

ONLINE SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

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

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Lighting of the Candles of the Advent Wreath: Josée Lemoine

Readers: Mike Tott, Wendy Nelles, Patricia Kirkpatrick, Debra Stevenson Matte, France Jobin, Carol Comer, Hugh Mitchell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tania

LIGHTING THE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Josée

Third Candle - The Candle of Love - John The Baptist

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love.

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace.

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here.

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

Let us pray:

Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. Jesus loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love, so that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome the Lord when he comes. Amen.

Lighting of Wreath Candles: : http://www.thischurch.com/prayer_worship/liturgy/adventwreath.htm (2017-11-24). Times and Seasons, Carol Services in the Advent Season: Bidding Prayers and Introductions, P1 and P2 alt. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm15>; Patterns of Readings, Sequence 4: Looking for the Light, <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/advent#mmm14>. Times and Seasons, Christmas, Seasonal Material, Blessings, P4 alt., <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/times-and-seasons/christmas#mmm36>. Common Worship, Times and Seasons material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002 and published by Church House Publishing. Most Psalms are from the *Book of Alternative Services*. Copyright © 2004. Hymns are from Common Praise. Copyright © 1998. These Psalms and hymns are reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. All rights reserved. Further copying is prohibited. Offering Prayer from Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Prayers for Stewardship, "Abundant God", <https://www.edow.org/congregational-vitality/stewardship/annual-giving-resources/prayers-for-stewardship>. Other biblical passages from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. All rights reserved. Music and broadcasting: CCLI #11153361 & CSPL177877.

BIDDING PRAYERS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Tania

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

We are gathered together to proclaim and receive in our hearts the good news of the coming of God's kingdom, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate with confidence and joy the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we may respond in penitence and faith to the glory of his kingdom, its works of justice and its promise of peace, its blessing and its hope.

And as we seek to renew our allegiance to God's loving purpose, we pray for all who at this time especially need his pity and protection: the sick in body, mind or spirit; those who suffer from loss of dignity or loss of hope; those who face the future with fear, or walk in the shadow of death.

May God, of his grace and mercy, grant to all his people a new trust in his good providence and a new obedience to his sovereign word, for to him is most justly due all glory, honour, worship and praise, world without end.

Amen.

As we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

**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.**

And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.
Amen.

HYMN: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (C.P. #88, verses 1, 2 and 4)

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

LESSONS

Lesson 1: Genesis 1:1-5 – And God said: Let there be light

Mike

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalms 136:1-9

Mike, Hugh

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 4 Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 5 Who by his wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 7 Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

Lesson 2: Psalm 13 – Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death

Wendy

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Psalm 43

Wendy, Hugh

1 Give judgement for me, O God,

and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *

deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2 For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? *

and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?

3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *

and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;

4 That I may go to the altar of God,

to the God of my joy and gladness; *

and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *

and why are you so disquieted within me?

6 Put your trust in God; *

for I will yet give thanks to him

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

HYMN: We Wait With Great Expectancy

This is sung on the music of "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen".

We wait with great expectancy to see your Kingdom come.

We trust your word to be fulfilled and pray your will be done.

So in our world of ache and loss we're calling out as one:

Come Lord Jesus we hunger and we yearn for your return.

Come Lord Jesus we hunger and we yearn for your return.

You came to us so long ago and you will come again.

We long for heaven on the earth an end to grief and pain.

Lord may our lives anticipate and usher in your reign.

Come Lord Jesus we long to know you here, come and draw near.

Come Lord Jesus we long to know you here, come and draw near.

So lead us in your patience, Lord, and help us match your pace,
To walk the straight and narrow road in rhythms of your grace,
And may this Advent way of life all hurriedness replace.
Come Lord Jesus and teach us how to wait, you are not late.
Come Lord Jesus and teach us how to wait, you are not late.

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Lesson 3: Isaiah 45:2-8 – I form light and create darkness

Patricia

I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.
Shower, O heavens, from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;
I the Lord have created it.

