

CHORAL EUCHARIST SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 7, 2025 10:30AM



Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather today on the lands occupied by the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations at the time of the creation of the "Dish with One Spoon" wampum agreement. We honour and respect these nations and commit ourselves to walk together gently upon this land.



The Gathering of the Community

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental or vocal piece of music during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

GATHERING MUSIC

Adagio from Sonata #2

Felix Mendelssohn

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed We begin our worship together in community by praising God in song. CP#101

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater son! Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! to set the captive free, to take away transgression,

He comes to break oppression, and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

3 Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend, his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest. from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-best. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove. His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

And also with you.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer was an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Anglican worship to this day.

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

The tradition of the Advent Wreath goes back to early Europe. The successive lighting of four candles on each Sunday in Advent symbolizes the marking of the weeks leading to Christmas and the Birth of Our Lord as well as the sense of increasing Light in the face of lengthening darkness.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us now light a candle of peace.

The candle-lighter lights the second candle on the wreath and then asks...

What is our peace?

Jesus Christ is our peace. He has broken down the barrier of hostility between people and nations and reconciled us as one new humanity to God through the cross. In him we have access in one Spirit to the Father.

He proclaimed peace to those who were near and to those who were far off. Therefore, we are no longer strangers or aliens but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

The community prays in silent expectation.

Most merciful God, Judge and Redeemer, grant us peace among the nations, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace. Amen.

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Collect is the prayer appointed for each day that "collects" or brings out the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes God's attributes as shown in the scriptures for the day.

Let us pray.

God of justice, clear our lives of hatred and despair and sow in us seeds of joy and peace; so that shoots of hope may spring forth in us as we await the coming of the Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 11.1-10

This reading is typically from the Hebrew Scriptures, which Jesus knew and which he often referred to and quoted from.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

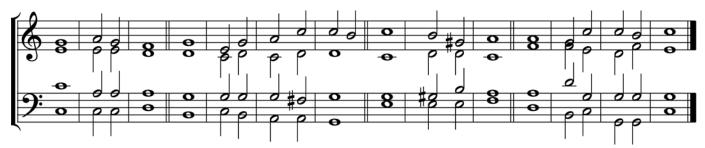
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 72.1-7,18-19

The psalms and other scriptural canticles are prayers Jesus used and cover every mood of our relationship with God and one another.



- 1 Give the king your / justice · O / God, * and your / righteous · ness / to the · king's / son;
- That he may rule your / people / righteously * and / all the / poor with / justice;
- That the mountains may bring prosperity / to the / people, * and the / little / hills bring / righteous·ness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy a/mong the / people; * he shall rescue the / poor and / crush the · op/pressor.



- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and / moon en/dure, * from one gener/ation / to an/other.
- 6 He shall come down like rain up/on the · mown / field, * like / showers that / water the / earth.
- 7 [2nd part] In his time shall the / righteous / flourish; * there shall be abundance of peace till the / moon shall / be no / more.
- 18 Blessed are you Lord God the / God of / Israel, * for you a/lone do / wondrous / deeds!
- And blessed be your glorious / name for / ever * and may all the earth be filled with your / glory. · A/men. A/men.

THE SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-13

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation of John.

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

God of Mercy, God of Grace

CP#341 (vv1-2)

1 God of mercy, God of grace, show the brightness of your face; shine upon us, Saviour, shine, fill your church with light divine; and your saving health extend unto earth's remotest end.

2 Let the people praise you, Lord; be by all that live adored; let the nations shout and sing glory to their Saviour King; at your feet their tribute pay, and your holy will obey.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3.1-12

This reading is from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said.

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GRADUAL HYMN

God of Mercy, God of Grace

CP#341 (v3)

3 Let the people praise you, Lord; earth shall then its fruits afford, God to us all blessings Give, we to God devoted live: all below and all above one in joy and light and love.

THE SERMON Dr. Matthew Green

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

THE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." The Apostle's Creed is believed to have it's origins in a baptismal profession of faith from the earliest years of the church.

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the universal church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are a part of a larger fellowship, the Church – the Body of Christ.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution) and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The presider invites the people to confession.

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Most merciful God,

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.

The presider offers absolution and the people respond.

