



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Bolton

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

8 am Holy Eucharist

10 am Pageant & Holy Eucharist

Preacher & Celebrant ~ Rev. Don Davidson



Processional Hymn

Common Praise – 599, Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night

✘ The Gathering of the Community

Acknowledgement of Territory

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Anishinaabe peoples, on whose land and by whose waters we gather to worship, listen, learn, share and heal together in the name of our creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

Come, holy people, called by God, let us follow the way prepared for us.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace among all.

Once again, the word is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God surpasses what is expected.

Let us go to Bethlehem and see what God makes known to us.

There in Bethlehem, and today at Christ Church Bolton, we reminded anew of the wonder of God's ways.

Let us glorify and praise God for all that we see and hear!

Amazing God, over 2000 years ago, you gathered a group of unlikely people ~ Mary, Joseph, shepherds and others to be part of a great miracle – the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. Today you seek us out and bring us to the manger. You have gathered this group of unlikely folks to become a holy people, a community of faith. We want to respond, Show us how. May we learn and grow as we wait. Amen.

Common Praise – 102, Prepare the Way, O Zion

**Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.**

**He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.**

**Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.
Oh blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.**

Narrator ~ In the Genesis story, we hear that God created the world with language. God said, 'Let there be light.' God said, 'Let there be night and day.' God said, 'It is good.' Then in the first chapter of John we hear how this language, the Word, is with God, and Jesus.

Reader~ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, no one thing came into being, What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The true light, which helps everyone to see, was coming into the world. Jesus was in the world, and Word that shaped the world was in him, yet the world did not know him. Jesus came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. Not to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

Gather – 358, This Little Light of Mine

**This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Ev'ry where I go,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

✘ Advent Wreath

Reader 1: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O Bolton, from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

All: God invites us to receive the promise of God’s salvation and the sustenance of God’s mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God’s invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

Reader 2: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God’s promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God’s love for all creation.

Light the first two blue candles, the third rose candle and the fourth blue candle of the Advent wreath.



Narrator ~ In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke we learn of Mary's willingness to work with God even though what is asked of her will not be easy. Being pregnant when not married is against the rules where and when she lives.

Reader ~ The messenger of God, Gabriel, was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to an unmarried woman engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The young woman's name was Mary. And Gabriel said to her, 'Greetings. favoured one! The Lord is with you.' Mary was very puzzled by his words. Gabriel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now you will conceive, and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there shall be no end.' Mary asked, 'How can this be, since I am unmarried?' The angel said to her, 'the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God.' Then Mary said, 'Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the messenger of God departed from her.



Sing: Here I am, Lord - Gather # 492, verses 1 & 2

[Verse 1]

**I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save**

**I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

[Chorus]

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart**

Reader ~ The place of Jesus' birth is in Bethlehem, a small town a few miles south of Jerusalem. But Bethlehem was not Joseph or Mary's hometown. They had to go to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus had made a law that everyone must be counted in the house where their ancestors had been born. This was a long trip to travel walking, over 90 kilometres or 60 miles, and it would have been more difficult since Mary was pregnant. Mary spent some of the trip riding on a donkey. When Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem, the hotel was already filled with people, and there was no place for Mary and Joseph to stay. But there was a stable, where the animals lived, that Joseph and Mary were allowed to rest in.

Sing: O Little Town of Bethlehem Common Praise # 120

v. 1 & 2

While we are singing this hymn, Mary and Joseph will take their places at the manger.

**O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**

Reader ~ In this stable, with only Joseph to help her, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger. Mary and Joseph named him Jesus.

Sing: Away in a Manger, verses 1 & 2 Common Praise # 126

While we are singing this hymn, the star will move into place behind the manger.

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

Reader ~ Now it was nighttime and in the fields nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks. Then an angel stood before the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. And the shepherds were terrified! But the angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you

will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' Immediately after the angel stopped speaking, there were suddenly many angels praising God, and saying 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among all.'

Sing: Hark! the Herald Angels sing v 1 & 2 Common Praise #138

During this hymn, the angels will come to stand behind the manger.

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"**

Reader ~ Then the angels left the shepherds, and the shepherds took a deep breath, or maybe five or six deep breaths. Then they looked at each other and said, 'We better go see this baby!'



Sing: O Come, All ye Faithful v. 1 & 3 Common Praise #118

During this hymn all shepherds will move to surround the manger.

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the king of angels!**

Refrain:

**O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest; (Refrain)**

Reader ~ So this stable, where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying was, as you heard earlier, home to some of the animals of the village. And these animals must have been pretty curious as to what a baby was doing in their feeding trough. If animals have thoughts, some of them have sounded like, 'What are all these people doing in our home?' or 'How can we get our supper with a baby lying in the manger?' So it's quite likely that these animals may have gathered around Joseph, Mary, Jesus and the shepherds for a better look.

Sing: What Child is This Common Praise #137

While we are singing this hymn, all animals will move to the front to take their places around the manger.

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

Chorus:

**This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.[Chorus]**

Reader ~ Now when the shepherds saw Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable, and saw that what the angel had said to them was true, they went out and made it known to whoever they met. Which means it's very possible that some of the townspeople went to the stable that very night to see and maybe even help the holy family because of what the shepherds had told them. Maybe someone brought them a meal or a warm blanket.

