

JOY



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Sunday, December 11, 2022

11am

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Choral Mattins (BCP)

Welcome to St. John's Elora.

*Hymn books, prayer books and hearing assist devices
are available at the back of the church.*

Face masks are recommended when indoors at St. John's.

This liturgy is live-streamed on St. John's Elora You Tube.

St. John's church sits on the traditional unceded territories of the Attawandaron, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. These lands are covered by the Between the Lakes Treaty and the Haldimand land grant. These lands are also part of The Dish With One Spoon Treaty, all subsequent newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. Today this land is home to many diverse Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples.

(Congregation is invited to stand for the procession)

Introit Rejoice in the Lord Always

Anonymous

The third Advent Candle of JOY is lit during the processional hymn.

Opening Hymn 109 When the King Shall Come Again

Tempus Adest Floridum

1. When the King shall come again, all his power revealing, splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing; earth no long in decay, hope no more frustrated, this is God's redemption longingly awaited.

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!

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!

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!

"Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." - Luke 21.28

Minister: Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet

ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

(you may kneel or sit for prayer)

Minister: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,

All: **We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Minister: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

God pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Responses are sung.

Minister: O LORD, open thou our lips;

All: **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Minister: O God, make speed to save us;

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

(please stand)

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

All: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Minister: Praise ye the Lord;

All: **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Canticle Venite

(remain standing)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth; and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.

*O come, let us worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.
Glory be to the father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Lesson 1 Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146.4-10

(Congregation remain seated)

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, and whose hope is in the Lord his God;
Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; who keepeth his promise for ever;
Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong; who feedeth the hungry.
The Lord looseth men out of prison: the Lord giveth sight to the blind.
The Lord raiseth up them that are fallen: the Lord loveth the righteous.
The Lord careth for the strangers; he upholdeth the fatherless and widow:
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.
The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore, and throughout all generations.

Lesson II Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of

women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Canticle Benedictus in C

Charles Villiers Stanford

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of holy prophets, which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, that he would grant us
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
as it was at the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

(Please stand)

Minister: I believe in God

All: **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Responses are sung.

Minister: The Lord be with you;

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

(please kneel or sit for prayer)

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.**

Minister: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
All: **And grant us thy salvation.**
Minister: O Lord, save the King;
All: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**
Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
Minister: O Lord, save thy people;
All: **And bless thine inheritance.**
Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
All: **And evermore mightily defend us.**
Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Collect for the Day

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Grace.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem A Tender Shoot

Kerensa Briggs

*A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted,
From Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter,
Turning our darkness into light.*

*This shoot Isaiah taught us
From Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing,
Our God of endless might
Gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.*

Homily Rev'd Canon Paul Walker

Offertory Hymn 97 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Tantum Ergo

An offering plate will be passed during this hymn. Your donation to support St. John's is most welcome.

1. Jesus came, the heavens adoring, came with peace from realms on high. Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die: alleluia, alleluia! came in deep humility.

3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven. Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heaven. Alleluia, alleluia! Now the gate of death is riven.

2. Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care. Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heartfelt prayer, alleluia, alleluia! comes to save us from despair.

4. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heavens shall pass away. Jesus comes again in glory: let us then our homage pay, alleluia, alleluia! till the dawn of endless day.

Closing Prayers for the community, the world and those in need.
(you may kneel or sit)

The Grace **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Cruger

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

3. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend, his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

2. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, life flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

4. O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest, from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove. His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.

Postlude **Chorale Prelude on Lord Christ, the Only Son of God**

J S Bach

Flowers are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Veronica Punnett, the gift of her husband, Gerald.

Choir Audrey Coates, Rebecca McKay, Marlys Neufeldt, Janelle Santi, Kate Wright,
Emily Burnett, Catherine Robertson, Caroline Schmidt, Christina
Stelmacovich, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Jeffrey Smith,
Michael Cressman, Richard Hrytzak, Alan Macdonald, Luke MacLean

Greeters Ian Rice and Jane Anne Murray

Readers Catherine Robertson, Marcus Kramer

Technician Steve Hornett

St. John's Four Areas of Ministry

Proclaim the Love of Christ - Engage and Involve - Musical Outreach - Open Doors

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker	rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com
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Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko	
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon	sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com

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Pastoral Letter

To receive the weekly Pastoral Letter from the Rector with a reflection and update on St. John's events, send an email to the Rector at rector.stjohselora@gmail.com.

Christmas Carollers at Your Door

Thanks to your support and interest, we are able to extend the opportunity to have carollers from the Parish Choir visit households in the Guelph area on December 16 and the KW area on December 17. Times will be available on a first-come first-served basis. A minimum donation of \$75 to the Parish Choir fund will help cover costs of the singers; additional contributions support the music program at St. John's for 2023. If you are interested, please contact Christina Stelmacovich christina.stelmacovich@gmail.com by Monday December 12.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 18 at 4pm and 7pm

This annual tradition is not to be missed; so bring your friends to this inspiring service on Sunday December 18, 4pm or 7pm.

Special Vestry

Thank you for your participation in the Special Vestry last Sunday afternoon. We had 57 people participate, and the Motion to authorize the Wardens to access funds to retain SRM Architects to begin the process for the next stage of preparing drawings and taking us through the process of presenting to the various regulatory bodies passed unanimously. We continue to discern where God is calling us to, and part of that process is to carefully listen to one another and identify needs in our community. If you have observations or questions about the OPEN DOORS priority of our Vision, please speak to one of the Wardens.

This Week at St. John's

Monday	5:00 and 8:00	Elora Singers "Festival of Carols"
	7:00	Bible Study at Portage
Tuesday	12:00	Clericus at St. Mark's Orangeville
	5:30	Volunteer Choir
Wednesday	9:30	Knitters and Quilters
	10:00	Communion Service
Thursday	9:00	Yoga (Parish Centre)
Friday	Evening	Carollers at Homes
Saturday	Evening	Carollers at Homes

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 18

8:00	Holy Communion
9:00	Holy Eucharist
11:00	Holy Communion with Quartet
4:00	Lessons and Carols
7:00	Lessons and Carols