

ORDER OF SERVICE
Third Sunday of Advent
December 20th 2020 10am



**Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist.
Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a
first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning
friend, please know that you always have a place at
God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of
this community strengthen you to take God's
compassion and peace to a world in need of both.**

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4
www.stjohn316.com 519-743-0228

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons
Readers	Dave Sapelak
Singers	Jocelyn Trustcott, Laura Doric, Sue Doran
Tech Support	Simon and Daniel Guthrie
Organist	Bill Hutton

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Mary Had a Baby – Mark Hayes arr. Wagner

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 269

Heavenly Message

1. Heavenly message, brought by an angel,
coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
blessèd are you, and blessèd your son;
he will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.
2. Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word."
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
blessèd are you, and blessèd your son;
he will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.
3. In the beginning, when God had spoken,
through God's own Word all things came to be;
now by that Word, embodied through Mary,
God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see.
Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
blessèd are you, and blessèd your son;

he will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our
Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel
(2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16)

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to

my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

Magnificat

Gelineau

My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

You look on your servant in her nothingness;
Henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me, Holy your name!
Your mercy is from age to age on those who fear you.

You put forth your arm in strength and scatter the
proudhearted.
You cast the mighty from their thrones and raise up the
lowly.

You fill the starving with good things, send the rich away
empty.
You protect Israel, your servant, remembering your mercy,

The mercy promised to our forebears,
Abraham and his children forever.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Rome.
(Romans 16:25-27)

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke.
(Luke 1:26-38)

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 forever, 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons

Silent Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All 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.**

The Prayers of the People

God of power and might tear open the heavens and come down quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbours of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. We pray for Todd, our Bishop; Preston, our Rector; and the clergy and people of our Diocese. Give us a common vision for mission and ministry, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they would amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership to create societies in which everyone can flourish.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food banks. Encourage others to provide for their neighbours in need.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry to you. Surround with your tender presence everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit, including those we now name aloud, or remember silently. (*A time of silence*).

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for all who, in their time, organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out to others as they served you.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Hymn 132

Of Eternal Love Begotten

1. Of eternal Love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
2. At his Word the worlds were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining
of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.
3. O that birth forever blessed
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

4. This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now she shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree
Bullard

arr. A.

Announcements

Dismissal

Officiant Glory to God,

All **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.**

Officiant May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Sortie on *Venez, divin Messie* – César Franck

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 20 2020

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

PRAY for Todd, our Bishop; Anne, our Archbishop and Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia, our companion Diocese; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Susan, National Bishop, and Michael, Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In the Anglican Church of Canada this week we pray for the Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry; Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada this week we pray for Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for parishes in London Deanery, this week praying especially for the people and parishes of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London; St. Michael & All Angels, London; St. George's Church, London; and St. Jude's Church, London.

FOR OUR COMPANION DIOCESE

Pray for the Diocese of Amazonia, for Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassoto, Bishop, and for our common mission and ministry.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THOSE FOR WHOM WE GIVE FLOWERS TODAY

The flowers on the Altar are to honor the memory of Laura and Ashlee Coughlin, Stewart and Walter Kelland, Gilbert and Thea Parker and Margaret and Leonard Coughlin, a gift of Ann and Al Coughlin.

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Andrew Clubine, Carol Cockfield, Dario and Barb Corti, Al and Ann Coughlin, and their families.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO ARE ILL

Colleen, Pat, Tracy, Marlin, John and Family, Nicholas, Catherine, John, Guy, Connor, Emily, Ron and Anne, Melanie, Alison, Jennifer, Franco, Joe and Gabrielle, David, Scott, Andrea, James, Linda, Wayne, Ida, Catherine, Carman, Heather, Sherri, Ann, Farzana, Scott, Vivian, Margaux, Sylvia, Alexander, Kyle, Sherri, Elysse, Percival and Janet, Mike, Lee, Tianna, Todd and Rebecca, Jeannie, Susan, Hazel, Alice, Valerie, Cedric, Al and Ann, St. John's

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

PRAY for Preston, our Rector, the Bishop, Archdeacon, regional Dean and clergy of our Deanery, ministers of the Gospel everywhere, and leaders of other faith groups. With new restrictions on worshipping together, may we be mindful of each other, and patient in the midst of disappointment. Help us continue to find ways to fulfill our calling to care for all people.

PRAY for all who are alone or lonely during this Christmas season. Pray for family members separated from one another.

PRAY for the health of people throughout the world, and in our own community as we continue to face challenges in our lives. Be with those who care for the sick and those who face increased health compromise in these days. As winter weather advances, pray especially for all who are

disadvantaged by hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and unemployment. Give thanks for those in our community who are working to provide temporary shelter for those who have nowhere to call home, and others who are partnering to provide affordable housing.

Parish and Community Announcements

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols We are so excited to to be able to present a virtual Lessons and Carols. Our pre-recorded video will be premiered Sunday December 20 at 7:00pm and will feature the Parish Choir, and readers from the congregation. Watch your email for links or subscribe to our YouTube page for notifications.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0e412gL74-sNiwW5gO_G7w

Christmas gift for our Newcomer family Once again, St John's has said yes to providing a gift basket for our latest newcomer family: James and Esperance and their two children Cedric and Ariane. Some of you may have met Esperance and the children at Pancake Supper earlier this year (before everything closed down)

Exciting news for them is that James has a job in Cambridge at Permacon and that they are expecting twins in April!! (They have found a three-bedroom townhouse for January in the same area, so kids will not have to change schools!)

Our plan is to provide a couple of gifts to be wrapped, but mostly to give them gift cards that they can use as most needed.

If you would like to contribute to this, your donation can be sent to the church (cash or cheque) marked clearly for "refugee Christmas gift". Cheques should be written to The Church of St John the Evangelist and "refugee Christmas gift" put on the memo line. This way you will get credit for your tax receipt and we will easily be able to get the money to purchase gift cards.

OR Contact Syd Reginato (reginatasyd@gmail.com 226 988 3627) or David Whitfield (davidswhit@gmail.com 519 579

5543) for more information on how you can contribute to this gift.

Donation Options There are many ways you can continue your contributions to St. John's

1. Send weekly envelopes in the mail. You can send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. North Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
2. Drop off cash donations to the office through the mail slot in the office door. Write your name on the envelope!
3. Have an Errand Buddy pick up your donation.
4. Sign up for, or make changes to your DEFT by contacting the office (519-743-0228 or church@stjohn316.com).
5. Donate Online through Canada Helps by credit card. You can set up recurring, or one time donations. Canada Helps takes 3.75% but also provides the tax receipt directly to you and provides a donation report to us! [Here's the link](#)

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies you can contact him at 519-573-7797

Rector

The Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons

Assistant Clergy

The Venerable Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

Rector's Warden Marianne Mellinger

People's Warden David Sapelak

Deputy Warden Debbie Sheach

Parish Administrator Rebecca McKay

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