

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*

A word cloud featuring various terms related to the Advent season. The words are arranged in a roughly circular shape, with some larger than others. The colors range from dark purple to light green. The words include: grace, light, truth, came, witness, darkness, glory, beginning, world, God, man, life, name, flesh, yet, people, overcome, might, believe, blood, shine, accept, full, father's, everyone, true, know, thing, born, things, enlightens, believed, come, without, John, lived, one, children, sent, received, among, power, testify, gave, and born.

Welcome to this time of worship

Thank you for joining St. James today. It is good that you are here! If you are visiting or looking for your spiritual home, please make yourself known to us. We welcome your presence with us.

During our worship today please remember:

- During this time of pandemic worship, we are pausing our mask mandate for the time being. Masks are highly encouraged but the choice of wearing a mask in the church building is based on your personal circumstances and tolerance for risk. During the sharing of the peace some people may not feel comfortable with close contact.
- During the eucharist, everyone wishing to draw closer to the love of God is welcome to receive bread and wine. At the appointed time please come up the main aisle. If you wish to receive the bread only, please cross your arms after receiving the bread. If you wish a blessing instead of receiving bread and wine, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. Gluten free bread is blessed for anyone who requires it. Please indicate to the priest if needed.
- Children are welcome here at Saint James! Children can gather in 'The Prayer Ground' at the beginning of the service and will then be led downstairs to their program with their leaders. The children will rejoin us at communion. If this is your first time here, please go with your child to meet the leader and inform them of any allergies or special needs. For those not wanting to leave their parents, the prayer-ground is available throughout the service.
- A collection plate is located in the middle aisle of the church. If you wish to make a gratitude offering for the

blessings from God in your life, please place the offering on the plate before the time of the offertory hymn. Your gift will be used to support the ministry and mission in the St. James community of faith. Take a moment to give thanks for God’s blessings in your life today.

- The service is being livestreamed and is taped for viewing online.
- The congregation responses are in **bold** type.



Prelude:

Nov. 27	Meditation on ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel	Flor Peters
Dec. 4	In Pastures Green	Harold Darke

Advent I & II

Welcome & Announcements

Territorial Acknowledgement

Saint James Church acknowledges that the land upon which we gather is the traditional territory shared between the Haudenosaunee(ho-din-oh-show-knee) confederacy and the Anishinaabe(ah-nih-shih-nah-bai) nations which was acknowledged in the Dish with One Spoon wampum belt; and on the territory traditionally inhabited by the Neutral. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is directly adjacent to Haldimand Treaty tract. Committing ourselves to truth and the work of reconciliation, we seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of this land, one based in honour and deep respect.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(see page 13)

One of the best-known customs of the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light.

Processional Hymn (for words to hymns see pages 16-20)

Nov. 27	CP 114 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending
Dec. 4	CP 108 Hark! A Herald Voice Is Sounding

The Gathering *please remain standing as you are able*

One: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: and also with you.

One: Prepare the way of the Lord

All: make a path for our God in the desert.

One: Each valley shall be exalted

All: Every mountain and hill be laid low.

One: The crooked shall be made straight

All: rough places shall become plain.

One: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed

All: and all people shall see it together.

One: This is the promise of the Lord
All: **God's promise shall be fulfilled.**

Collect *(see page 14)*

1st Reading *(see page 13-15)*

Nov. 27	Isaiah 2:1-5
Dec. 4	Isaiah 11:1-10

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

2nd Reading

Nov. 27	Romans 13:11-14
Dec. 4	Romans 15:4-13

Leader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

Nov. 27	CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose day is Near (3X)
Dec. 4	CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose day is Near (3X)

Gospel

One: The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ.
All: **Glory to you, O Jesus Christ.**

Nov. 27	Matthew 24:36-44
Dec. 4	Matthew 3:1-12

One: The Gospel of Christ
All: **Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn

Nov. 27	CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose day is Near (3X)
Dec. 4	CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose day is Near (3X)

Homily

Affirmation of Faith – New Zealand Creed

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,
Who lived and died and rose again.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship You.
Amen.**

Prayers of The People

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant: Let us acknowledge how we contribute to the chaos and confusion in our lives.

..... silence is kept

Celebrant: Gracious God

All: we confess that our lives are cluttered by frivolous concerns and our best efforts are devoted to superficial pursuits; we take on more than we can manage and mismanage the things that matter most; we neglect the important relationships in our lives and fritter away our energy on irrelevant anxieties; we place lesser gods at the center of our lives and cut ourselves off from you, the source of life.

**Receive our regret and our repentance.
Bless our deep longing for clarity and calm with the fullness of your grace.**

Become again, our safe anchor in rough waters, our solid foundation on shifting ground, our sustaining buttress against a trivial life. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Celebrant: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!
Amen.

