



HOLY EUCHARIST
for the First Sunday in
Advent

St. John's
Anglican Church West Toronto
December 3, 2023
10:00 am

* *The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*
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Today's Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9, NRSV; Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, NRSV; Mark 13:24-37, Inclusive Bible.

New around here? We're so glad to see you! Welcome to St. John's! We hope you are blessed today as we worship God together.

We invite you to stay for fellowship following our service or join us for education classes. If you have any questions about our congregation or the sermon, feel free to ask a member of the ministry team or to contact us another way. We're so glad you're here and hope to see you again.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Deacon:	The Reverend Evelyn Butler
Eucharistic Assistant:	Carrie Cardwell
Lectors:	Allison MacDuffee & Andrea Rutty
Intercessor:	Sheila Crummey
Guitar & Vocals:	Michael Gentile
Vocals:	Alie Rutty & Lee Ramsay
Technical Support:	Michael Taylor, Chris Rutty & Greg Los

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

The Impossible Dream

To dream the impossible dream
To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
And to run where the brave dare not go

To right the unrightable wrong
And to love pure and chaste from afar
To try when your arms are too weary
To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest
To follow that star
No matter how hopeless
No matter how far

To fight for the right
Without question or pause
To be willing to march, march into Hell
For that Heavenly cause

And I know if I'll only be true
To this glorious quest
That my heart will lie peaceful and calm
When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this
That one man, scorned and covered with scars
Still strove with his last ounce of courage

To reach the unreachable
The unreachable
The unreachable star

And I'll always dream the impossible dream
Yes, and I'll reach the unreachable star

Words & Music: Joseph Darion & Mitch Leigh © Helena Music Company, Andrew Scott Music

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant: The grace of Jesus the Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

TRISAGION

Celebrant: Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

**All: Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.**

Celebrant: Holy God, holy and mighty,
holy immortal one, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that

on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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 God. 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 God, you are our Creator; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O God, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

The psalm is printed in your bulletin. Let us read it responsively.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

O God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved..

Let your hand be upon the one at your side in honour, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth.

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and Jesus the 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 Jesus the Christ. Christ will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Saviour Jesus the Christ. God is faithful; by God you were called into the fellowship of Jesus the Christ our Saviour and Redeemer.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL

CP 715

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

[May repeat]

Text and music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus said, “but in those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will fall from the sky and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Promised One coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then the angels will be sent to gather the chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. “Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Promised One is near, right at the door. The truth is, before this generation has passed away, all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it—neither the angels of heaven, nor the Only Begotten—no one but God.

Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake! You do not know when the appointed time will come. “It is like people traveling abroad. They leave their home and put the workers in charge, each with a certain task, and those who watch at the front gate are ordered to stay on the alert. So stay alert! You do not know when the owner of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cockcrows or at early dawn. Do not let the owner come suddenly and catch you asleep. What I say to you, I say to all: stay alert!”

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

GRADUAL

CP 715

**Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

SERMON

Please be seated for the sermon.

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant: I invite you now, as you are able, to stand and to join in confessing the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All: I believe in God Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of God.
He will come again
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 THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Holy One,

All: help us prepare for your coming.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence is kept

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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 the Christ.

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

We take a moment to share the peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY

If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at www.sjw.ca and look for the donate now button.

HYMN

Drawing Nearer

Even in the midst of all of this
trouble on the news, no peace within
still there is a light in the distance
drawing nearer, drawing nearer.

So, open up our eyes to see your light
open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly
come in like a thief and steal our hearts
like a baby, like a baby.

[Repeat first two verses]

Even in the midst of all of this...

*Text and music: Christopher Grundy
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You are invited to stand around the altar in a circle and remain there until everyone has received Communion.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

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

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy One,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

All: So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your realm.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The Eucharistic feast is a participation in the Body and Blood of Christ. Receiving Communion is a sacramental means through which we reaffirm that we became part of Christ's one Body in our baptism.

The Anglican Church welcomes all Christians from any denomination to receive Communion.

Please speak to the priest after the service if you would like to discuss baptism or if you have any questions about the sacraments.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you wish to be blessed.

Gluten free hosts are available. Please let us know if you require one.

HYMN

Any Dream Will Do

I closed my eyes
Drew back the curtain
To see for certain
What I thought I knew

Far, far away
Someone was weeping
But the world was sleeping
Any dream will do

I wore my coat (I wore my coat)
With golden lining
Bright colors shining
Wonderful and new

And in the east (and in the east)
The dawn was breaking
And the world was waking
Any dream will do

A crash of drums, a flash of light
My golden coat flew out of sight
The colors faded into darkness
I was left alone

May I return (may I return)
To the beginning
The light is dimming
And the dream is too

The world and I (the world and I)
We are still waiting
Still hesitating
Any dream will do

A crash of drums, a flash of light
My golden coat flew out of sight
The colors faded into darkness
I was left alone

May I return (may I return)
To the beginning
The light is dimming
And the dream is too

The world and I (the world and I)
We are still waiting
Still hesitating
Any dream will do

Any dream will do
(Any dream, any dream, any dream)
Any dream will do
(Any dream, any dream, any dream)
Any dream will do
(Any dream, any dream, any dream)

Words & Music: Andrew Lloyd-webber & Timothy Rice
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Holy One. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: 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.

BLESSING

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, & REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

CP 672

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known.

Creator, Word and Spirit one.

HYMN In God's Country

Desert sky

Dream beneath a desert sky

The rivers run but soon run dry

We need new dreams tonight

Desert rose

Dreamed I saw a desert rose

Dress torn in ribbons and in bows

Like a siren she calls to me

Sleep comes like a drug

In God's country

Sad eyes, crooked crosses

In God's country

Set me alight
We'll punch a hole right through the night
Everyday the dreamers die
See what's on the other side

She is liberty
And she comes to rescue me
Hope, faith, her vanity
The greatest gift is gold

Sleep comes like a drug
In God's country
Sad eyes, crooked crosses
In God's country

Naked flame
She stands with a naked flame
I stand with the sons of Cain
Burned by the fire of love
Burned by the fire of love

*Words & Music: Adam Clayton, Dave Evans, Larry Mullen & Paul Hewson
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DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go with Christ; watchful, attentive, present and always hopeful!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

WHAT'S *happening* This Week

Tue, Dec 5	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am)
Wed, Dec 6	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Centering Prayer (10 – 10:30 am) Bible Study – on Zoom (7 pm)
Thu, Dec 7	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Bible Study – In person (10:30-11:30) Holy Eucharist (12 – 12:30 pm)
Sat, Dec 9	Food Bank Drop-Off (9:30 am – 12 pm)
Sun, Dec 10	Morning Prayer (9 – 9:30 am – in Priest's Office) Holy Eucharist (10 – 11:30 am)

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
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The Rev. Evelyn Butler, *Deacon*
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The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

Management Team:

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