Christ Church Deer Park

December 1, 2024
The First Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist
at 10:30 am

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK

We are glad to have you worship with us!

We are a growing, diverse, and energetic faith community learning to follow Jesus together.
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are invited to join us.

Hello! Whether this is your first time through our doors or your one thousandth, we are glad you are here! At our church you are welcome to participate as much or as little as you are comfortable doing.

So, what is our community like? Well, we are a church community from different generations and different walks of life. We are here because we want to follow Jesus and live in community with one another and our neighbours in this little corner of Toronto. We care deeply about feeding the hungry and welcoming refugees; we affirm that all people, including our LGBTQ2SI+ siblings, are made in the image of God and should be included in all the practices of our life of faith; and, no matter where we are on our spiritual journeys, we strive to lament together, rejoice together, and hold each other up on this journey of faith and life.

Staff

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford – *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
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The Rev. Cathy Gibbs – *Adult Education*
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Denis Delisle, Rikk Scapillato – *Lead Custodians*
Carlos Lopez, Roderick Talens – *Custodial Team*

Lay Leadership

Rector's Warden – Stephen Clark
Deputy Warden – Katherine MacDonald
People's Warden – Su Laine Varkey
Deputy Warden – Paul Kingston
Treasurer – Nick Strube
Synod Delegates – William Jackson, Ann Atkins, Melissa Walter, Oscar Varkey

Ways to Serve & Get Involved

Community Breakfast – Carl Wehniainen, Lead
Congregational Care Team – Ann Atkins, Lead
Prayer Circle – Jan D'Angelo, Coordinator
outreach@christchurchdeerpark.org
communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org
prayercircle@christchurchdeerpark.org

Small Groups – The Rev. Cathy Gibbs
Coffee Hour – Sandra Geddes, Coordinator
Chancel Guild – Elsa Jones, Lead
Readers & Intercessors – The Rev. Ali McIntosh
Welcome Team – Paul Kingston, Coordinator
Property Committee – Andrew Harding, Chair
Investment Committee – Michael Butler, Chair
Climate Action Group – Brad Lennon, Lead
Christmas Sale – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead
Choir –Stefani Bedin
Hospitality – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead
Flower Guild – Pat Butler, Coordinator
Children's Ministry – The Rev. Ali McIntosh
Refugee Committee – Julie Scott, Chair
Stewardship Committee – Stephen Clark
Truth and Reconciliation – TBD, Lead
Rummage Re-Imagined – Jayne Miles Simpson, Lead
Spiritus – Emily Chatten, Melissa Walter & Supipi Weerasooriya, Editorial Team

A Musical Note

At the 10:30am service, during the season of Advent, our congregation will be singing John Merbecke's setting of the communion service, which was composed in 1550 at the behest of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. This beautiful plainsong setting is an important part of the Anglican Church's musical tradition, as it was the first English Mass setting composed for the Book of Common Prayer. It has appeared in numerous Anglican hymn books since then, including in our pew hymnal Common Praise. When we sing this centuries-old setting, it helps remind us of our connection with our forebears in the faith and unites us with others across the Anglican Communion who share this common musical heritage. Many of you will likely find this setting familiar.

With best wishes for the new liturgical year,
Stefani

Prelude *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland,* "Saviour of the Nations Come" BWV 659 J.S. Bach

Welcome & Gathering *(please note all hymn numbers are from* Common Praise*, the blue hymnal)*

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader: 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. We watch, wait and witness the mystery of your incarnation among us.

(The candle is lit)

All: **We are waiting.**
We are watching.
We are witnessing.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Processional Hymn #88 *(please stand as you are able)*

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus STUTTGART

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley
Music: *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715

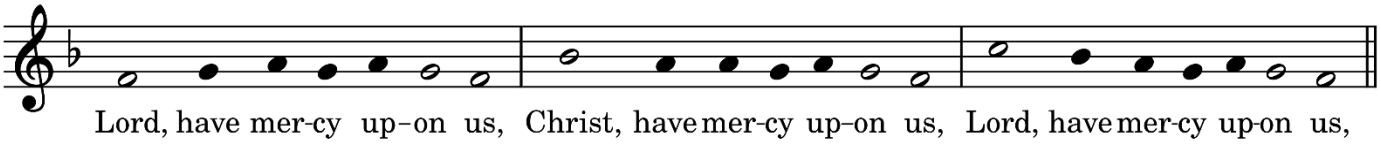
Gathering *(please remain standing)*

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

All: **And also with you.**

Kyrie #678 John Merbecke

Each invocation is first sung by the cantor and then repeated by all.



The Collect of the Day

Presider: 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.**

Presider: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

All: **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Listening to God – The Lesson *(please be seated)*

Reader: A reading from the First Book of Kings.

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' *1 Kings 19:11-13*

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
All: Thanks be to God.

The Canticle of Zechariah Anglican Chant

Choir: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
for he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called
the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell

in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Text: Luke 1:68-79, tr. International Consultation on English Texts
Music: Thomas Attwood Walmisley

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand as you are able)*

Alleluia – Based on *Veni Emmanuel*

The refrain is first sung by the cantor, then by all.

Refrain:

Cantor: Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. *Luke 21.28*

The Gospel

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.
All: **And also with you.**
Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become

mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.

Luke 1:5, 11-22

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.
All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Who am I? At the very core of my heart, at the center of my being, in the essence of my soul… Who am I?

What do I want? Not what do I need, but what do I want from God? What is my deepest desire?

What is my purpose? What is God asking of me? How may I serve others and serve myself for the good of all?

What am I grateful for? Who am I grateful for?