The Peace *please stand as you are able and comfortable*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you always

All: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

Nov. 27	CP 89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (VV 1,2,3,4)
Dec. 4	CP 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Please stand as you are able for the Prayer over the Gifts and the Great Thanksgiving

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Saviour of the nations, come.
Make your home here in us.

**All: Feed us with your love,
that our faith shine ever new
and our lives reveal your light.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Maker.

**All: It is right to give
our thanks and our praise.**

Celebrant: It is right that we should praise you, God our Maker, for your enduring faithfulness to us. Even when we are too pre-occupied to notice you, your grace upholds and sustains us.

Even when we wander far from home, you wait for us with open arms. And even though we are too busy to thank you, we thank you now for the gift of this time to settle ourselves and focus on you.

.....*silence is kept*

We praise and thank you, loving God, for all the blessings we have received: for the beauty and wonder of creation; for the mystery of love and friendship; for meaningful work and the gift of play. Most of all, we thank you for coming among us in Jesus to draw us back to life in you.

For his rootedness in you, the depth of his teaching, the fullness of his healing, and the integrity of his living, we thank you and bless you. On the night before he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his friends. He took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and shared it, saying “take eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this to remember me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave you thanks and shared it, saying “drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many so that sins may be forgiven. Do this to remember me.”

Gracious God, in this meal we remember the love of Jesus that sweeps aside the clutter of our busy, conscientious lives and pulls us back to our center in you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these our offerings. Receiving them, may we know the fullness of your presence. Re-root us in the reality of your grace and nourish us in your peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

**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 forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.
Share in the feast of salvation.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Communion Hymns

Nov. 27	CP 64 Author of Life Divine CP 75 With the Body That Was Broken
Dec. 4	CP 97 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Receiving Spiritual Communion (for those joining us online)

Please use the following prayers to make your Spiritual Communion:

One: Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,
giving you thanks and praise
that you make yourself present
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in
dark places;
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

Prayer recommended for use by children:

One: Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me,
I pray that you would remind me
to welcome you to share every day with me.
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too.

Ablutions Anthem (see page 15)

Prayer After Communion *please stand as you are able*

Celebrant: Let us pray
.....silence is kept
God for whom we wait,
you come to us
in the broken bread and the cup we share.
Make us ready always

to welcome Christ into our hearts,
and send us forth to be your people in the world,
announcing your coming among us
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Doxology

**Glory to God,
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**

The Blessing

Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you
and scatter the darkness from before your path.
And the blessing of God the Creator, God the
Redeemer, and God the Sanctifier be with you this
day and always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Nov. 27	CP 577 God of Grace and God of Glory
Dec. 4	CP 529 God, My Hope on You Is Founded

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God. Amen!**

Voluntary

Nov. 27	Preludium in c minor, BWV 546, Johann S. Bach
Dec. 4	'Little' Prelude and Fugue in F major, BWV 556, Johann S. Bach

Readings, Collect, Hymns , etc. for Dec 4 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Wreath Blessing

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
 John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way
 for the kingdom of heaven is near.
 Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
 that we may be a light shining in the darkness
 welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
 for he is our light and salvation.
 Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

Collect

Stir up our hearts, O God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
 By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace;
 through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD AS the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' 'Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. Even now the axe 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. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Ablutions Anthem *Christ Hath a Garden* arr. Gerald Near

Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground.

Chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.

Like trees of spice his servants stand, there planted by his mighty hand.

By Eden's gracious streams, that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.

Awake, O wind of heaven and bear their sweetest perfume through the air.

Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved Master come.

That he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set.

That he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.

Processional CP 108

Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,

that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

Gradual CP 94 Wait for the Lord, Whose day is Near

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Offertory CP 106

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 lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

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.

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.

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 lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!**

Communion Hymn CP 97

**Jesus came, the heavens adoring,
came with peace from realms on high.
Jesus came for our redemption,
lowly came on earth to die:
alleluia, alleluia!
came in deep humility.**

**Jesus comes again in mercy,
when our hearts are bowed with care.
Jesus comes again in answer
to our earnest heartfelt prayer,
alleluia, alleluia!
comes to save us from despair.**

**Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
bringing news of sins forgiven.
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
leading souls redeemed to heaven.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Now the gate of death is riven.**

**Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,
when the heavens shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory:
let us then our homage pay,
alleluia, alleluia!
till the dawn of endless day**

Recessional CP 529

God, my hope on you is founded;
you my faith and trust renew:
through all change and chance you guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, you alone
call my heart to be your own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray our trust;
though with care and toil we build them,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But your power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

Daily does the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
God's desire our us delights us,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Here at hand, love takes a stand
joy awaits God's sure command.

God's great goodness lasts forever,
deepest wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attending,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore from God's store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

**Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ the Son.
Christ you call one and all;
those who follow shall not fall.**