



# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

*December 11, 2022*

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*A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.*

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## GATHERING

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

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### WELCOME

### 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.

### GATHERING HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW 264

### GREETING

### KYRIE

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

### LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*Andrew Taylor*

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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.**

## SONG

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”

ACS 905

## SHARING OF ADVENT PEACE

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

# WORD

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

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## FIRST READING

### **Isaiah 35: 1 - 10**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it 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. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say 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.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then 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; <sup>7</sup>the 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. <sup>8</sup>A 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

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astray. <sup>9</sup>No 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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 146: 5 - 10**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

#### **GOSPEL**

##### ***Matthew 11: 2 - 11***

*John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.*

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup>As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Truly 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**

*Janelle Lightbourne*

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## HYMN OF THE DAY

“What Is the World Like”

ACS 1047

## CREED

**P:** 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: God, in your mercy,

Response: **hear our prayer.**

## MEAL

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

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## PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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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, 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. And so, with all the witnesses of the resurrection, we praise your name.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

### COMMUNION SONG

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

ACS 901

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

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

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### 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.**

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**SENDING SONG**

“People, Look East”

ELW 248

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**PERMISSIONS**

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## SERVING TODAY

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek	Pastor
Janelle Lightbourne, Intern	Preacher
Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Music Director
Andrew Taylor	Advent Candle Lighting
Perry Taylor	Reader
Sarah Pascoe, Chris Ritcey-Conrad	Musicians
St. Philip's Choir	Music
Dave Pascoe	Audio Visual
Karen Adolph	Livestream Usher

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Gus Berndt, John Brownlie, Kevin Cartwright, Rodney Erlandson, Mary Hanslep, Al Jacksteit, Matt Kirkpatrick, Mona Kibsey, Mark Kieswetter, John Lindman, Pat Penney, Julie Potocny, Joseph and Pasquale Rizzo, Ethan Suknundun, Debra, Helen, Lynette, and Marian.

### OFFERING

Please place your offering on the plate in the centre aisle. Other options can be found on our website: [stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/](http://stphilipstoronto.com/donate-now/)

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Today @ 11:30 am.

### 50+

Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex for a Christmas Luncheon. \$25/person. **December 15 @ 12:30 pm.**

### CHRISTMAS DECOR

We would like to thank the decorating crew of Herb Feller, Paul McCutcheon, Peter Marsh, Arlene Somerville, Janelle Lightbourne, Perry and Andrew Taylor for making our Sanctuary look beautiful.

### ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES



St. Philip's supports the use of these devices. Please enquire at the audiovisual table.



## ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S

Monday	Zumba @ 1:00 pm Bell Choir @ 7:15 pm
Tuesday	Girl Guides @ 6:30 pm Bible Study @ 7:00 pm (Zoom)
Wednesday	Cover Girls @ 10 am Vocal Choir @ 7:00 pm
Thursday	50+ Christmas Lunch @ 12:30 pm Council @ 7:00 pm
Friday	
Saturday	
Sunday	Pageant and Music Sunday

### 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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