

St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Fairbank

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

10:30 AM

The Order of Service

Organ Prelude: There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Opening Prayer:

~ A. Osdieck. Copyright © 2011, The Center for Liturgy at Saint Louis University

Lord, you bring glad tidings to the poor. Let us hear.

You heal the broken-hearted. Heal us too...

You free the prisoners from their jails. Free us from ourselves.

Loving God, please come to us, and send us out, forgiven,

to the poor, the broken-hearted and the imprisoned.

Amen!

Welcome:

Introit Instrumental: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(Winston Coombes & Noel Lewis)

Reader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you

Reader: Advent is a season of waiting, of hopeful expectation and of longing. The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, *"God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit."* No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy. God comes to make things right...

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Reader: Two weeks ago we lit the first candle as a sign of our hope that God meets us, sees us, heals us and supplies all our needs.

(the first candle is lit)

Reader: Last week we lit the second candle as a sign of our faith that God lavishes us with forgiveness, love, healing and life.

(the second candle is lit)

Reader: On this third Sunday, we light the pink candle that represents joy.

(the third candle is lit)

Reader: This candle symbolizes the joy we have in God who comes to visit and redeem his people. God comes to make things right...

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice. God comes to make things right...

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God,

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.

The Collect for the Day

God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *(Stella Layne)*
(The Lord's salvation will be made known to the poor and the oppressed.)

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126 *(Stella Layne)*
(The Psalmist celebrates the joy of being restored)

1. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
2. **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
3. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
4. **The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.**
5. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.
6. **Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.**
7. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *(Ronald Robinson)*
(Paul encourages the Thessalonians to rejoice and pray always.)

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Musical: People Look East

The Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28 *Fr. Kenute*
(John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of Jesus the Messiah.)

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ

The Sermon: *Fr. Kenute*

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercession: *(Ronald Robinson)*

Come, Holy Spirit of God, come upon us that you may send us out in your power. Fill us with your grace and goodness, that we may be able to bring the Good News to the oppressed, to comfort the broken-hearted, and to bring liberty and freedom to your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Holy Lord, you come to us, you inspire us, you enable us;
grant that we may proclaim your loving presence and show your saving power.
Let your church be seen to be working for justice and righteousness,
for liberty and peace; Lord, that we may live at peace and oppress no one.
Make us instruments of peace within our communities and within our homes.
Lord of freedom,
hear us.

We remember before you all who are seeking freedom: we pray for nations burdened with great debt, for families who have lost their homes, peoples denied justice. We pray for all who are suffering from violence or tyranny. We remember all who care for prisoners. We pray for any who are hostages in this time, especially those who are victims of human trafficking.

Lord of freedom,

hear us.

Lord, teach us to appreciate what we have and to be aware of all that is done for us. Let us not take each other for granted. We remember today Lucia Mazzori, Imelda DeGuzman, Elda Paloni, Anthony Mancini, Maria Quintal, Frank and Mary Delcourt. Help us to hold fast to all that is good and abstain from every form of evil. May our homes be places of holiness and hospitality, of grace and goodness.

Lord of freedom,

hear us.

We remember in your holy presence, God of liberty, all whose lives have been diminished by poverty or neglect, all whose confidence has been lost through harsh treatment or scorn. We pray for those who have been betrayed, especially those betrayed by loved ones. We remember all who have suffered through robbery or slander. We pray for all who have lost their dignity through illness. Today we pray for the sick of our parish, Joyce Myers, Petrona Levy, Elmira Williams, Gilda Davis, Ruth Andrews, Don Krasnovich, Lucille Calder, Doraline Alexander, Helen and Mark Hancock, Gloria and Ancille Parsons, Pablo Velasquez, Barbara Gordon, Hyacinth Brooks, Mary Engels, Hermon Lobban, Wilton Holas, Len Green, Marcia Sealy, Geane and Sophia Goodman, Norma Elcock and Jeffrey Legair.

We remember friends and loved ones in their troubles, especially those for whom this time brings pain and trauma, anxiety, fear or depression. Uphold those who find isolation unbearable, social distancing from family traumatic, and this pandemic period too long. We pray that all who are bereaved at this time may be strengthened.

Lord of freedom,

here us.

Lord, you have done great things for us already, and yet, greater things are to come. We pray for all who have departed from us. May they be numbered with your saints and know the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Lord of freedom,

hear our prayer and let our cry come unto you. Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

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

Most merciful God,

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.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Instrumental: God is Working his Purpose Out

The Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Doxology

Glory to God,
Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

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Go now, for you are chosen and sent in the Spirit.
Pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances.
Keep what is good, avoid every kind of evil.
And may God who gives peace make you holy in every way;
clothe you with salvation and victory;
and speak through you with the good news of hope.
And may the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always.
Amen.

Announcements

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Instrumental: Shine, Jesus Shine

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Regulations for Places of Worship

Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases we will not be offering in-person worship until the province lifts the restrictions that came into effect on Monday November 23 at 12:01 am. While all in-person services are currently suspended please join us for worship online every Sunday at 10:30 am.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Dec 13th) - 12 noon

*Kids for Jesus (K4J) online Sunday
School on YouTube, Facebook and the website*

Tues. & Thurs. (Dec 15th & 17th)

Noon Day "Bite & Sip" on Facebook

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Dec. 20, 10:30am - Christmas Lessons & Carols (*this service will be pre-recorded and premiered*)

Dec. 24, 4:30pm - Kids for Jesus (K4J) online Sunday school (*YouTube/Facebook page/Website*)

Dec. 24, 7:30pm & 10pm - Christmas Services (*only the 10pm service if we remain in lockdown*)

Dec. 25, 10:30am - Christmas Day Service.

NOTICES

*During the four Sundays of Advent we are asking for donations of **scarfs, hats, socks, mittens, gloves and masks of different sizes**. These are for the less fortunate etc. There will be boxes in the Narthex marked for these items. Thanks for your consideration and support.*

• **2021 Church Calendars** Ask Oscar Lewis and Sonia Wickham. Price - \$5.00.

• **Stewardship**

We are grateful for the support the church receives from all of you through your weekly giving of your time, talent and treasure. We celebrate your faithfulness.

*The church has set up **Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)** as a way for parishioners to continue to give. An amount that is decided by you will be taken from your Bank account monthly and will be remitted to the church. It works the same as your envelopes. Tax receipts will be given as usual. Please contact Richard Morris for forms.*

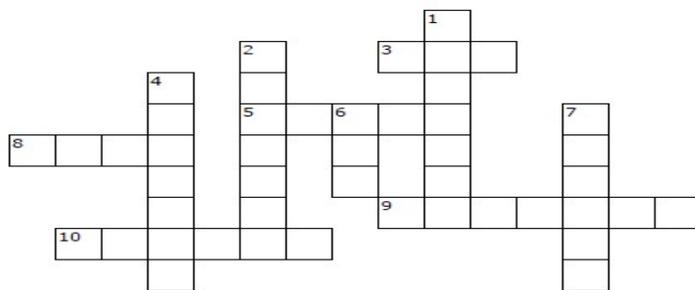
MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of St. Hilda's Church is to be Christ-centered in our life and worship, to serve lovingly those within our family and others within our reach that the spirit of God might empower us for worship, service, education, stewardship, evangelism, and pastoral care

The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



ACROSS

3. An adult male human
5. A source of illumination, such as a lamp, or a lantern
8. The man sent from God to prepare the way for Jesus
9. To give evidence based on personal knowledge
10. To reply to a question

DOWN

1. To immerse in water
2. To be convinced that something is true
4. To admit that something is true
6. The creator of the heavens, earth and its people
7. The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets