



**St. James**  
Anglican | Dundas



## **Advent 1**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**

[www.stjamesdundas.ca](http://www.stjamesdundas.ca)

Parish Office: 905-627-1424

Church email: [stjamesdundas@outlook.com](mailto:stjamesdundas@outlook.com)

Rector  
Honorary Assistants

Parish Deacon  
Director of Music  
Parish Administrator  
Wardens

Rev. Canon Leslie Gerlofs  
Rev. Canon Peter Davison  
Rev. Carol Overing  
Rev. Deacon Ann Vander Berg  
Richard Hansen  
Nyle Armstrong  
Terese Herron, O.N.  
Barry Shimmons  
Janet Cannon  
Christine Aiken

*One License #A - 729217*

# 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 personal circumstances and tolerance for risk. During the sharing of the peace some people may not feel comfortable with close contact.

Children are welcome here at Saint James! Children can gather in 'The Prayer Ground' at the beginning of the service. 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.

An offering plate is located at the entrance to the church sanctuary. If you wish to make a gratitude offering for the blessings from God in your life, simply place the offering on the plate before the time of the offertory hymn. Your gift will be used to support the varied ministries of St. James. Take a moment to give thanks to God for the blessings in your life today.

The service is being livestreamed and recorded for viewing online.

The congregation responses are in **bold** type.

**Prelude** *Aria Op. 51*

*Flor Peeters*

## Welcome and Announcements

### Territorial Acknowledgement

One: We gather on the territory traditionally inhabited by the Haudenosaunee and the Anishinaabe nations acknowledged in the Dish with One Spoon wampum belt.

**All: We commit ourselves to the work of truth and reconciliation with the Original Peoples of this land in a relationship of honour and mutual respect.**

**OPENING HYMN CP 88** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times.

**All: Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. Amen.**

*As the Advent Candle is lit we sing:*

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

***Refrain: When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

### The Gathering *Remain standing as you are able*

One: Blessed be God, the eternal One-in-Three Who was, and is, and is to come.

**All: Blessed be God forever and ever.**

One: During a season of busyness and in a culture that demands immediate response,

**All: we pause and wait for your appearing.**

One: In the midst of chaos, anxiety and fear,

**All: we pause and trust that your hand is leading us.**

One: Uncertain about the future and weighed down with worries in the present,

**All: we pause and know your presence fully.**

One: Come, O Christ, and set us free.

**All: Come, Emmanuel,  
bring in your reign of justice and peace.**

One: We wait for a new heaven and a new earth,

**All: where righteousness is at home.**

## **Collect of the Day**

*The Priest will lead a prayer collecting together our thoughts for the day.*

One: O God, eternal and unchanging, you are the source and center of all life. Help us to cease our constant hurry and hustle, worry and anxiety, that we may rest in you. Teach us patience and endurance as we wait for the appearing of Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. **Amen.**

## **Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading (Isaiah 64:1-9)** *Please be seated*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
and do not remember iniquity for ever.  
Now consider, we are all your people.

One: Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)** *Please be seated*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

One: Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn CP 94** *Wait for the Lord*

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.***

***Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! (repeat 3 times)***

**The Gospel** *(Mark 13:24-37)*

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

One: God be with you

**All: and also with you**

One: Hear the Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ  
according to Saint Mark

**All: Glory to you, O Jesus Christ**

‘But in those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

One: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Jesus Christ

**Gradual Hymn CP 94** *Wait for the Lord*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! (repeat 3 times)*

**Homily**

*The Reverend Canon Leslie Gerlofs*

**Musical Interlude**

*Michael Schulte*

## **The Prayers of the People**

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

One: In this season of waiting, in this time of preparation, we long to draw closer to God, as a comfort and as our Saviour.

So often, we get in our own way; we make choices that trip us up as we move toward God.

So then, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

*(silence)*

One: God of grace and truth,  
long ago your prophets told of your promises –  
a promise of restoration and salvation.

All: **We confess that we have not believed your promise,  
that we have preferred brokenness to restoration,  
and have lingered with dis-ease  
rather than welcome salvation.**

**We have remained steadfast  
in the ease of the status quo,  
not wanting to face the hard work  
of repentance and change.**

**Forgive our stiff necks, and renew our strength,**

**so that we may receive the fullness of your promise,  
and live into that joy. Amen.**

One: Sisters and brothers in Christ,  
the promise is true:  
God loves us.  
God forgives us.  
God is coming to us even now to save us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen. \***

### **The Peace**

One: The peace of Christ, our Light, be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** *Longing for Light*  
**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.**  
**Longing for truth, we turn to you.**  
**Make us your own, your holy people,**  
**light for the world to see.**

#### ***Refrain***

***Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.***

***Shine through the darkness.***

***Christ be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.**  
**Longing for hope, many despair.**  
**Your word alone has power to save us.**  
**Make us your living voice.**

***Refrain: Christ be our light.....***

**Longing for food, many are hungry.**  
**Longing for water, many still thirst.**  
**Make us your bread, broken for others,**  
**shared until all are fed.**



***Refrain; Christ be our light....***

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth. many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone.