Psalm 97

Patricia, Hugh

- 1 The Lord is king;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgements, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
**he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy name.

Lesson 4: Baruch 4:36-5:9 – Look to the East

Debra

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;
they are coming, gathered from east and west,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.
For God will give you evermore the name,
“Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,

so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Psalm 84:8-12

Debra, Hugh

- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than
a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

HYMN: People Look East! The Time Is Near (C.P. #91, verses 1, 3 and 4)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 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. | 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. |
| 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. | |

Lesson 5: Isaiah 9:2, 3, 6, 7 (en français/in French)

France

Le peuple qui marche dans l'obscurité
voit une grande lumière.
Sur ceux qui vivent au pays des ténèbres,
une lumière se met à resplendir.
Seigneur, tu les multiplies,
tu rends leur joie immense.
Ils se réjouissent en ta présence
comme on se réjouit à la moisson,

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you*

comme on crie de joie en partageant le butin.
 Car un enfant nous est né,
 un fils nous est donné.
 Dieu lui a confié l'autorité.
 On lui donne ces titres :
 Conseiller admirable, Dieu fort,
 Père pour toujours, Prince de la paix.
 Il doit étendre son autorité
 et assurer une paix sans fin.
 Il occupera le siège royal de David
 et régnera sur son royaume, pour l'affermir
 et le maintenir en établissant le droit
 et la justice de Dieu,
 dès maintenant et pour toujours.
 Voilà ce que fera le Seigneur de l'univers
 dans son ardent amour.

*as with joy at the harvest,
 as people exult when dividing plunder.
 For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Psalm 36:5-10

France, Hugh

- 5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord *
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

Lesson 6: I Thess. 5:1-11, 23, 24

Carol

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. May the God of peace

himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Canticle: A Song of the New Jerusalem (Isaiah 60.1–3, 11ab, 14cd, 18–19) **Carol, Hugh**

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.

HYMN: We Have Heard the Distant Bells

This is sung on the music of "Good King Wenceslas".

We have heard the distant bells ring out "Christ is coming".

We have heard the angels tell: God is on his way.

We've seen first-fruits, signs of life, bursting through the darkness.

In a world of fear and strife, hope is here to stay._____

One day there will be no pain, sorrow or injustice.

Jesus will return again, wiping tears away.

Now we sing lamenting songs, while the chords are broken,

Join the martyrs in the "How long?", how long must we wait?_____

Rays of light, a glimpse of dawn, while the night still lingers.

Earth it groans to be reborn, help us watch and pray.

Clothe us in the ways of Christ, ready for his coming,

Worshipping through daily life, hastening the day,_____

When you come to reign._____

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Gospel: John 3:16-21 – I am the light of the world

Nick

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

REFLECTION

Nick

THE COLLECT

France

Prions le Seigneur. Dieu de puissance et de miséricorde, tu nous appelles encore une fois à célébrer la venue de ton Fils. Écarte de nous tout ce qui nous empêche de t’aimer afin que, lors de sa venue, nous soyons là, émerveillés et remplis de respect devant lui, qui vit et règne avec toi et l’Esprit Saint, un seul Dieu, pour les siècles des siècles. **Amen.**

Or

Let us pray. God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

Tania

May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN: O Come, Divine Messiah / Venez, Divin Messie (C.P. #95, v. 1 in Eng., then in Fr., v. 3 in Eng.)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence <u>waits</u> the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness <u>flee</u> away
Dear Savior, haste
Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace. | 2. Venez, Divin Messie,
Nous rendre espoir et nous sauver !
Vous êtes notre vi-e:
Venez, <u>venez</u> , venez !
O Fils de Dieu, ne tardez pas ;
Par votre Corps donnez la joie
A notre monde en désarroi.
Redites-nous encore
De quel amour vous nous aimez ;
Tant d'hommes vous ignorent !
Venez, <u>venez</u> , venez ! |
|---|---|

3. You come in peace and meekness
And lowly will your cradle be;
All clothed in human weakness
Shall we your God-head see.
Dear Savior, haste
Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Tania