

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

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## ADVENT 3

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# Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Processional**

**The Greeting**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

### Third Sunday of Advent Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Celebrant:** Today we light the candles of Peace and Hope again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring everlasting peace to the world.

#### *Light the candles of Hope and Peace*

**Celebrant:** Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy and we light the pink candle to remind us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her – a child who would save and deliver his people.

**People:** **We know that God wants us all to have his joy in our lives for the angel gave that message to the shepherds: “I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people: to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”**

**Celebrant:** We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life – a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that he alone brings true and everlasting joy.

#### *Light the pink candle – the candle of JOY*

**Celebrant:** *Let us pray,*

**People:** **Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

*The Collect of the Day* (Prayer of 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 for ever. Amen**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

**First Reading:        Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

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.**

**Psalm:                126**

**REFRAIN:        The Lord has done great things for us.**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. **R**

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. **R**

**Second Reading:    1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

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.**

**The Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

#### 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**

**Sermon:** Fr. Simon

*(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)*

### **The Apostles Creed**

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

**People:** **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.**

### **Prayers Of The People (#12)**

(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 sceptre 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!**

## **Confession And Absolution**

*Celebrant:* 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.

*(Silence is kept.)*

*Celebrant:* Most merciful God,

**People:** 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.

*Celebrant:* 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.

**People:** Amen.

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn:

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.**

**Eucharistic Prayer #3:**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

**People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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 in 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."

*Celebrant:* Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**People: 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 to him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and made 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.

**People:**     **Amen.**

*Celebrant:*    Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All:**           **Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:*    Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another.

**People:**     **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**People:**       **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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking Of Bread #5**

*Celebrant:*    God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**People:**       **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the lamb.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

Communion Hymns:

Prayer after Communion

**Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for 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**

**Reminders:**           *Birthdays/Anniversaries/Announcements*

Recessional:

**The Dismissal**

*Leader:*       Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People:**       **Thanks be to God.**

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**Assisting Rev. Simon today:**

Celebrant/Preacher:     The Rev. Simon Bell  
Bread:                    Fr. Simon  
First Reading:          Peter Beckett  
Second Reading:        Beth Steffler  
Prayers:                 Maggie Prentice  
Gospel:                  Peter Beckett  
Audio/Visual:          David Paradis  
Music:                    Craig Snider  
Sidespersons:          Bob Cheesman, Bill Goodyer  
Chancel:                 Eileen Cunningham, Joyce Antony

**This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:**

Sean; Brian; Kevin H.; Diane M.; Cecilia Mowat; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Sophia L; Marianne S.; Amanda Stewart; Jen Galicinski; Kathryn; Kadeem Broomes; Arlene; Anna Sellers; Sophie; Joyce Tribble; Emmett; Marty; Linda; Mary; Michael Cassin; Brenda Jessem; Brenda & Brian.

**The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:**

Joan Gough; Stephanie & Family; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Carrie Snow; Barb Munshaw; Amy P. & Family; Marg Abbott; Livia & Neil Purcell; Jordan; Margie Mills; Marilyn F.; Eunice Merrett; Lorraine W; Adara; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Martin Bertelsen; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Michelle Sinclair & family; Donna Wilson; Garn Mennell; Gloria Connolly; Margaret & Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Ian Sinclair; Stephen Bertelsen; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

**In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:**

The Falkland Islands

**In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:**

The Peterborough Deanery