

# THE SENT: GOD'S CHURCH DEPLOYED



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

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A Service of the Word  
for  
The Second Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 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 CP 89 v.3&4 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.'

All Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

*The second candle is lit*

One Jesus is the light of the world.

All light no darkness can ever put out.

*Sing to the tune of "Away in A Manger":*

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

## 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 Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

### The Peace

One The peace of the Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Act of Praise CP 486 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

### Collect of the Day

One God of hope, you call us from the exile of our sin with the good news of restoration; you build a highway through the wilderness; you come to us and bring us home. Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

### The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-15A

Gradual Hymn CP 103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

Gospel Reading Mark 1:1-8

### Sermon

### 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 "Lord, in your mercy" with "... hear our prayer."*

### Offering

Offertory Hymn CP 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

One God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

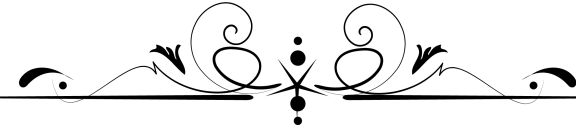
Blessing

Announcements

Closing Hymn CP 88 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

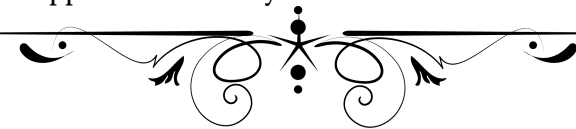
Dismissal

One Go forth into the world energized to seek signs of God's future everywhere: especially in the unruly, unkempt, and persistent voices of Prophets in our midst: calling us to prepare the way in our lives and our world for the Holy One who is coming!  
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. Please tune in for details on how you can support this ministry.



**Diocese of Huron Land Acknowledgement**

*The Diocese of Huron is situated on the ancestral beaver hunting grounds of the Algonquin, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaran peoples; the traditional and unceded lands of the Anishinaabe Peoples, of Walpole Island, Kettle Point and the Thames, the settled people's Haudenosaunee Confederacy, at the Grand River and the Thames and the Leni Lenape Delaware peoples of Moraviantown and Muncey.*

**First Reading:** ISAIAH 40:1-11

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

A SELECTION FROM PSALM 85.

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

You have forgiven all the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

I will listen to what you, Lord God, are saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

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

Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Lord, you will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before you, and peace shall be a pathway for your feet.

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:** 2 PETER 3:8-15A

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PETER.

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel** MARK 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

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."

The gospel of Christ.

**All Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Hymns

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### Opening Hymn CP 89 v.3&4

#### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law,  
in cloud and majesty and awe.

#### Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!

4 O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

#### Refrain

### Wreath Lighting

#### Hope is a Star

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

When God is a child there's joy in our  
song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall  
be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

### Act of Praise CP 486

#### Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.

2 Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore they temples leave.

4 Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

5 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee,

6 changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

### Gradual Hymn CP 103

#### On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings

2 Then cleansed be every breast from  
sin;  
make straight the way for God within.  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without thy grace we waste away,  
like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,  
and bid the fallen sinner stand;  
shine forth, and let thy light restore  
earth's own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
whose advent doth thy people free;  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

### Offertory Hymn CP 102

#### Prepare the Way, O Zion

1 Prepare the way, O Zion,  
your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain O blest is Christ who came  
in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion;  
he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain*

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion;  
your Savior's rule embrace,  
and tidings of salvation  
proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing,  
their adoration voicing. *Refrain*

### Closing Hymn CP 88

#### Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.