

Service of Ante-Communion 20 December 2020- Advent 4

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

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 live and worship upon. We give thanks to the first people of this land: the Anishinaabe, the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, the Metis and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. We ask for courage as we partner with them to end the racism and injustice they endure and work for reconciliation. Amen.

The Hymn – O Come Divine Messiah CP95

1. O come divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day

When hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

Refrain: 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.

2. O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold,

Come break the captives' fetters, redeem the long lost fold.

Refrain: 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.

3. You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be;

All clothed in human weakness shall we your Godhead see.

Refrain: 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.

Advent Wreath

Prepare the Way of the Lord, Prepare the Way of the Lord.

And All People will see the salvation of our God. (sung before and after the prayer.)

Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of love. Keep us mindful that you are the God of love. Loving God, you called Mary to be the mother of your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to new birth. Help us to bring the light and love of Christ to birth wherever there is darkness and despair, and to work for the coming of your kingdom. Amen

R: Come, Lord Jesus, fill our hearts with love. Amen.

The Gathering of the Community

Karine+: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Response: And also with you.

The Collect for Purity

Karine+: 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 Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect:

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 Proclamation of the Word

1 Samuel 7.1-11 read by Kim Ramsden

A reading from the second book of Samuel,

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

The Magnificat led by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever. Amen.

Romans 16. 25-27 read by Kim Ramsden

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans,

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1.26-38 proclaimed by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,

R: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with 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 Gospel of Christ.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection by The Rev. Mark Curtis

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 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 Father. 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.

Intercessions & Thanksgivings led by Deacon Nina Page

Celebrant:

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Savior. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace, and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

Let us pray for Christ's Holy Catholic Church.

For the mission of the Church, we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Linda our Primate, Indigenous Archbishop Mark, Anne our Metropolitan, Susan, Bishop of Niagara and, we pray for all Ministers in this Parish both Ordained and Laity, for all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, We Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

In the Niagara Diocesan Cycle of prayer, we pray for the parish of St. Columba, St. Catharines, Priest and the people of the parish.

Let us pray for our own Parish Family in the Parish Cycle of Prayer remembering Carey DePass; Matt and Cara Di Fiore; Nnenna Diribe; Michael and Jackie Dmytraszko; Van Kim, Hoih, Ester, Ruth and Samuel and the Mission of San Pedro, Jobabo, Cuba.

We ask you to strengthen those who work to limit the spread of infection, of Covid 19 and those who care for the sick and keep us mindful of those most vulnerable. May we shape our lives to protect one another, and may our changing habits, practices and sacrifices be for the love of our community and people.

We pray for the sick John Shakespeare, Tosia, Emily, Jennifer, Mark, Lynn and Ann, Ivan S. Myriel, Lindsay, Cindy H., Gavin, Patrice, Aiden, Jean, Andre, Mikhaila Fairclough. Jim Mills, Oddette D, (Nurses, Mark, Kristy, Melanie, Amy, Frances and Becky), Sara, Viki, Dana, Sandy Melo, Mike M. Sandy Ham, Alanna R. Cathy R, Richard Birney-Smith, Debbie Lyn, Joanne McKinnon, June, Lizzie & Ian and all Allendale staff and residents and those grieving the loss of a loved one, and we remember the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, and others known to us, whom we might name in the silence of our hearts: that they might receive healing and strength.

In joyful expectation, let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer saying **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to

Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut, and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

Let us pray for the repose of the souls of the Faithful Departed: Remembering Ruth Blackwell who died this week and in loving memory of husband John and the Middleton family. In loving memory of Douglas Thomas and his parents Thomas and Ethel Rowbottom and parents Rev. John K. Urquhart and Florence Urquhart

V/ α Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord.

R/ **And let Light Perpetual shine upon them.**

Ever faithful God, through prophets and angels, you promised to raise up a holy child who would establish a household of peace and justice. Open our hearts to receive your Son,

that we may open our doors to welcome all people as sisters and brothers, and establish your household in our time. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence is kept.

Karine+: Most merciful God,

R: 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.

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

The Peace

Karine+: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

R: And also with you.

Unmute yourselves to share the Peace with one another.

The Blessing by The Rev. Karine Snowdon

The Peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God almighty be upon you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love and pray for this day and forevermore. Amen.

Closing Hymn: When the King Shall Come Again CP109

1. When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,
this is God's redemption day, longingly awaited.
2. In the desert, trees take root, fresh from God's creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!
3. Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping!
4. There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!

The Dismissal by The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

Response: Thanks be to God.

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant: The Rev. Karine Snowdon
 Homilist: The Rev. Mark Curtis
 Psalmist and Gospeller: The Rev. Deacon Nina Page
 Reader: Kim Ramsden
 Intercessor: The Rev. Deacon Nina Page
 Musician: Richard Birney-Smith