



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which St. Philip's Lutheran Church is located. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, worship, and serve on this land.

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait,

in the presence of one another,

we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favour upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

ELW 264 vs. 1, 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO ADVENT

Lighting of the Advent candle

Song “Light the Advent Candle”, vs. 2

Mary Lu Walker

A Meditation on Peace

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3: 1 - 4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his

coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM FOR THE DAY IS FROM LUKE 1: 68 – 79

The Song of Zechariah: a song of praise.

- ⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.
- ⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**
- ⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us ¹ from
our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of ¹ all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy ¹ to our forebears,
and to remember your ¹ holy covenant.**
- ⁷³This was the oath you swore to our ¹ father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our ¹ enemies,
**free to worship you ¹ without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days ¹ of our life.**
- ⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of ¹ the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**
- ⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- ¹ ow of
death, and to guide our feet into the ¹ way of peace.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Luke 3: 1 - 6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the

spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There’s A Voice in the Wilderness”

ELW 255

CREED

P: Together we affirm our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, 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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF PEACE

BIBLE BUNCH SONG

“This Little Light of Mine”

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

In everything give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 forever. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!"

ELW 246 vs. 1, 3, 5

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PERMISSIONS

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SERVING TODAY

Marcia Powers-Dunlop	Worship Leader
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Joseph & Madison Migliore-Hart	Advent Candle Lighting
Sarah Glinski	Advent Meditation and Preaching
Eunice Hogeveen	Reader
Meranda Phannenhour	Bible Bunch
Herb Feller	Greeter, on-site Usher
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gus Berndt, Kevin Cartwright, Rodney Erlandson, Al Jacksteit, Mona Kibsey, Mark Kieswetter, Matt Kirkpatrick, Fran Moore, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, and Helen Scollnik.

PASS THE OFFERING PLATE PLEASE

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Our ministries need your support. Place your offering on the plate when you enter or leave today. Or find details for other options at stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/.

COMMUNION

Keep 6 feet apart with your mask on. Receive the bread then help yourself to an individual cup of wine. Remove your mask and have the wine and bread. Put the empty cup in the containers provided. Replace your mask.

SAFELY SINGING

Singing is good for our souls – and for spreading germs, unfortunately. Please ensure that your mask is securely on and join in the singing again.

CAROLS AND COOKIES

Please join us later **today, December 5th, @ 4:00 pm**. Registration is required: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/carols-and-cookies-tickets-215344008727>



ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Today	Carols & Cookies @ 4:00 pm
Monday	Zumba Gold @ 1:00 pm Bell Choir @ 7:15 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study @ 7:30 pm
Wednesday	Cover Girls @ 10:00 am Vocal Choir @ 7:30 pm
Thursday	50+ Luncheon @ 12:30 pm
Friday	Lakeshore African Violet Society @ 6:00 – 10:00 pm

OUR VISION

*Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God,
neighbour and self.*

VISION STATEMENT:

We are a diverse and inclusive Lutheran faith community freed by the grace of Christ to find God and self as we connect with our neighbours. We **practise hospitality** of open hearts and open arms. We **unite with partners** to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We **nurture** the community of Christ.

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