

*St. Hugh & St. Edmund Anglican Church, Malton*

*December 13, 2020: Third Sunday of Advent*

*Service of Lessons & Carols*

**Opening Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Advent Wreath Candle Lighting**

**Opening Prayers:**

**Leader:** Dear People of God: In this season of Advent it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scriptures the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against Him until the glorious redemption brought to us by His holy child, Jesus; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of His birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of His whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the church for which He died and especially for His church in our country and in this city.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

**Leader:** And because He particularly loves them, let us remember in His name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord have mercy.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

*Please refer to the following pages for a copy of this Sunday's readings.*

## **Reading of the Lessons of Advent**

### **First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of women would bruise the serpent's head.*

**Hymn:** Hark the Glad Sound

### **Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18**

*God chooses Abraham to be the Father of a chosen race.*

**Hymn:** Lo, He comes With Clouds Descending

### **Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold.*

**Hymn:** While Shepherds Watched

### **Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4**

*The prophet Micah foresees the glory of Little Bethlehem.*

**Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem

### **Fifth Lesson: St. Luke 1:26-33**

*The angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

**Hymn:** Creator of the Starry Height

### **Sixth Lesson: St. Matthew 1:18-23**

*St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus Christ.*

**Hymn:** See Amid the Winter's Snow

### **Seventh Lesson: St. Luke 2:8-16**

*The angel of the Lord appears to the shepherds abiding in the fields.*

**Hymn:** Shepherds In The Fields Abiding

### **Eighth Lesson: St. Matthew 2:1-12**

*The Wise Men are led by a star to Jesus.*

**Hymn:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing

### **Ninth Lesson: St. John 1:1-14**

*The Word became flesh and lived among us.*

**Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High

## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### READER:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

### READER:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. (Isaiah 9: 2)

### READER:

We light this candle to remind us of the hope of all people for a Saviour who will bring us freedom and peace. This hope was promised by the Prophets of the Old Testament, who shared their vision of justice coming to the earth by the mighty acts of God.

The first candle is lit.

READER: Let us pray.

Father, you awaken in us the desire for the coming of your Son Jesus. May he kindle in us the light of His love, and bring the kingdom of peace and justice you promise for the whole earth.

ALL: Amen.

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### READER:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

### READER:

At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins", he said, "because the kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert. Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for Him to travel." (Matthew 3: 1-3)

### READER:

We light this candle to remind us of the prophets, John the Baptist, who called all people to prepare the coming of the Messiah. He asked us all to search our own hearts, and rid ourselves of the dark things that keep us from God and from each other.

The second candle is lit.

READER: Let us pray.

Father, you sent us John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah. Help us to prepare our hearts for Christ to be born in them, and to prepare our world for Christ to come and restore the kingdom.

ALL: Amen.

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### READER:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

### READER:

The Sovereign Lord has filled me with His spirit. He has chosen me to bring good news to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to announce release to captives and freedom to those in prison. He has sent me to proclaim that the time has come when the Lord will save His people. (Isaiah 61: 1-2)

### READER:

We light this candle to remind us of our task in preparing our world for the coming of the Messiah. We are also called to be prophets who will relieve suffering, promote justice, and bring hope to those who live without light and love.

The third candle is lit.

READER: Let us pray.

Father, you have called us to share in Christ's ministry to a troubled world. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may faithfully proclaim your word in all that we say and do, until your kingdom comes upon the earth.

ALL: Amen.

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### READER:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

### READER:

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make Him a King, as his ancestor David was and He will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end! (Luke 1: 30-33)

### READER:

We light this candle to remind us of Mary who was willing, first of all people, to let the light of the Lord shine through her and bring the Saviour to the world. Because of her faithfulness and love, Jesus, the Messiah, was born.

The fourth candle is lit.

READER: Let us pray.

Father, you have called Mary to be the mother of your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to new birth. Help us also bring the light of Christ to birth wherever there is darkness and despair, and to work for the coming of your kingdom.

ALL: Amen.

## Genesis 3:8-15

**8** 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. **9** But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" **10** He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." **11** He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" **12** The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." **13** 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." **14** 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.

**15** I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike your head,  
and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

## Genesis 22:15-18

**15** The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, **16** and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** 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, **18** and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord.

## Isaiah 9:2-7

**2** 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.

**3** 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.

**4** 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.

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

**6** 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.

**7** 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.

The Word of the Lord.

# Micah 5:2-4

## **The Ruler from Bethlehem**

**2** But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

**3** Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

**4** And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

The Word of the Lord.

# Luke 1:26-33

## **The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** 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. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

The Word of the Lord.



# Matthew 1:18-23

## **The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

**18** Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

**23** "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

The Word of the Lord.

# Luke 2:8-16

## The Shepherds and the Angels

**8** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** 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: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**15** 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." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord.

# Matthew 2:1-12

## The Visit of the Wise Men

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** 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." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

**6** '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.'"

**7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** 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." **9** 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. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** 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. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

# John 1:1-14

## **The Word Became Flesh**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

**6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ.

## **The Prayer over the Gifts**

*Officiant* Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit; one God now and forever. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 Blessing**

*Officiant* May Almighty God, by whose providence Our Saviour Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing and set you free from sin.

*People* Amen

*Officiant* May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

*People* Amen

*Officiant* May you, rejoicing in the First Advent of our Redeemer, at His second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

*People* Amen

*Officiant* And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

*People* Amen

## **Dismissal**

*Officiant* Let us go in to the world to love and serve the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Closing Hymn:** *Joy To The World*