



# St Paul's Anglican Church

December 14, 2025  
Advent 3

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**Incumbent** – The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

**Honorary Assistants** – The Rev. Canon Greg Physick  
– The Rev. Susan Tate

**Music Director** – Arlene Gray

10:00 am      **BAS Holy Eucharist**

**Prelude:** A Little One is Coming

**Processional Hymn:** # 88 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

## **Indigenous Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that this church is situated on the traditional territory of the Mississauga peoples and is covered by the Williams Treaties. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Creator, let us be of Good Mind to reconcile ourselves, and to work for justice and reconciliation with the peoples and the land. With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen.

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle – Joy**

1. 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.

**2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth. *Refrain***

**3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born. *Refrain***

### **Sentence**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. - *Isaiah 61.1*

### **The Gathering of the Community**

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

**People            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 Lord. Amen.**

### **Kyrie Eleison 3x**

**Kyrie Eleison        (Lord, have mercy)**

**Christe Eleison     (Christ, have mercy)**

**Kyrie Eleison        (Lord, have mercy)**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant        Let us pray.

**All                God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **First Reading – Isaiah 35:1-10**

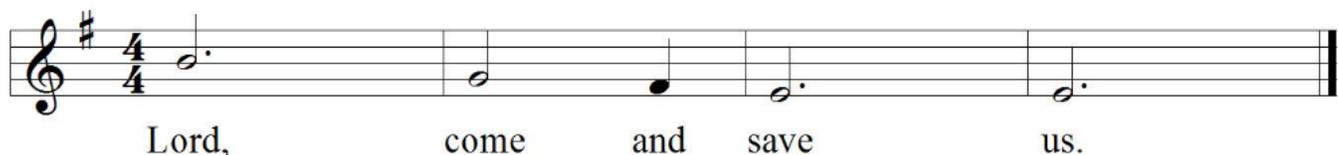
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and

shouting. 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. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; 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; 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. 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 astray. 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. 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm – 146:5-10**



Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise forever; Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; **R**

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! **R**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

### **Second Reading – James 5:7-10**

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn # 270 Lamb of God, to Thee We Raise 1-3**

### **Holy Gospel – Mathew 11:2-11**

Reader The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mathew

**People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” 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? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.’ “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.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn # 270 Lamb of God, to Thee We Raise 4-6

**Homily** Rev. Bonnie Skerritt

## **The Apostles' Creed**

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of 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 the Father. 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.**

## **The Prayers of the People** Litany 12

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!")

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

**Lord Jesus, come soon! Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

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

*Silence*

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 Christ our Lord.

**People Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn # 96 Creator of the Stars of Night**

## **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant 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. **Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer 6**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendour of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your name, as we sing

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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 the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power; your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Saviour. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfil your purpose he gave himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfilment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end: at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**All                    We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Celebrant            Father, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with St. Paul and all the saints who have found favour with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

**People                    Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Celebrant            And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

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

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

### **The Communion**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

### **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer, redeemer of the world,**

**Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. All others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing by kneeling and crossing their arms over their chest.*

*At this time, intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is strictly prohibited for hygienic reason. If desired, you may instead lay your hands on the base of the chalice. Gluten free bread available upon request.*

### **Hymns during Communion**

**Eucharist 1: # Sing 36, O Ancient Love**

**O ancient love, processing through the ages;**

**O hidden love, revealed in human form;**

**O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:**

**O living Love, within our hearts be born,**

**O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;**

**O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;**

O hungry love, that lay within a manger:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;  
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;  
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;  
O boundless love, that rises with the morn,  
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness:  
O living Love, within our hearts be born,  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.”

**Eucharist 2:** # 78 Deck Yourself, My Soul, with Gladness

**Anthem:** He Will Come

### **Prayer after Communion**

Celebrant      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.**

### **Doxology**

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

### **Announcements**

## **Recessional Hymn # 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion**

### **Dismissal**

**Celebrant:** Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, go, serve the world God loves!

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

**Postlude:** Joy Comes!



"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect." – *Oren Arnold*

## **Lessons and Carols Readings**

**– Advent 4 Love**

Micah 5:2-5a

Isaiah 11: 1-10

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 40:1-11

Luke 1:26-38

John 1:1-14

Hebrews 1:1-4

## **Announcements**

**Designated Givings #215** for December will benefit **ALONGSIDE HOPE** (formerly P.W.R.D.F), the Anglican relief organization working with overseas partners to make a difference in a very troubled world. Massive cuts to international aid and development by some of the world's richest countries are having a tragic impact on the poorest. Alongside Hope allows us as Christians to help restore the balance.

**Refreshment Time helpers:** The sign-up sheet is up on the board. Thank you to the many folks who do regularly support this important ministry!

**Envelopes for 2026** are now available at the back of the church. Questions? please call Marg Brohm (705) 324-0624 Thank you.

**Sanctuary Flowers** The sign-up sheet and envelopes are in the hall on the St. Paul's bulletin board. Please contact the church by **Dec. 17** if you wish to donate for **Christmas Flowers**. All donations gratefully received. Questions? please contact/call Marg Brohm.

**Pantry Call** We need canned meat, pasta noodles and soup for the pantry. Other foodstuffs gratefully received as well. Thanks!

## Season of Spiritual Renewal

Back by popular demand, **Bishop's Advent Retreat Series**. Once again this Advent, the bishops will lead us in a time of study & reflection followed by Compline. Parishioners are invited to register individually for this and take part either at home or with a viewing party held here at St. Paul's. One session remains, **Tuesday evening from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Register via the Season of Spiritual Renewal page on the diocesan website.

## Upcoming Services

**Sundays at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted**

December 21<sup>st</sup> - Advent 4 **Lessons & Carols**

December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas **Eve Service**  
- 7pm Holy Eucharist

December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas **Day** - 3:00 Holy Eucharist  
followed by the Christmas **Day Dinner** (Dine-In only)

December 28<sup>th</sup> - Christmas 1 Holy Eucharist

*Advent*  
A Season of Hope  
& Expectation



### CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

If you are alone on **Christmas Day** or unable to prepare a dinner, we invite you to join us December 25th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. **A Holy Eucharist service** will also be available at 3:00 pm.

Please call 705 324 4666 and follow the prompts to register.

Thank you for  
Worshipping with  
us Today.

Please note that all hymns are taken from *Common Praise* (1998)  
or are printed in the leaflet

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