Sing: Go Tell it on the Mountain

While we are singing this hymn, all townspeople will move to the front to see and worship the baby Jesus.

Refrain:

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

Narrator ~ What a full and busy stable we have made! We are reminded that today we celebrate the birth of Jesus, not just because he was born but because of the life that he lived. The baby Jesus grew into an adult Jesus who chose to live God's way, all the time. This is good news for all of us because we can choose to follow the way of Jesus too. We are all God's sons and daughters. So we give thanks to God for Jesus and for the celebration of Christmas which we will take part in in a few days.



Sing: Joy to the World, v. 1 & 2 Common Praise #154

as the actors leave to remove their costumes, and return for the Prayers of the People.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive the King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing.
And heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let us glad songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat the sounding joy.**

✘ **The Prayers of the People**

✘ **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✘ **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The members of the community may greet one another in the name of Christ

✘ **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

Offertory Hymn

Common Praise – 117, Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

✘ **The Prayer over the Gifts**

God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

✘ **Eucharistic Prayer**

sit, kneel or stand for the prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts **We lift our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our creator

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, God almighty, everlasting One. Because you sent your beloved to redeem us from sin and death, and make us heirs in Christ of eternal life; that when Jesus shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may, without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Glory to you, O Lord most high.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosannah in the highest.**

All holy and glorious God, our creator, we give you thanks because in your loving wisdom you brought all things into being, and are truly worthy of praise from every creature you have made.

Again and again we have turned away from you; yet in every age your steadfast love has called us to return, to live in union with you: for it is your eternal purpose to put new life into all things and make them holy.

Through your beloved Jesus Christ who took our human nature you have redeemed the world from the bondage of sin: and by the power of your Holy Spirit you have gathered a people to yourself, to make known in every place the perfect offering which Jesus made to the glory of your Name.

Hear us therefore, through Jesus Christ; and grant that these gifts of bread and wine may be unto us, Christ's body and blood

For on the night Jesus was betrayed Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And after supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said: "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Jesus is Lord. Christ has reconciled us to God. Christ makes all things new.

And so, Heavenly God, rejoicing in Christ's Holy Incarnation; Blessed Passion and Perfect Sacrifice made once for all upon the Cross; Christ's mighty resurrection from the dead; Glorious ascension into heaven; And looking for Christ's coming again in glory; we offer you this bread and this cup. We pray that you will accept this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and grant that all who eat and drink of the body and blood of your beloved our great high priest, may be renewed by your Holy Spirit, and be one body, one Spirit in Christ.

Let faith and love increase in us. Unite us with all bishops, all other ministers of your Word and Sacraments, and with the whole people of God, living and departed, whom you have made for yourself.

Confirm us in holiness, that we may be found ready to join the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Apostles, and all your saints, when Jesus comes again: forever giving you thanks and praise through Jesus from whom all good things do come.

With Christ, and in Christ, and through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, God almighty, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing and Honour and Glory and Power Be yours for even and ever. Amen.

✠ The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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.

✠ The Breaking of the Bread & the Communion

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

AGNUS DEI

Then the eucharistic bread is solemnly broken and the consecrated bread and wine are prepared for holy communion. The litany "Lamb of God" is sung during the breaking of the bread.

Cantor:

1. Je-sus, Lamb of
2. Je-sus, Bread of
3. Je-sus, Prince of

All:

God,
Life, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
Peace,

Last time

Cantor:

mer-cy on us. Je-sus, Lamb of God; you

All:

take a-way the sins of the world: grant us your peace.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

Communion Hymn

Gather – 589, All Who Hunger



Postlude

Common Praise – 94, Wait for the Lord

✠ Prayer after Communion

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

✘ **Announcements**

✘ **Blessing**

Recessional Hymn

Common Praise – 95, O Come, Divine Messiah

✘ **Dismissal**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



THE SEASON OF

Advent



CHRIST CHURCH BOLTON

PRAYER LIST



Praying for our church family, friends, and neighbours:
take a few minutes each day to say a few names and ask God to care for them.

Laura	Pat	Margaret
Jean & Terry	Vera & Family	Havard
Marg & Gary	Carol Ohlers	Joyce
Bill & Dorothy	Mary Stone	Brianna
Mike Bewcyk	Gerri Hill	Heather Broadbent
Susan	Carole Whitehead	Janice & Family
Lisa & Family	Brian	Darlene
Virginia & Imants	Christina	Ann
Helen	Yvonne & David	

If you wish to have a name added to the prayer list, please go to
<https://christchurchbolton.ca/prayer-requests/> or call/email the church office.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Spiritual direction available at our church.
For details contact Wilma Clarke at (647) 518-1770 or wclarke1205@gmail.com

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MINISTERS OF THE DAY

Music Director
Readers

Bruno Zuccato
Heather, Nicholas, Miles & Grant Munich; Steve
Dranitsaris; Janet Muir; Liz Carter; Fred May

Server(s)

Susan Koschmider/ Steve Dranitsaris

Prayer Leader

Ruth May

Sidesperson(s)/Greeter(s)

Fred May & Heather Somers

Chancel Guild

Ruth May

Coffee

Steve & Janet, Ian & Liz