

ORDER OF SERVICE
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13th 2020 10am



Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4
www.stjohn316.com 519-743-0228

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons
Readers	Rebecca McKay, Bruce Wheatcroft
Singers	Rebecca McKay, Corinne Dutton Dave Sapelak, Bruce Wheatcroft
Tech Support	Mohan Thomas
Organist	Bill Hutton

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude	Noël Huron – Denis Bedard
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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 103 On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refugee, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.
4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.
5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost forevermore.

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

Almighty God,
who sent your servant John the Baptist
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,
inspire us, the ministers
and stewards of your truth,
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,
that when the Christ shall come again
to be our judge,
we may stand with confidence before his glory;
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.
(Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting

covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

(Psalm 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
And our tongues with shouts of joy.

The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

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.**

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Church in Thessalonica.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to John
(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, priests, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. We pray for Todd, our Bishop; Preston, our Rector; and for all faith communities in our neighbourhood. Give us a common vision for mission and ministry, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favour for all creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy may be revealed through their actions.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, Lutheran World relief. Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and the helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this parish and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need, including those we now name aloud, or remember in silence. (*A time of silence*). Make your church a place of refuge and healing.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. **AMEN.**

Hymn 106

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

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 loft 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.

3. But your word, 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 rest.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Announcements

Dismissal

Officiant 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.**

Officiant May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Vom Himmel Hoch BWV 700 – J.S. Bach

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 13 2020

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for the Falkland Islands, The Right Reverend Timothy Thornton, Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands, and for our common mission and ministry.

PRAY for Todd, our Bishop; Anne, our Archbishop and Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia, our companion Diocese; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Susan, National Bishop, and Michael, Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In the Anglican Church of Canada this week we pray for the Venerable Alan Perry, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary's Office; and for Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada this week we pray for Trina Gallop Blank, Assistant to the National Bishop, Communications and Resource Generation, and the staff of Communications; Kyle Giesbrecht, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for parishes in London Deanery, this week praying especially for the people and parishes Huron College Chapel of St. John the Evangelist; and St. Mark's Church, London.

FOR OUR COMPANION DIOCESE

Pray for the Diocese of Amazonia, for Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassoto, Bishop, and for our common mission and ministry.

WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THOSE FOR WHOM WE GIVE FLOWERS TODAY

The flowers on the Altar are given in loving memory of Dorothy Dunkley, a gift of the family.

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Sarah Cardwell and Robert Smith, Nancy Chittick, Rosemary Cliff, Ray and Anne Cloutier, and their families.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO ARE ILL

Colleen, Pat, Tracy, Marlin, John and Family, Nicholas, Catherine, John, Guy, Connor, Emily, Ron and Anne, Melanie, Alison, Jennifer, Franco, Joe and Gabrielle, David, Scott, Andrea, James, Linda, Wayne, Ida, Catherine, Carman, Heather, Sherri, Ann, Farzana, Scott, Vivian, Margaux, Sylvia, Alexander, Kyle, Sherri, Elysse, Percival and Janet, Mike, Lee, Tianna, Todd and Rebecca, Jeannie, Susan, Hazel, Alice, Valerie, Cedric, Al and Ann, St. John's

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

PRAY for Preston, our Rector, the Bishop, Archdeacon, regional Dean and clergy of our Deanery, ministers of the Gospel everywhere, and leaders of other faith groups. With new restrictions on worshipping together, may we be mindful of each other, and patient in the midst of disappointment. Help us continue to find ways to fulfill our calling to care for all people.

PRAY for the health of people throughout the world, and in our own community as we continue to face challenges in our lives. Be with those who care for the sick and those who face increased health compromise in these days. As winter weather advances, pray especially for all who are disadvantaged by hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and unemployment. Give thanks for those in our community who are working to provide temporary shelter for those who have nowhere to call home, and others who are partnering to provide affordable housing and housing for developmentally-challenged adults.

Parish and Community Announcements

Christmas Cookie Sale Jean Wright's beautiful and delicious shortbread cookies are available again this year for Christmas! \$5/dozen with all proceeds going to the ACW to help those in need. They are placed on decorative plates, ready for gift-giving. Call Jean at 519-390-0213 to place your order and arrange delivery. Thank you Jean!

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols We are so excited to be able to present a virtual Lessons and Carols. Our pre-recorded video will be premiered Sunday December 20 at 7:00pm and will feature the Parish Choir, and readers from the congregation.

Christmas gift for our Newcomer family Once again, St John's has said yes to providing a gift basket for our latest newcomer family: James and Esperance and their two children Cedric and Ariane. Some of you may have met Esperance and the children at Pancake Supper earlier this year (before everything closed down)

Exciting news for them is that James has a job in Cambridge at Permacon and that they are expecting twins in April!! (They have found a three-bedroom townhouse for January in the same area, so kids will not have to change schools!)

Our plan is to provide a couple of gifts to be wrapped, but mostly to give them gift cards that they can use as most needed.

If you would like to contribute to this, your donation can be sent to the church (cash or cheque) marked clearly for "refugee Christmas gift". Cheques should be written to The Church of St John the Evangelist and "refugee Christmas gift" put on the memo line. This way you will get credit for your tax receipt and we will easily be able to get the money to purchase gift cards.

OR Contact Syd Reginato (reginatasyd@gmail.com 226 988 3627) or David Whitfield (davidswhit@gmail.com 519 579 5543) for more information on how you can contribute to this gift.

Donation Options There are many ways you can continue your contributions to St. John's

1. Send weekly envelopes in the mail. You can send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. North Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
2. Drop off cash donations to the office through the mail slot in the office door. Write your name on the envelope!
3. Have an Errand Buddy pick up your donation.
4. Sign up for, or make changes to your DEFT by contacting the office (519-743-0228 or church@stjohn316.com).
5. Donate Online through Canada Helps by credit card. You can set up recurring, or one time donations. Canada Helps takes 3.75% but also provides the tax receipt directly to you and provides a donation report to us! [Here's the link](#)

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies you can contact him at 519-573-7797

Rector

The Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons

Assistant Clergy

The Venerable Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

Rector's Warden Marianne Mellinger

People's Warden David Sapelak

Deputy Warden Debbie Sheach

Parish Administrator Rebecca McKay

Cover Art: Stothard, Thomas, 1755-1834 ; Skelton, William, 1763-1848.
The Macklin Bible -- John Preaching in the Wilderness, from Art in the
Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville,
TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54080>
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