



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

*December 12, 2021*

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*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

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## GATHERING

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

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### PRELUDE

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which St. Philip's Lutheran Church is located. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, worship, and serve on this land.

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.  
God for whom we wait,  
**in the presence of one another,**  
**we confess our sin before you.**  
**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**  
**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**  
**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**  
**We fear those different from ourselves.**

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We forget that we are your children  
and turn away from your love.  
Forgive us, Blessed One,  
and assure us again of your saving grace.  
**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favour upon you!  
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven.  
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

“As Dark Awaits The Dawn”

ELW 261 vs. 1, 3, 4

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### INVITATION TO ADVENT

Lighting of the Advent candle

Song “Light the Advent Candle”, vs. 3

Mary Lu Walker

A Meditation on Joy

## WORD

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

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### FIRST READING

*Philippians 4: 4 - 7*

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God’s joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with

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thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM FOR THE DAY IS FROM ISAIAH 12: 2 - 6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,  
and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you <sup>1</sup> will draw water from the wells <sup>1</sup> of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call <sup>1</sup> on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name <sup>1</sup> is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in <sup>1</sup> all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### **GOSPEL**

**Luke 3: 7 - 18**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

<sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?"

<sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John,

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whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

ACS 901 vs. 1, 3

### CREED

Together we affirm our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary, 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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

Response: **Your mercy is great.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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### SHARING OF PEACE

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

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## DIALOGUE

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...

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

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We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION SONG**

*"When A Star is Shining"*

ACS 915

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **SENDING**

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

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### **BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

*"Surely God is My Salvation"*

ACS 926

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

### **PERMISSIONS**

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## SERVING TODAY

Rev. Hilla Lahtinen	Presiding
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Marcia Powers-Dunlop	Worship Leader
Olivia and Hanna Holt	Advent Candle Lighting
Sarah Glinski	Advent Meditation
Raija Koski-Bruce	Reader
Marcia Powers-Dunlop	Prayers
Herb Feller	On-site Usher
Raija Koski-Bruce	Greeter
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gus Berndt, Kevin Cartwright, Rodney Erlandson, Al Jacksteit, Mona Kibsey, Mark Kieswetter, Matt Kirkpatrick, Fran Moore, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, and Helen Scollnik.

### PASS THE OFFERING PLATE PLEASE

Thanks for giving your offering regularly. Our ministries need your support. Place your offering on the plate when you enter or leave today. Or find details for other options at [stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/](http://stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/).

### COMMUNION

Keep 6 feet apart with your mask on. Receive the bread then help yourself to an individual cup of wine. Remove your mask and have the wine and bread. Put the empty cup in the containers provided. Replace your mask.

### SAFELY SINGING

Singing is good for our souls – and for spreading germs, unfortunately. Please ensure that your mask is securely on and join in the singing again.



## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Monday	Zumba Gold @ 1 pm Bell Choir @ 7:00 pm
Tuesday	Bible Study @ 7:30 pm
Wednesday	Cover Girls @ 10 am Vocal Choir @ 7:30 pm
Thursday	Church Council @ 7:30 pm
Friday	
Saturday	

### OUR VISION

*Freed by the grace of Christ, we seek to connect with God,  
neighbour and self.*

#### VISION STATEMENT:

We are a diverse and inclusive Lutheran faith community freed by the grace of Christ to find God and self as we connect with our neighbours. We **practise hospitality** of open hearts and open arms. We **unite with partners** to make a difference in our neighbourhood. We **nurture** the community of Christ.

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