



ST HILARY'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH

FOURTH IN ADVENT
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 | 10:30 am

Bishop of Toronto: The Most Rev. Andrew Asbil
Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley: The Rt Rev. Kevin Robertson
Incumbent of St. Hilary's: The Rev. Adrienne Clements

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City Common Praise No. 123

Advent Prose



Drop down, ye hea - vens from a - bove,



and let the skies pour down right-eous - ness.

Cantor: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

The Celebrant invites Candle Lighters to join her at the altar to light the fourth candle of Advent: The candle of Love

Celebrant: Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. May we always be ready to welcome him.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: May Keeping the Advent open our hearts to God's love.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Celebrant: May the light of Christ penetrate the darkness of sin.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Celebrant: May this wreath and its candles constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Celebrant: May the Advent Season fill us with hope, peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

Celebrant: Today is the fourth Sunday of Advent. Today we remember especially the promise of love that Jesus brings.

The candle is lit.

Celebrant: Light and Hope in Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Advent Anthem

Hope is a Star

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
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.**

Bidding Prayer

Led by Celebrant

In the name of God, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made a place for us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, we welcome you: grace to you and peace.

As we meet to celebrate anew the coming of God's kingdom, we hear revealed the mystery of God's loving purpose for us – how that when we were far off, he met us in his Son and brought us home; how he humbled himself to take our human nature, that we might share his divine glory.

Let us then so celebrate this coming with our carols and hymns of praise, that our lives may be charged with his life; that we may bear witness to his glory and so bring light to those who sit in darkness. So first we pray for those among whom the Christ was born: the poor and helpless, the aged and young children; the cold, the hungry and the homeless; the victims of poverty, injustice and oppression, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; those in despair or in the shadow of death.

Then, as we hear again the message of peace on earth and goodwill among all his people, we pray for the leaders of the nations, that all may be inspired to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace the world over.

And that we may bear true witness to this hope in a divided world, we pray for the peace and unity of Christ's Body, the Church universal, that the whole earth may live to praise his name.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, let us say together:

Our Father in Heaven

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom
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.**

Celebrant: The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

All: Amen.

The First Reading is from Genesis 3:8-15

Read by Carol Samuels-Faria

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life."

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Lighting of the First Candle

Carol

Morning Has Broken Common Praise No. 3

The Second Reading is from Genesis 22:15 – 18

Read by Emmanuel Mbulu

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Second Candle

Carol

Ding Dong Merrily on High

**Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!**

**E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!**

**Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve'time song, ye singers
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!**

The Third Reading is from Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Jessica Ofoezie

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Third Candle

Carol

Here in This Place New Light is Streaming Common Praise No. 465

The Fourth Reading is from Isaiah 11: 1-9

Read by Grace Kamateros

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Fourth Candle

Carol

People Look East, the Time is Near Common Praise No. 91

The Fifth Reading is from Luke 1:26-38

Read by Precious Ofoezie

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Fifth Candle

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Above

The angel Gabriel from heaven came
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame
"All hail" said he "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

The Sixth Reading is from Luke 2: 1-7

Read by Marian Horne Greenwood

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Sixth Candle

Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter Common Praise No. 122

The Seventh Reading is from Luke 2:8-16

Read by Mammen Mathia

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, 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.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Lighting of the Seventh Candle

Carol

While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

Common Praise No.136

The Eighth Reading is from Matthew 2: 1-11

Read by Hilary Ottley

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem,

saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Lighting of the Eight Candle

Choral Anthem

Come in Majesty, Lord Jesus

The Ninth Reading is from John 1:1-4

Read by Paul Taylor

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 not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Reader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Lighting of the Ninth Candle

Christmas Reflection

Rev. Adrienne Clements

Offertory Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful Common Praise No. 118

Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy Spirit.**

Celebrant: Let Us Pray

O God who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world with out end.

All: **Amen.**

Blessing

Celebrant: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and good will, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Recessional Carol

Hark the Herald Angels Sing Common Praise No. 138

Dismissal

Lay Reader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

If you are a visitor, please sign the welcome book in the Narthex.

