**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinabewaki, Mississauga’s, and Neutral peoples. We give thanks and honour to all the generations of Indigenous people who have taken care of this land. We recognize our need for stewardship and partnerships in renewing this great resource for generations to come.

**ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP-** \*(inspired by Luke 1:46-55)

Our souls magnify the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.  
**God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.**

God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.  
**God has shown strength with God's arm. God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;  
**God has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**Come, for God is doing a new thing!

**Come, let us worship God!**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH- THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

**GATHERING SONG*He Came Down* (ELW 253)**

1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.  
  
2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.  
  
3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.  
  
4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 3rd Sunday of Advent, where is the time going!

We continue to collect food items for WFRC. I will take them in as we get them, as the need is high. Thank you to all who have donated so far.

Next Sunday will be a reflective service of carols and poems. It is a time where you can sit and listen amongst the busyness of the time. There will be a time of fellowship after the service, bring a plate of treats to share if you can attend.

Reminder of the weekly Thursday night advent services at Trinity, NH. This is a joint service between St George Anglican, Trinity, and Zion. A simple soup supper takes place at 5:30 followed by worship at 6:30.

Christmas Eve service takes place at 7:00 pm. Christmas Eve, It is a traditional service of carols, communion, and candlelight.

**GREETING (ELW p. 184)**

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

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 184)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE*Now the Feast and Celebration* (ELW 167)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.*

1The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
 like the crocus 2it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.  
 3Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.  
 4Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”  
 5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
 6then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;  
 7the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
 8A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way, the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. 9No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it, they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.  
 10And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55**

46bMy soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, 47my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
 48**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**  
  **From this day all generations will call me blessed:**  
 49you, the Almighty, have done great  things for me and holy is your name.  
 50**You have mercy on those who fear you,** **from generation to generation.**  
 51You have shown strength with your arm  
  and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
 52**casting down the mighty from their thrones** **and lifting up the lowly.**  
 53You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.  
 54**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**  
  **to remember the promise of mercy,**  
 55the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

A reading from James.

*In anticipation of the Lord’s coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.*

7Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

2When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” 4Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”  
 7As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is the one about whom it is written,  
 ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’  
11Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 189)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Hark, the Glad Sound!* (ELW 239)**

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.  
  
2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.  
3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.  
  
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran World Federation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict including Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Ukraine, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, and Syria. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, injury, or loss. We remember Sarah, Anne, Chris, John, Vivian, Stuart, Edna, Susan, Marg, Yvonne, Sidney and Drew, the congregation of Zion St.Agatha, our members in long term care Esther, Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (pause). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (*ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 190)**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 190)**

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 Savior 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, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r and might,** **heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.** **Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE III (ELW p. 110)**

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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)- LAMB OF GOD**

**COMMUNION HYMNS-** **262, 726**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*****People, Look East* (ELW 248)**

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 flow'r may flourish.  
People, look east, and sing today--  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
  
3 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.  
  
4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today--  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* *"Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing -*[*www.stephenmfearing.com*](http://www.stephenmfearing.com/)*"*

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