

St. James' Anglican Church

1st Sunday of Advent

November 30th, 2025

Choral Eucharist - 10 a.m.

Celebrant - Rev. Carol Hardie

Homilist – Rev. Samuel Fayomi

Director of Music – Mr. Jeff Campbell

Organ Preludes “Consider the Lillies” *arr. R. Hoffman*
“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” *Traditional*
Alex Andrews, Violinist; Jeff Campbell, Pianist

Processional Hymn #89 (CP) “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
(Verses 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8) *Veni Emmanuel*

Welcome and the Hanging of the Christmas Greens

With these boughs and Christmas tree we remember the love of God,
revealed in Jesus' self-giving, becoming the Christ for us,
that love might heal God's people and world.

Open our hearts, that we might receive him still.

Open our hands, that we might share his loving example.

Open our lives, that we might be transformed in love.

Advent Candle Lighting

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language--the coming of Christ--because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ IS coming. Christ IS ALWAYS coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. (Episcopal, USA, Candle Liturgy)

The Candle of Hope

We light the first candle, the candle of **HOPE**, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing and the well-being of all creation.

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of HOPE. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Hymn "Candles Glowing, Promise Showing" arr. W. Zlobie Lezy
V1

**Candles glowing, promise showing the great hope that calms our fear.
Darkness scatters, worry shatters, Christ will always draw us near.
Calms our sighing, hears our crying, helps our trying, love undying:
Christ will always draw us near! Christ will always draw us near!**

The Gathering of the Community

Beloved, once again, we embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that heralded the arrival of the baby Jesus, God Incarnate.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We tell the stories once again as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, watching for glimpses of God's here-and-not-yet kingdom among us.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light to guide us on the path to peace and flourishing for all creation.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025

Almighty God,

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 you Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Trisagion (CP) 707 Sung 3x

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us.

Gathering Prayer

God of peace, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; so that on the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** FWM

Proposed Collects (2004)

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 2: 1 - 5 (Pg. # 664)

"The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds, "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122 (Read responsively)

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.' For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Second Reading Romans: 13. 11-14 (pg. #1101)

"Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Matthew 24: 36 – 44

"Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced."

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be

taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Samuel Fayomi

Anthem: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" *arr. Mark Schweizer*
St. James' Choir

Affirmation of Faith Apostle's Creed

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

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.

Prayers of the People

Mae Cox, Lay Reader

Confession and Absolution

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.

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.

Offering Hymn: #91 (CP) "People Look East"

Besancon

Prayer before Communion

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

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus (732 CP)

Community Mass/R.

Proulx

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.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread - Advent

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

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

Invitation to the Table

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

#745 (CP) "Jesus, Lamb of God" Schubert/Proulx

The Communion

All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish communion but a blessing, please cross your arms and the priest will bless you. In the Anglican tradition wine is administered from a chalice or common cup. If you do not wish to receive from the chalice you can cross your arms, and the words of institution will be said. We do not practice intinction or dipping the bread in the cup.

Communion Music **Congregation, Please Join with the Choir**

Hymn "While We Are Waiting, Come" arr. D. Cason

V1

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

V2

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

V3

Come, Saviour, quickly come; come, Saviour, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Hymn "Christ, Be Our Light" *arr. B. Farrell*

V1

Longing for light, we wait in darkness, longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today!

V2

Longing for peace, our world is troubled, longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us, make us your living voice.

Refrain

V3

Longing for food, many are hungry, longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Refrain

V4

Longing for shelter, many are homeless, longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Refrain

V5

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Solo "The Lord's Prayer" *arr. Alfred Hay Malotte*
 Angela J. Lewis, Soloist

Prayer after Communion

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 Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Announcements

Recessional Hymn #97 (CP) "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"
St Thomas

Dismissal

We are followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and serving the world God Loves. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne" *arr. Mark Patterson*
Christina Bosco, Soloist

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