

THE SENT: GOD'S CHURCH DEPLOYED

An Anglican online presence
in the Deanery of Essex,
with parish partnerships in
the Diocese of Huron,
members of the Anglican
Church of Canada.

A Service of the Word
for

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord – December 24th, 2022

Opening Responary & Gathering of the Community

One The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

All And also with you.

One Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Welcome

Opening Hymn Joy to the World CP 154

Confession and Absolution

One Most merciful God,

All we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

One People of God, beloved of the Holy One, in Christ Jesus, God has blessed all creation and called you to truth. As a minister of the gospel, and by the authority of church's witness, I proclaim to you forgiveness for all your sins. From this day forth, let your lives be given to the light, so that all the world will know the power of rebirth through Christ, Our Lord.

All Amen.

The Peace

One The peace of the Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Act of Praise Hark! The Herald Angels Sing CP 138

Collect of the Day

One Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 52.7-10

Psalm 98

Second Reading Hebrews 1.1-12

Gradual Hymn Silent Night

Gospel Reading John 1.1-14

CP 119

Gospel Discussion

1. Where is the trouble/challenge/conflict in the passage?
2. Where is the trouble/challenge/conflict in our world?
3. Where is the grace/love in the passage?
4. Where is the grace/love in our world?

Apostles' Creed

One Let us confess our faith 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.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Please respond to each petition ending "Hear us, O God" with "... your mercy is great."

Offering

Offertory Hymn It Came upon the Midnight Clear CP 140

One Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

One And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Doxology

One 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.

Blessing

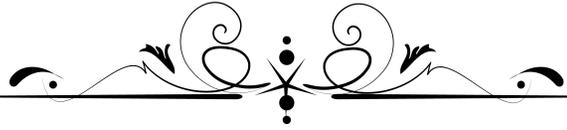
Announcements

Closing Hymn The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy CP 128

Dismissal

One Know this world as a place blessed by Christ's birth. In your words and in your work, let the light of forgiveness shine. Give thanks each day, and rejoice!

All Thanks be to God.



Announcements

Join us each week to worship in this form via Facebook Live and YouTube. We will be here each week to offer worship leadership. Please watch your emails and parish Facebook and webpage for updates going forward. Each participating parish will communicate changes as we move through this time. Please be in touch with our Chaplain Rev'd Paul or your parish priest should you need pastoral care, we are all available to offer support safely during this time. Your financial support of **The SENT: God's Church Deployed** is important to sustain this ministry in the wider world. The simplest way to support this ministry is c/o St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church with "The SENT" in the memo line or notes field.

St. Augustine of Canterbury Anglican Church

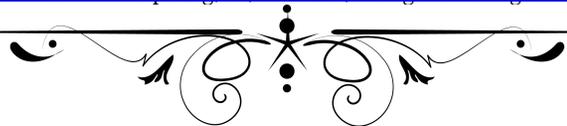
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Deanery of Essex Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we serve is the traditional territory of the Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Caldwell nations of the Three Fires Confederacy, and the Huron/Wyandot nation. We also acknowledge that we are parties to Treaty 116 (1786), McKee Treaty 2 (1790), Treaty 12 (1800), Treaty 35 (1833), Cession #85 – Peach/Peche Island (1857), and the Caldwell Settlement (2011) signed by our forebears and contemporaries.

First Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm he has won for himself the victory.

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord. Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Refrain All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1.1-12

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.' Of the angels he says, 'He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.' And, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD. All Thanks be to God

The Gospel John 1.1-14

One The Lord be with you.

ALL And also with you.

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

ALL Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

The gospel of Christ. ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymns

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Opening Hymn CP 154

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found,
far as our sin is found,
far as, far as our sin is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Act of Praise CP 138

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,

join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

Gradual Hymn CP 119

Silent Night

1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Offertory Hymn CP 140

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven's all-gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not
the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
to hear the angels sing.

4 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

5 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven and earth shall
own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Closing Hymn CP 128

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name was Jesus.

Refrain:

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh, yes! believer!

Oh, yes! believer!

He come from the glory,
he come from the glorious kingdom.

2 The angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
the angels sang when the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.
[Refrain]

3 The wise men saw where the baby
born,
the wise men saw where the baby born,
the wise men went where the baby born,
and they say that his name was Jesus.
[Refrain]