

ORDER OF SERVICE
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6th 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 & Singers	Rebecca McKay, Jocelyn Truscott
Tech Support	Mohan Thomas
Organist	Corinne Dutton

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion
from Handel's *Messiah*

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of
Jerusalem!*

*Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is the righteous
Saviour, and He shall speak peace unto the heathen.*

(Zechariah 9:9-10)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 114 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

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.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.
(Isaiah 40:1-11)

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. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. 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!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 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.

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

Psalm

(Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13)

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land:
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people
and covered all their sins.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me:
for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints,
that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him:
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness:
and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him:
and he shall direct his going in the way.

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.**

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Peter.
(2 Peter 3:8-15A)

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark.
(Mark 1:1-8)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river

Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. We pray for Todd, our Bishop; Preston, our Rector; and for all faith communities in our neighbourhood. Give us a common vision for mission and ministry, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear us, O God.
<i>People</i>	Your mercy is great.

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear us, O God.
<i>People</i>	Your mercy is great.

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above.

<i>Reader</i>	Hear us, O God.
<i>People</i>	Your mercy is great.

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities.

Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst.

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

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression, and gather all people in your healing embrace, including those we now name aloud, or remember in silence. (*A time of silence*).

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

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work, especially Nicholas of Myra. Make their generous lives and example for all.

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 91 v. 1,3,5 People, Look East! The Time is Near

1. People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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

Sonata V - Largo"

from *Six Sonatas for Violoncello and Continuo*

Antonio

Vivaldi

Karen Sunabacka - cello

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.**

Organ Postlude Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding
by Malcolm Archer

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 6 2020

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain, the Right Reverend Carlos López-Lozano, Bishop, and for our common mission and ministry.

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 our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, and the staff of the Primate's Office of the Anglican Church of Canada

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada this week we pray for the National Bishop, Susan Johnson, and the national staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for parishes in London Deanery, this week praying especially for the people and parishes of St. George's Church, London; St. James Westminster, London; St. John the Evangelist, 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.

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Kevin Bradshaw, and Kathryn Jeffrey, Eleanor Brown, James and Paula Brown, Ken and Sarah Cardwell, 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, Sheila, 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

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND FOR THOSE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY

The flowers on the Altar are In loving memory of Eleanor F. Bean and Walter Alexander Bean, a gift of the Family

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 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 and housing for developmentally-challenged adults.

Parish and Community Announcements

Christmas Cookie Sale Jean Wright's beautiful and dee-licious shortbread cookies are available again this year

for Christmas! \$5/dozen with all proceeds going to the ACW to help those in need. They are placed on decorative plates, ready for gift-giving. Call Jean at 519-390-0213 to place your order and arrange delivery. Thank you Jean!

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.

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 (reginatosyd@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

Cover Art: John the Baptist Preaching, from Art in the Christian Tradition,
a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56382> [retrieved
December 2, 2020]. Original source:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_John_the_Baptist_Preach-
ing_to_the_Masses_in_the_Wilderness_oil_on_oak_panel_by_Pieter_Br-
ueghel_the_Younger.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_John_the_Baptist_Preaching_to_the_Masses_in_the_Wilderness_oil_on_oak_panel_by_Pieter_Brueghel_the_Younger.jpg).