

JOY



**Church of St. John the Evangelist
Clora, Ontario**

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Sunday, December 13, 2020

11am

Advent III

11:00 am Choral Mattins (BCP)

Welcome and Announcements

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

- *Psalm 96. 9.*

Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

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.

Kneel as you are able.

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 said by the congregation.

Minister: O LORD, open thou our lips;

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

Minister: O God, make speed to save us;

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

Stand as you are able.

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

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

Minister: Praise ye the Lord;

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

Congregation may be seated.

Benedictus

Quartet

Walmisley

*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 his 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 shall 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 in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, / world without end. Amen.*

First Reading Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

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.

Psalm 126

(said responsively)

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Sion,/
then were we like unto them that dream.*

*Then was our mouth filled with laughter,;
and our tongue with joy.*

Then said they among the nations;

'The Lord hath done great things for them.'

*Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already,/
whereof we rejoice.*

*Restore our fortunes O Lord,/
as the rivers in the South.*

*They that sow in tears/
shall reap in joy.*

*He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth his seed,/
shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.*

Second Reading John 1.6-8, 19-28

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.

Jubilate - Psalm 100 – Quartet

Stanford in B flat

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: / serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; / he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; / be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting; / and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

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.

Stand as you are able.

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 said by the congregation.

Minister: The Lord be with you;

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister: Let us pray.

Kneel as you are able.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **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. Amen.**

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

Collect of 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.**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **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.**

Hymn sung by Quartet There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Sermon Rev'd Paul Walker

Anthem **What Cheer** Walton

What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

I tell you all with heart so free:
Right welcome, welcome, ye be to me;
Be glad and merry, for charity!

Lift up your hearts and be glad
In Christ's birth, the angel bade,
Say each to other, if any be sad:
What cheer?

What cheer? Good cheer!
Be merry and glad this good New Year!

Now the King of heaven his birth hath take,
Joy and mirth we ought to make;
Say each to other, for his sake:
What cheer?

Closing Prayers for the church, the community, and the world.

Kneel as you are able.

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

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

Postlude Chorale Prelude on O Come Thou Savior J. S. Bach

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

If you would like flowers in memory of loved ones or to celebrate an occasion
please contact Elaine Dightam at elaine.dightam@gmail.com

Reader Dinah Bristowe
Quartet Lesley Bouza, Christine Stelmacovich, Jerome Chang, Michael Cressman
Video Technicians Rod Murray, Steve Hornett, Gerry Hill

ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 13, 2020

Today's Service

Today's 11am service is livestreamed to the St. John's Elora YouTube Channel and posted on Facebook. The Order of Service, the full text of the Sermon, and a link to the video are posted on our website under "Current Sunday Service."

St. John's Liturgy Online

Look for a mid week liturgy every Wednesday, alternating between Morning and Evening Prayer, and a selection of liturgical or sacred music called "**Choral Thursday**" prepared by John, Jurgen, and the members of the Parish Choir every Thursday. It is posted on the St. John's Elora YouTube and Facebook page.

Pastoral Letters

If you would like a print out of the Pastoral Letter sent out on Friday, you can pick up a copy at the EXIT door when you leave. If you have access to the internet and would like to receive the weekly Pastoral Letters by email please contact the Rector at rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Join Bishop Susan Bell and members of the Parish Choir in a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas. People from across the Diocese of Niagara will be joining this live-streamed service. It is available on the Diocese of Niagara Facebook page at 7:00pm, and on the St. John's Elora YouTube Channel shortly after 8:00pm on Sunday December 20th.

While it's not required for attendance, it would help the Bishop if you are able to register for the service online at www.niagaraanglican.ca under "Events" before December 15th.

Parish Choir CD

While quantities last, for a donation to the Choir Fund in the month of December you can receive a copy of the Parish Choir's CD, "This is Your Figgy Pudding 2020." It is a collection of our choral music prepared for Advent and Christmastide this year, all recorded remotely from their homes.

"A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens

Thursday December 17th, at 7:30pm join Judy Maddren (previous host of CBC Radio's "World Report"), Michael Chong (MP for Wellington-Halton Hills), Rev'd Ann Turner (Rector of St. James' Fergus), Colin Fox, Meg Prichard, and Michael Cressman in this dramatic reading of a seasonal favourite.

It will happen on ZOOM, so click on this link a bit before 7:30pm, and you can enjoy an evening's reading.

<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/98297815707?pwd=T2tOSWw5dGZ2L1BTc0FVQmNpcE9ydz09>

Our thanks to Five Oaks Conference Centre for loaning us their "Zoom Account" for this event to allow us to accommodate a larger audience.

While there is no admission fee or tickets for this event, any donations received for attending this reading will support the work of the Migrant Farmers Ministry in the Diocese of Niagara, the community hot meal program based at St. James' Fergus, and the St. John's Choir Fund. Please mark your donation "*Christmas Carol*."

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers in memory of loved ones over Christmas, please contact Elaine Dightam at elaine.dightam@gmail.com or 519-843-5091.