***Refrain: Christ be our light...***

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your Kingdom come.

***Refrain: Christ be our light...***

## **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:*

One: God our provider,  
by your merciful hand,  
abundance springs up from the earth.  
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.  
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love  
and faithfulness for all people,  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

One: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor tongue told  
of a glory like yours, O God,  
for you are the potter, and we the clay,  
and you fashioned us in your image.  
Though the pot was broken in your hands  
in the exile of your people and the rejection of your Son,  
you made an even more wondrous vessel  
out of agony and estrangement.  
In Jesus you glorify your chosen people  
and inaugurate your church to be his body in the world.  
In his death the pot was broken once and for all,  
but in his resurrection you refashioned a new pot  
from the same clay to feed your people forever.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
joining with the company of angels and archangels  
and all the host of heaven in their unending hymn.

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, *CP 722*  
Lord God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full,  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd is the one who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest.**

One: Ever-present God, your prophets longed  
that you would tear the heavens and come down;  
and in your Son Jesus Christ you have come down  
and filled the earth with the splendour of your dwelling  
among us.  
In him you were present to friend and stranger,  
the intrigued and the suspicious,  
the betrayer and the bereft.

Come down now in the power of your Holy Spirit  
upon this bread and cup  
and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son  
Jesus Christ;  
who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you  
thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
“Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.”  
After supper he took the cup.  
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples,  
saying,  
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new  
covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the  
forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

One: Word of life, though heaven and earth will pass away,  
your words will never pass away.  
As you feed us with this living bread,  
strengthen those who wonder if they can survive this day;  
restore any who are downtrodden and heavy-laden;  
visit all who are forsaken and alone.  
Open the window of your heaven  
that your church may glimpse the hope of your glory  
and your world may be transfigured  
by the light of your truth,  
until that day when heaven finally comes to earth,  
when your Son returns on the clouds  
and your Spirit infuses your creation  
with resurrecting grace,  
and you are all in all, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

One: As Christ taught us, we pray together singing;

**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 and 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**

One: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Receiving Communion**

*All are welcome at God's table.*

*If you require gluten-free wafers please indicate  
to your server.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN CP 56 I Am the Bread**

**Ablutions Anthem: Sleepers, Wake** Arr. Felix Mendelssohn

**Prayer after Communion** *Please stand as you are able*

One: Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
for all people to see together.

**All: Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
your good news of liberation and release,  
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

## **Doxology**

**All:** 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,  
for ever and ever! Amen!

## **The Blessing**

**One:** The God of peace bless you,  
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you  
now and forever.

**All:** Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN CP 114** *Lo, He comes With Clouds*

*Descending*

## **Dismissal**

**One:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary:** *Allabreve BWV 589*

*Johann S. Bach*

*\* Confession and Forgiveness, Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.*



***Flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our beloved Wayne Allan, given by Sheila, Geoff, and Treasa and in memory of Sabine Davison from the family.***

## **Cycle of Prayer**

**ELCIC/ACC** The people of the Anglican Church of Canada and the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

**In the Niagara Diocese:** St. Andrew's, Grimsby, for the interim priest; the Reverend Deacon Jean Ruttan-Yates, Deacon; the Reverend John Ripley, Honorary Assistant; and the people of that parish.

**Parish/** Maureen Ash, Tom Atterton, and Pam and Geoffrey Bainbridge.

## **Today's Ministry Team**

Preaching and Presiding	The Rev. Canon Leslie Gerlofs
Eucharistic Assistant	Sharon White
Server	Victoria Baldwin
Readers	Victoria Baldwin Heather Bancroft
Organist/Choir Director	Richard Hansen
Greeters	Lynne Morrow Jackie Donnelly
Warden on Duty	Christine Aiken

## COMING EVENTS

December 2	House Tour
December 5	Advent Organ Recital 12:15pm
December 10	Arabic bake sale & ADC Advent Walk in the Park at 6pm
December 12	Advent Organ Recital 12:15pm
December 16	Advent Labyrinth Walk (Dundas Room) 10am -12pm
December 17	Accessible Door Bake Sale Lessons & Carols 4:00pm
December 19	Advent Organ Recital 12:15pm
December 24	Advent 4 - 10am Christmas Eve Children's service with pageant – 4pm Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist – 9pm
December 25	Christmas Day Eucharist – 10am