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

THE PEACE

The community stands for the Peace.

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

THE OFFERTORY

At the offertory we gratefully offer back some of what God has given us, symbolically in the elements, and in our contributions towards the work of the church. Donations to the mission of the Cathedral can be made via PayPal, using the QR code here.



OFFERTORY HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

CP#100

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace: thus saith our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load; speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them: tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark! The herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near, calling us to new repentance since the reign of God is here.

Oh, that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for Christ a way; let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's Word is never broken.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

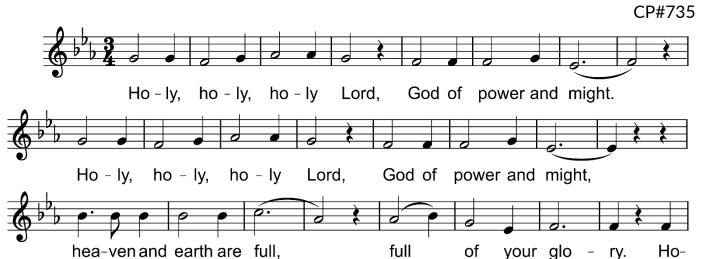
Lift up your hearts.

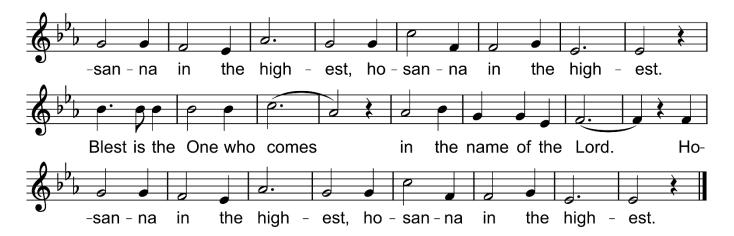
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

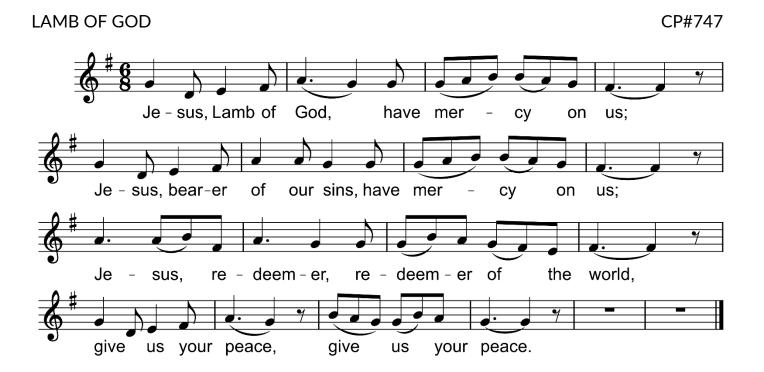
Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

THE COMMUNION

To receive communion, please come forward to the altar rail or to the standing station. To receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available if requested.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.



MUSIC AT COMMUNION

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him

Who freed us from our sins,

Who loved us all and shed his blood

That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,

The Lord Almighty God,

Who was and is and is to come;

Sing holy, holy, Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,

Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,

For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,

And night shall be no more;

They need no light nor lamps nor sun,

For Christ will be their All!

—adapted from Revelation 22 by Ruth Manz

The Sending Forth of the Community

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Glory to God,

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory: and the blessing of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod; prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay; the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fugue from Sonata #2

Felix Mendelssohn

3 But your work, O God, is faithful, your arm, O Lord, is strong: you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast; in pastures of peace you'll lead them, and give to the weary a rest.

4 There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places
Where the Lord our God may go!

PERMISSIONS

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PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDER
The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin

PREACHER
The Reverend Monica Romig Green

THE CHOIR OF CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Bruce Burbidge

GREETERS
Nancy Corman and Inez Morgan

LECTORS
Anne-Louise Watts and Richard Cunningham

INTERCESSOR Louise van Woelderen

COMMUNION MINISTERS
Rena Woods, John Watts and Matthew Green

HOSPITALITY Veronica Team

WARDEN ON DUTY Elizabeth Wensley

VERGER Michael Fitzpatrick

SOUND & LIVESTREAM
Jiawei Zhang

HEAD SERVER Randy Woods