

The First Sunday of Advent – November 29, 2020

A Service of the Word 2

We are members of the Laurentian Regional Ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal; our churches are located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Anishinaabeg, the Huron-Wendat, and the Omàmiwininiwak (Algonquin), St. Lawrence Iroquoians and Mohawk. Our churches honour, recognize and respect these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we gather today.

Organist: Mireille Villeneuve

Singers: Nick Brotherwood, Georgia Copland, Rive Le Lacheur, Josée Lemoine and David Sinclair

Host, Slides, Break-out Rooms, Presider and Recorder: The Rev'd Tania Lesack

Co-Host, Gospel Reader, Preacher, Responder, Muting/Unmuting: The Rev'd Nick Brotherwood

Readers: The Rev'd Paul Tidman, John Richard, France Jobin

Intercessor: Hugh Mitchell

The Gathering of the Community

Tania

Community Announcements

All announcements..., then the last one is about giving as written below.

We thank all of you who have continued to support church ministries through participation, and/or financial support. I invite you to pray with me: Abundant God, you made us in your image and breathed in us a spirit of generosity that is both gift and response. Move us, we pray, to give as we have received – abundantly, generously, and joyfully that our common ministry may ever bear witness to your unfailing grace. In the name of the Three in whom we are One, **Amen**.

Penitential Rite - Kyrie Confession

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive *us our* sins,
open *our* eyes to God's truth,
strengthen *us* to do God's will
and give *us* the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Lord is our light and our life.
O come, let us worship.

Lighting the Candles of the Advent and Christmas Wreath

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ.

God told Abraham that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed, because he trusted and put his hope in God. The Old Testament spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a Saviour would be born, a king in the line of King David. He would rule the world wisely and bless all the nations. We too believe in God's promise to send Jesus again to this world to establish his kingdom upon the earth. If you have your own Advent Wreath at home, I invite you to join with me and light the First Candle of Advent.

The First Candle is lit.

Hope is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray:

God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God, and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Hymn #485 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (verses 1, 2, 3)

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

2 Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heaven we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Tune : Hyfrydol Public domain

The New Jerusalem (BAS p. 78)

Arise, shine, for your light has come;*
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Though night still covers the earth*
and darkness covers the nations,

Over you will the Lord arise,*
over you will his glory appear.
Nations will stream to your light*
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Your gates will always be open;*
day or night, they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord,*
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land,*
ruin or destruction within your borders;
you will name your walls, Salvation,*
you will call your gates, Praise.

No longer will the sun be your light by day,*
no longer the moon give you light by night;
the Lord will be your eternal light,*
your God will be your glory.

The Proclamation of the Word

Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18 (BAS 813)

Paul

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The First Reading

John

The first appointed reading is read, the reader first saying

A reading from the Book of Isaiah. (Is 64:1-9)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord. (*or* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.)

Thanks be to God.

The canticle "The Song of Mary" is sung. (Words BAS pp. 87; music: Tallis' Canon, see hymn #14 in Common Praise).

Song of Mary

My soul gives glory to the Lord,
 in God my Saviour I rejoice.
 My lowliness he did regard,
 exalting me by his own choice.

From this day all shall call me blest,
 for he has done great things for me.
 Of all great names his is the best.
 For it is holy; strong is he!

His mercy goes to all who fear
 from age to age and to all parts.
 His arm of strength to all is near;
 he scatters those who have proud hearts.

He casts the mighty from their throne
and raises those of low degree;
he feeds the hungry as his own,
the rich depart in poverty.

The Second Reading

France

Lecture tirée de la première lettre de Paul aux Corinthiens (*1 Cor 1 :3-9*)

Que Dieu notre Père et le Seigneur Jésus Christ vous donnent la grâce et la paix ! Je remercie sans cesse mon Dieu à votre sujet pour la grâce qu'il vous a accordée par votre union à Jésus Christ. En effet, unis au Christ, vous avez été comblés de toutes les richesses, en particulier celles de la parole et de la connaissance. Le témoignage rendu au Christ a été si fermement établi parmi vous qu'il ne vous manque aucun don de la grâce, à vous qui attendez le moment où notre Seigneur Jésus Christ se révélera. C'est lui qui vous maintiendra fermes jusqu'au bout pour qu'on ne puisse vous accuser d'aucune faute au jour de sa venue. Dieu lui-même vous a appelés à vivre dans l'union avec son Fils Jésus Christ notre Seigneur: il est fidèle à ses promesses.

La Parole du Seigneur.

Nous rendons grâce à Dieu.

Or

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians. (*1 Cor 1:3-9*)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. (*Or* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.)

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: The Song of Zechariah (BAS p. 88)

Tania

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel (BAS p. 68)

Nick

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. (Mk 13:24-37)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Nick

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed (BAS p. 68)

Tania

Let us confess our faith 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.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Hugh

Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, saying "God of Love: hear our prayer."

We pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We ask your grace for N our bishop, [N our priest,] and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country, and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We name before you all whom you have given us to pray for [especially....], knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to you all who have died [especially....], that our trust in you may deepen as you keep them safe in your care.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

We look for your purposes to be accomplished, and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.
God of love: **Hear our prayer.**

*Or, intercession or thanksgiving may be offered for
the Church
the Queen and all in authority the world
the local community
those in need
the departed.*

The Collect of the Day

France

Dieu tout-puissant, donne-nous la grâce de rejeter les œuvres des ténèbres et de revêtir une armure de lumière en cette vie que ton Fils Jésus-Christ a partagé avec nous en toute humilité.

Ainsi au dernier jour, lorsqu'il reviendra dans toute sa gloire et dans toute sa majesté pour juger les vivants et les morts, qu'il nous soit donné de ressusciter à la vie éternelle, par Jésus-Christ, notre Seigneur, qui vit et règne avec toi et l'Esprit Saint, un seul Dieu, pour les siècles des siècles.

Amen.

Or

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hugh

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour 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.**

Or

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #114 - Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at naught and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply
grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

5 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
alleluia! come, Lord, come.

Text: John Cennick (1718-1755), Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt.
Music: Melody attrib. Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) and Martin Madan (1726-1790).

Blessing

Tania

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.