



Church of the Ascension Sudbury, Ontario

'You know the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ: he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.'

(2 Corinthians 8.9, REB)

-Bishop's motto for 2014

Advent



Festival

Rector The Ven. Anne Germond

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In our prayers ...

Please pray for the following people for God's continued healing and strength during the coming week., especially Ken Walsh, Doug Wilson, Tammy, Cathy Walton, Bill Craig, Brian, Joyce Laking, Naina, Robbie, Christina, Sylvia, Wanda Barnes., Kay, Joanne, Joe, Mags Gill, Joan Cox, Leila Dunlop, Edna Bailey, Jean Munro, Eunice McMahon, Irene Ginson Fiss, Jean Aceti, Quinton Doveton, Beryl Cole, Cheryl Arbuckle, John Hunte

We pray for those who are living in retirement residences or nursing homes, or who find it difficult to join us for church on Sundays; Milt Fleming, Aileen Haslam, Ron Little, Margaret Villeneuve, Velma Tansley, Bill May, Karin Hoffman and Daryl Keen. May they always feel God's presence in their lives.

We pray for these families, recently bereaved, the family of Cecil Hindman, the King family, the Corrigan and Jaas/Lische family, the de Luisa family

In our parish we pray for our wardens and leaders and in our parish family, for Bill Thompson, Tom & Terri Tremblay, Anne Trimmer, and their families.

We pray for the parishioners at St. James Anglican Church in Lockerby as they prepare to move from their church building this week and begin a new period in the history of their congregation. May they continue to know and feel God's presence in their midst.

In the Diocese of Algoma, we pray for St. Thomas', French River Mrs. Beverly Van Der Jagt, Pastoral Worker

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we pray for our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, for our Metropolitan, Archbishop Colin Johnson, for our Diocesan Bishop, Bishop Stephen Andrews; for our Archdeacon Anne Germond and for our parish clergy Rev. Anne, Fr. Bob and Rev. Rhonda.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Kitgum - (Uganda) The Rt Revd Benjamin Ojwang

Christmas Eve Service times are 7pm and 9:30pm.

Attendance on 7th December was 35 at 9am and 119 at 11am

Church of the Ascension

Advent Festival of Readings and Music

Third Sunday in Advent: December 14th, 2014

Processional Hymn: #89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Advent Candlelighting ceremony: The Third Sunday in Advent

A Bidding for Advent

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in these days of shadow and of hope let it be our duty and delight to listen to the story of our faith, and hear again the prophets' words of blessing and doom. And, as we prepare to celebrate again the birth of Jesus Christ as a baby, let us remember that he also comes to judge the just and the unjust, and to establish the reign of equity and peace. As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us

rejoice in the promise that all, from the greatest to the least, will come to know our God *Jeremiah 31*

join with the prophet as he calls out to God to rend the heavens and come down *Isaiah 64*

find hope in the promise that the blind will see, the deaf hear, the lame dance, and the silent burst

into song *Isaiah 35*

join with Mary, the favoured handmaid, and offer ourselves in service to God's holy and saving purpose for the world. *Luke 1*

raise our voices with the messenger who announces good news of great joy to all the people. *Luke 2*

give thanks for the one whose power has made us the children of God. *John 1*

The bidding continues.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the poor, the oppressed, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved. And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, that we may be a sign of the age to come. With longing in our hearts for God's reign of peace, let us hear again the story of

Christ's coming, and join with Mary and Joseph, and all our forebears in faith, in offering our worship.

Silence may be kept before the first reading.

The Readings

1. Genesis 2: 4b- 9, 15-25 (*In the day the Lord made the heavens and the earth*)

Reader: Chris Cawte (9am) and Ralph Mounter (11am)

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,* and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man* there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the

man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman,* for out of Man* this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Prayer (All)

Creating God, you call us to live in harmony with nature, with one another, and with you. Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for the world has been revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, For ever and ever.

Amen.

2. Isaiah 40.1-11 (*Comfort, O comfort my people*) (*The Lord has comforted his people*)

Trish Hennessy (9am) and Anne Trimmer (11am)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;* lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,* lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Prayer (read by everyone)

God our hope, hear again the cry of exiles, imprisoned in a dark land of war, hunger, and intolerance. Come among us with strength and healing and bring us back to the world of your just and holy purpose. We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: To the tune of “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

To a world so torn and tortured
Came the voice of one who knew.
What it cost to lift oppression,
Challenged to accept the view.
John convicted crowds before him
Charged hypocrisy with God;
Opened up the way for Jesus
Who will follow where he trod.
Then imprisoned John was silenced;
Yet a voice more powerful still
Challenged in an out of season
All who heard to do God’s will.
Living Christ would lift oppression,
Dying he would seem to fail;
Crying out in desolation,
Yet God’s love would still prevail.

(Tune 8.7.8.7 Andrew Pratt: Shine on Star of Bethlehem)

3. Micah 5. 2-4 (*From you shall come one who is to rule in Israel*)

Paul Murdock (9am) and Matt Walchuk (11am)

² ^{*}But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

Prayer (read by everyone)

God of small beginnings, You bring strength out of weakness And hope out of fear. By the power of your Spirit Make us, your children, followers and partners In the grand design of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, Now and forever.

Amen.

4. Luke 1.5–25 (*Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John*)

Reader – Gerry Lougheed (Jr.) 9am/ Brent Leigh (11am)

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to

20speak to you and to bring you this good news. 20But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.” 21Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. 22When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. 23When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 24After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 25“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Prayer (read by everyone)

Almighty God you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ’s coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Canticle 18 : # 363 Mary’s Song (To the tune of Jesus Shall Reign Where’ er the Sun)

5. Luke 1.26–38 (*Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you!*)

Jane Cox (9am) and Beaumont Nelson (11am)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

28And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He 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. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 34Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ 35The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then 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.

Prayer (read by everyone) Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Gradual Hymn: # 14 O Gracious Light

6. The Gospel Matthew 1:18-24

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

Reflection:

Apostles Creed

Advent Litany*

(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!

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Then the leader shall say,* With longing in our hearts for the reign of Christ, let us offer our prayer to the Source of our salvation.

Confession and Absolution:

Offertory Hymn: #140 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

Communion Hymns: #117; #122; #113

Prayer after Communion:

Blessing

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Processional Hymn: #154 Joy to the World



The flowers in the church are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Aunt Irene, by Jane Cox and family.. May Irene's soul rest in peace and rise again in glory.

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest.....

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel that you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Remember that the way we welcome children and youth in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God and to one another. We want our children and youth to know that they are just as much at home in this house of worship as everyone else is. We do have a children's program and also a nursery at the 11am service with dedicated and screened volunteers. If you find it too difficult to keep your young children in the service during gam you are welcome to take them to the nursery in the Upper Room. If you have to leave the service altogether, please come back.....Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Welcome to the Ascension and this time of worship. We invite all baptized Christians to receive the Eucharist with our parish family. If you wish to come forward for the blessing only, please do that.

Parish Directory

Email.	ascension@vianet.ca
Web Site	www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.com
Rector	The Ven. Anne Germond
Hon. Assistant	The Rev. Rhonda Hirst
Hon. Associate	The Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacker
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