

Church of the Ascension

Sudbury, Ontario

‘With thee is the wellof life: and in
thy light shallwe see light.’

(Psalm 36.9, Coverdale)

December 13, 2015



LESSONS *and* CAROLS

Rector The Ven. Anne Germond
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Welcome to the Service of Lessons and Carols. For your convenience the entire service is printed up for you. Please take this home and use it for your personal Advent devotions and reflection. Thank you to those who are offering their gift of reading today.

In our prayers ...

The response during the Prayers of the People is - *Turn our grateful hearts into lives that bring you praise.*

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Western Louisiana - (VIII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Jacob W Owensby

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 Diocese of Algoma, we pray for Christ Church, Port Sydney, The Rev. Paul Walmsley

Please pray for the following people for God's continued healing and strength during the coming week., espe-

(Continued on page 4)

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cially Brian, Joyce Laking, Christina, Joanne, Quinton Doveton, Beryl Cole, Mike Dolan, Nancy Turner, Abraham (Bob) Peters, Chris Cresswell, Diane, Irene Ginson Fiss, Kay Winfield-Currie, Cam Locke, Floyd Laking, Sherry, Anne Vitone, Norma Mayo, Myrna Sheppard, Linda, Olga, Alan Findlay.

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, Ron Little, Margaret Villeneuve, Velma Tansley, Karin Hoffman, Daryl Keen, Jean Aceti, and Leila Dunlop. May they always feel God's presence in their lives.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Bill Craig, dear son in law of Carol and Blair Simms who died this week. May his soul rest in peace and rise again in glory

We pray for these families, recently bereaved, the Haslam family, the Bate family, the Cameron/Moland family.

In our parish we pray for our wardens and leaders and in our parish family for Lynda Morgan & Michael Beauparlane, Anna & Kevin Morrow, Ross & Marjorie Morton, and their families.

We pray for those who are caregivers to sick and frail loved ones. We pray that the God of love will surround them with people to look after them, and grant them rest.

The flowers in the church today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my mother, Sonia Moorhouse, father Pryce Moorhouse, brother Stephen Moorhouse, and mother Anita Bate; by Sue and Gary Bate and family. May they rest in peace and rise again in glory.

Third Sunday of Advent Advent Festival of Readings and Music

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

Processional Hymn: #88 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Today's service of Lessons and Carols is intended to be a meditative liturgy. There will be no announcements of readings, or hymn numbers. You are invited to follow along in the bulletin. Please stand during the singing of hymns and remain seated for the readings. Please stand for the Gospel reading.

Advent Candle lighting 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 our-
selves 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 Luke Norton (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)

Gary Bate (9am) and Lori Cameron (11am)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. 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.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

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.

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: When the King Shall Come Again #109 to the tune of Good King Wenceslas

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

Trish Hennessy (9am) and Pippa Howard (11am)

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. 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. 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.

5.

Isaiah 35.1–10

(The desert shall rejoice and blossom)

Paul Murdock (9am) Ralph Mounter (11am)

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.

Prayer (read by everyone)

Creating and renewing God, giving life in all its fullness, bring, we pray, all the children of this earth to the freedom of your holy purpose. May we see your beauty and glory in seas and lakes washed clean, in fields of plenty and forests strong, and in humanity made whole in body, mind, and mutual care, in the pattern of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

6.

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/ Kath Greenidge (11am)

In 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. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But 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. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for 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. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With 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." Zechariah 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." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But 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." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When 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. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "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.

"Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" – Clare Andrews, Philip Balson and Colin Germond (11am)

7.

Luke 1.26–38

(Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you!)

9am Shannon Hengen 11am Maggie Leigh

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then 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.

8. Canticle 18 (Luke 1:47-55)

for the Third Sunday in Advent (all)

Gradual Hymn:

Silent Night (9am)

O Holy Night (11am)– Jeremy Mannella

9.

John 1.1–14

*(The Word became flesh
and lived among us
... full of grace and truth)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Prayer (read by everyone)

Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving, we give thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our wills, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Apostles Creed

Advent Litany Dave Fowler (9am) Brent Leigh (11am)

(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: Page 191

Offertory Hymn:

121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Eucharistic Prayer #2.

The Lord's Prayer:

Communion Hymns:

137 #140 #146

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.

Recessional Hymn:

#138

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Gifts of Story and Song Thanks

Kath Greenidge and the Parish Life Team would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support of the Gifts of Story and Song Evening on Sunday. In all, 137 tickets were sold and we will split the donations between Barrydowne College and the Elgin Street Mission. Thank you to Kath for all her hard work in putting this event together for us.

We received this note from a couple who attended the evening for the first time.

The Gifts of Stories and Song
What an event
What beautiful decorations
What meaningful stories
What great music
What good jokes (and comedian)
What glorious voices
What a church
What a congregation
What Fun!
Thank You!

Board meeting

The Board met this week and on the agenda were several items, but three main items -

1. The New Sudbury Refugee Group 'ARK' which now has a steering committee and board approval to open a bank account and begin the process of accepting donations, and formalizing an application for a refugee family. The members of the steering committee are Gwen Bonas, Jane Cox, Paul Murdock, Jennifer Cawley Caruso and three members of the community who have knowledge and skills to assist the group. There are also three community members on this steering committee. We will notify you when we are ready to receive donations. Thank you for your prayerful support for the work of this group. Please pray for wisdom and knowledge as they embark on this important work.
2. We had a long discussion about the rectory repairs and

the board will be bringing a motion to the Special Vestry Meeting today regarding the renovations. The meeting begins at 12:45pm in the Fellowship hall.

3. Cathy Dionne presented the 2016 budget. We would like to thank you for your generosity to the Ascension this year. It is what makes ministry possible in the parish and we could not do it without your financial help, your gifts of time and your talents. If you wish to become a regular contributor to the Ascension, please speak to Rev. Anne about a way that will work for you personally. There are several options including weekly envelopes, monthly cheques, and electronic withdrawal from your bank account.

In the parish this week

12:45pm TODAY: Notice of Special Vestry meeting to learn about the needed upgrades and repairs to the rectory before it can be rented out again. We will need to apply to the Diocese for a loan and we need congregational approval before we can do this. This is the only item on the agenda and once the presentation has been made there will be a vote.

You may vote at the Vestry meeting if you are 16 years or older; are baptized; are a regular attendee at Divine Worship and have contributed to the ongoing operational expenses of the church during the year.

4pm: TODAY: Parish potluck Advent supper followed by the joint Church of the Ascension/Church of the Epiphany pageant. Thank you to Cindy Caines and the childrens' ministry team for all your work in preparing for the pageant, and for your loving care of the children week by week.

Wednesday 16th December: 9:30am Holy Eucharist
10:30am: Packaging and delivery of the Cookie baskets to the seniors and shut ins.

Thursday 17th December: 1:30pm Finlandia Christmas Service.