Ministering Today

Lay Reader

Paul Taylor

Lector

Carol Samuels-Faria

Readers

Emmanuel Mbulu

Jessica Ofoezie

Grace Kamateros

Precious Ofoezie

Marian Horne-Greenwood

Mammen Mathia

Hilary Ottley

Chancel Guild

Olwen Davies's Team

Organist

Keith Scott

Cantor

Arwen Kamateros

Altar Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Molly and Mammen in Thanksgiving and celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary which falls on Dec 31st. Thanking God for all His Blessings upon us and our family through the years.

Aumbry Candle

This week, the Aumbry Candle burns in memory of Frank Spizzirri.

Next Week at St Hilary's

Tuesday, December 24th

5pm, Eucharist with Christmas Pageant

10pm, Christmas Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, December 25th

Christmas Day

10am, Christmas Morning Eucharist

Sunday, December 29th

10.30am, Blessing of the Nativity

*Wishing you and yours
many blessings
this Christmas,
and all the best in the
New Year.
from
St Hilary's Church*

Advent Moments

“Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.”

Luke 1: 56

What thoughts went through Mary’s mind while she stayed with her cousin Elizabeth? Surely, she felt changes taking place. She must have noticed movement in the quiet sanctuary of her womb. Three months...but in many ways time stood still for Mary as she waited upon this mystery of new life.

Yet, this was only the beginning. Throughout her life Mary would wonder about her child, would live with mystery, again and again. The waiting would continue in the quiet of her heart, where she would ponder the meaning of this special life.

What calmed her fears and gave her courage while she waited? Mary believed that she was a part of something greater than herself...a larger plan...a vital part of the Mystery. Today, we call it salvation. Mary did not have a name for it, but that did not stop her from believing.

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Adapted from: "Advent Thirst...Christmas Hope" by Anita M. Constances, S.C., etc.)

Youth Corner

Luke 1: 39 – 55

“Dear God, help us to "wonder" today – at the people you choose to do your work, including us. Amen.”

In today’s Bible story, we hear Mary (soon-to-be mother of the not-yet-born-baby-Jesus) say that her soul *magnifies* God. In other words, Mary is saying that she’s seeing certain things about God very well. She then says what some of those things are that she’s seeing about God. She says she sees the mercy and strength that God offers.

She sees how God lifts up those, who, like herself, are feeling lowly. She sees how God fills those who are hungry with good things. And guess what? By saying and sharing these things that she sees about God, she’s helping to magnify God for the rest of us – she’s helping us to see God better!

And she’s not the only one who magnifies God for the rest of us. After Jesus is born and grows up, we see him do the same thing as his mom does in today’s story – he speaks and acts in ways that help us better see who God is.

As we listen to and read the stories of people who magnify God – like Jesus, his disciples, his mom (Mary), his cousin (John the Baptist), etc., then we are learning how to better see who God is. And the better we see God, the more we can be like Mary in today’s story – where we can be magnifiers of God by sharing what we see of God which then helps others see God better.

“Thank you, God, for always finding ordinary people to do your work. Help us to see the important work you have for each of us. Amen.”

(Adapted from: *rfour.org* and *Episcopal Church Lessons that Work*)

Church Information

Priest	The Rev. Adrienne Clements 905-279-2305 priestshilarys@gmail.com
Family & Youth Ministry	Alina Roscoe 647-391-2201 aliros432@gmail.com Alexander Johnson
People's Warden	Patrick Johnson
Deputy People's Warden	Claude Ho
Rector's Warden	Sharon Andrew
Director of Music	Keith Scott
Parish Administrator	Nadine Spizzirri
Church Address	2055 Hurontario Street Mississauga, Ontario L5A 2E6 905-279-2304 sthilarycooksville@toronto.anglican.ca sthilarys.com
Office Hours	Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm
Food Cupboard Hours	Thursdays from 10am until 12pm
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