of Thessalonica.

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 our Saviour Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Christ make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may Christ so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Creator at the coming of our Saviour Jesus with all the saints.

PAUSE

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the gospel as you are able.

GRADUAL Gospel Acclamation: Ancient Words (excerpt)

Genesis

Holy words long preserved
for our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart;
O, let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me, and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O, let the ancient words impart.

Text and Music: Lynn DeShazo

© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Used by Permission. CCLI Print License 21107945; CCLI Streaming License 21107952

THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

“Signs will appear in the sun, the moon and the stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish, distraught at the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the earth. The powers in the heavens will be shaken. After that, people will see the Chosen One coming on a cloud with great power and glory. When these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your ransom is near at hand.” And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, or any other tree. You see when they’re budding and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things happening, know that the reign of God is near. The truth is, this generation will not pass away until all this takes place. The heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on your guard lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.”

PAUSE

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

GRADUAL Gospel Acclamation: Ancient Words (excerpt) Genesis

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me, and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O, let the ancient words impart.

Text and Music: Lynn DeShazo

© 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

Used by Permission. CCLI Print License 21107945; CCLI Streaming License 21107952

Please be seated for the sermon.

SERMON

Please stand for the Creed as you are able.

APOSTLES' CREED

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: **I believe in God,
Our Almighty Parent,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Creator.
He will come again
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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Holy God, in your Compassion

All: **Hear our prayer**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Celebrant: 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 neighbour as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we might delight in your will and walk in your ways. **Amen.**

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

THE PEACE

Celebrant: May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

We take a moment to share the peace. Please maintain your physical distance from others while passing the peace and avoid physical contact with those outside your household.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY

HYMN	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (CP 486)	Alie
	Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart. Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,	

pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley

Music: William Penfro Rowlands (BLAENWERN)

Public Domain

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: God of love and power,

All: 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 Redeemer. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer #3

Celebrant: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: 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.

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

Celebrant: 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,

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

Celebrant: 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.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our heavenly Parent, hallowed be your name, your realm 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 reign, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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.

COMMUNION

Intercessor: For those worshipping at home and online, we offer the following prayers:

All: In union, O God, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen

Come, Jesus, dwell in me in the fullness of your strength, in the perfection of your ways, and in the holiness of your Spirit, and rule over every hostile power in the might of your Spirit, and to the glory of God. Amen.

**May the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ
preserve my body and soul unto everlasting life. Amen.**

Communion will be administered in front of the altar. When it is your turn, please step forward to the indicated place. The priest will say "The Body of Christ ..." or similar words while you remain there. You may then approach to receive the Consecrated Bread in your hands.

To consume the Bread, walk to one of the stations facing the bottles of hand sanitizer. Remove your mask, consume the host, replace your mask, sanitize your hands, and return to your seat using the side aisle.

Only Consecrated Bread will be distributed at this time, but please be assured that those who receive Communion in one kind have received the Sacrament in its fullness.

Anyone who is a baptized Christian, from any denomination, is welcome to receive Communion.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you wish to be blessed.

HYMN

Advent Begins in the Darkness of Night

Brandyn

Advent begins in the darkness of night,
waiting and watching for signs of a light,
walking in faith that a path will appear,
daring to follow in spite of our fear.

Advent begins with our dreams yet deferred.
love sounds ridiculous, prayer seems absurd.
but in the midst of life's centerless maze,
we lift together our protest of praise.

Advent begins in oppression's domain
marked by the cries of confusion and pain.
Yet hope is kindled where justice is done,
mercy is nurtured and peace is begun.

Advent goes on till the promised dawn breaks,
tyrants are toppled, and God's dream awakes.
Hope is perfected and faith is made sight.
Love is our center and Christ is our Light.

Text: David Bjorlin

Music: Benjamin Brady (RESCOV tune)

Text and Music © 2017 GIA Publications, Inc.

HYMN

Drawing Nearer

Brandyn

Even in the midst of all of this
trouble on the news, no peace within
still there is a light in the distance
drawing nearer, drawing nearer.

So, open up our eyes to see your light
open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly
come in like a thief and steal our hearts
like a baby, like a baby.

[Repeat first two verses]

Even in the midst of all of this...

*Text and music: Christopher Grundy
© 2014 Hand and Soil Music*

Please stand for the prayers after Communion as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before you. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: Please join me in affirming our commitment to serve God in the world.

All: We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place;
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves
on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with
those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the
spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

BLESSING

Please be seated for the time of sharing and reflection and the announcements.

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known.
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand for the hymn as you are able.

HYMN	Come, O God of All the Earth (CP 589) (Sing Out, Earth and Skies!)	Genesis and Brandyn
	Come, O God of all the earth; come to us, O Righteous One. Come and bring our love to birth; in the glory of your Son.	
	<i>Chorus</i> <i>Sing out, earth and skies!</i> <i>Sing of the God who loves you.</i> <i>Raise your joyful cries,</i> <i>Dance to the life around you.</i>	
	Come, O God of wind and flame; fill the earth with righteousness. Teach us all to sing your name; may our lives your love confess. <i>[Chorus]</i>	
	Come, O God of flashing light; twinkling star and burning sun. God of day and God of night; in your light we all are one. <i>[Chorus]</i>	
	Come, O God of snow and rain; shower down upon the earth. Come, O God of joy and pain; God of sorrow, God of mirth. <i>[Chorus]</i>	

Come, O Justice, come, O Peace;
come and shape our hearts anew.
Come and make oppression cease;
bring us all to life in you. *[Chorus]*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen
© 1985 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go with the spirit of love to seek justice and to live in peace with
all creation.

All: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
pastor@sjwt.ca 416-763-2393

The Rev. Evelyn Butler, *Deacon*

The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

The Rev. Margaret Rodrigues, *Honorary Assistant*

Genesis Bovas, *Director Family and Youth Ministry*

Management Team:

Phillip Conliffe, *Administrator*

Cheryl Atkins, *People's Warden*

John Spragge, *Deputy People's Warden*

Greg Los, *Rector's Warden*

Andrea Rutty, *Deputy Rector's Warden*

Wardens@sjwt.ca