



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 4th Sunday of Advent – December 24th, 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 CP89 v.5-7,1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'

All I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to his word.

The fourth candle is lit

One Jesus is the light of the world.

All A light no darkness can ever put out.

Sing Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

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 Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

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 91

People, Look East! The Time Is Near

Collect of the Day

One O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome your Christ into our midst.

All Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Canticle

Magnificat/Song of Mary

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Gradual Hymn

ELW 723

Canticle of the Turning

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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

Offering

Offertory Hymn CP 88 v.1 **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

One Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ's name.

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 123 Once in Royal David's City

Dismissal

One Do not be afraid, for God is with you and will strengthen you in your journey through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever!
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 Lenape Delaware peoples of Moraviantown and Muncey.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL.

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

All: Thanks be to God

CANTICLE – THE MAGNIFICAT

REFRAIN MY soul doth magnify the Lord

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. *Refrain*

For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name. *Refrain*

And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. *Refrain*

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. *Refrain*

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

Refrain

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever. *Refrain*

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: Romans 16:25-27

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS.

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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

All: Thanks be to God

The Gospel LUKE 1:26-38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymns

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Opening Hymn CP89

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.

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

6 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

Refrain

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Wreath Lighting

Hope is a Star

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.

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 91

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.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the rose, 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.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim

One more light the bowl shall brim,

Shining beyond the frosty weather,

Bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the star, 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.

Gradual Song ELW 723

Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout

That the God of my heart is great

And my spirit sings of the Wondrous
things

That you bring to the ones who wait

You fixed your sight on your servant's
plight

And my weakness you did not spurn

So from east to west shall my name be
blest

Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears for the dawn draws
near

And the world is about to turn!

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you
bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears

For the dawn draws near

And the world is about to turn!

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you

Work great things in me

And your mercy will last from the Depths

Of the past to the end of the age to be

Your very name puts the proud to shame

And to those who would for you yearn

You will show your might

Put the strong to flight

For the world is about to turn

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears

For the dawn draws near

And the world is about to turn! *Refrain*

3 From the halls of power to the fortress
tower

Not a stone will be left on stone

Let the king beware for your

Justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne

The hungry poor shall weep no more

For the food they can never ears

There are tables spread, ev'ry

Mouth be fed

For the world is about to turn

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears

For the dawn draws near

And the world is about to turn! *Refrain*

4 Though the nations rage from age to age

We remember Who holds us fast

God's mercy must deliver us from the
conqueror's crushing grasp

This saving word that out forebears

Heard is the promise which holds us

bound

'Til the spear and rod can be

Crushed by God

Who is turning the world around

My heart shall sing of the day you bring

Let the fires of your justice burn

Wipe away all tears

For the dawn draws near

And the world is about to turn! *Refrain*

Offertory Hymn CP 88 v.1

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.

Closing Song CP123 v.1,3

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city

stood a lowly cattle shed,

where a mother laid her baby

in a manger for his bed.

Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ her little child.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable,

with the oxen standing by,

we shall see him, but in heaven,

set at God's right hand on high,

when, like stars, his children crowned

all in white shall gather round.