Music for Reflection

The Apostles' Creed *(please stand as you are able)*

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,
All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People *(please stand, kneel, or sit as you are able)*

Confession and Absolution *(please continue to stand, kneel, or sit as you are able)*

Presider: 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 is kept

Presider: 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.

Presider: 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 *(please remain standing)*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to remain standing for the offertory.

Sharing What We Have

Priest: Friends, we give in grateful thanksgiving for all that God has given us.
In the upside down world of the gospel,
we measure our wealth not by what we have,
but by what we can give away.
Let us give away generously, in this offering,
to bless God's church, God's people, and God's creation. Amen.

Sharing What We Have

We give as an expression of gratitude for all that God has done for us
and because God has designed us to be givers.

Ways to Give Financially

- Through automatic monthly credit card or pre-authorized debit donations
  please contact *bookkeeper@christchurchdeerpark.org* if you are interested in setting up a monthly offering
- Cash or cheque made out to *Christ Church Deer Park*
- Debit/credit via the mobile credit machine: *please see warden on duty*
- E-transfer to *donations@christchurchdeerpark.org*
- Online via Canada Helps (scan the QR code to the right to be brought to the website)

SCAN ME

We are thankful for all your gifts as they sustain the life and work of this parish.

Offertory Hymn #96

Creator of the Stars of Night — CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.

Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst in love's redeeming power,

like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a maiden mother's womb.

At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Text: Latin, 6th Century; tr. John Mason Neale
Music: Sarum plainsong, Mode IV

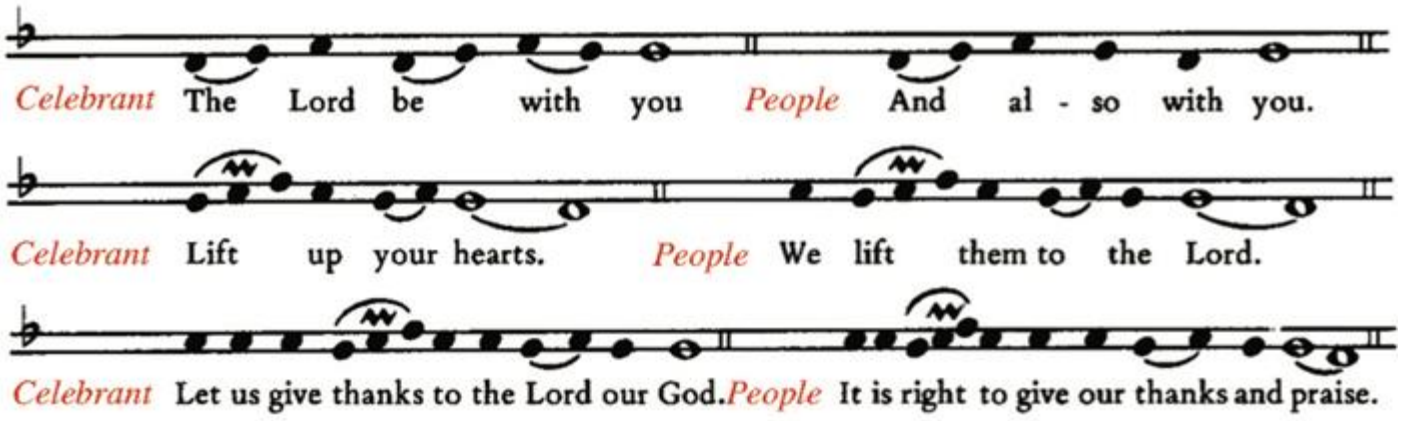
Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: 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 Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

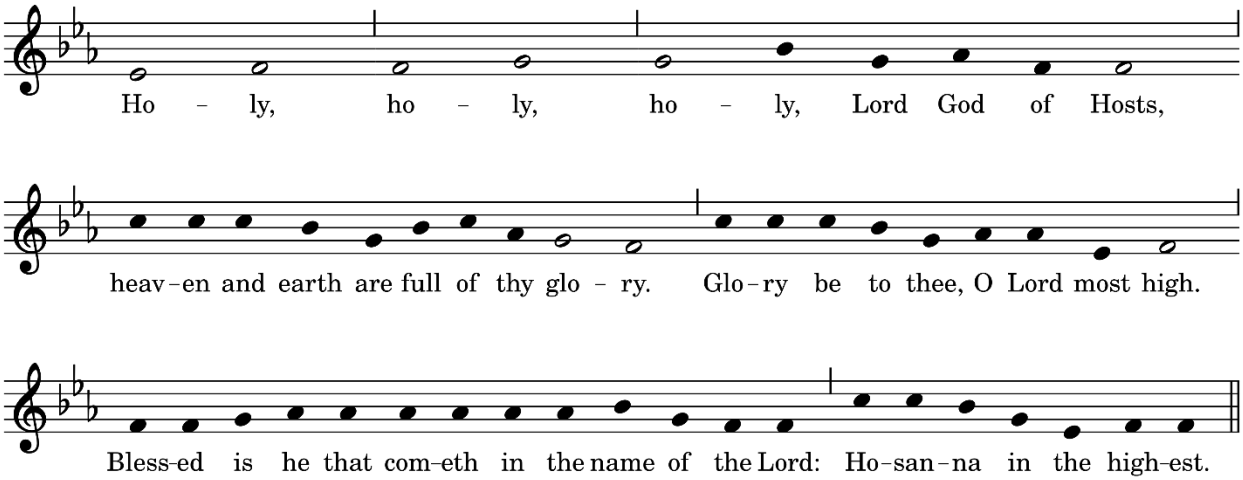
Celebrating the Eucharist *(please remain standing)*

The Great Thanksgiving



Presider: 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.

Sanctus & Benedictus #683 John Merbecke



Presider: 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;

Presider: 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 children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

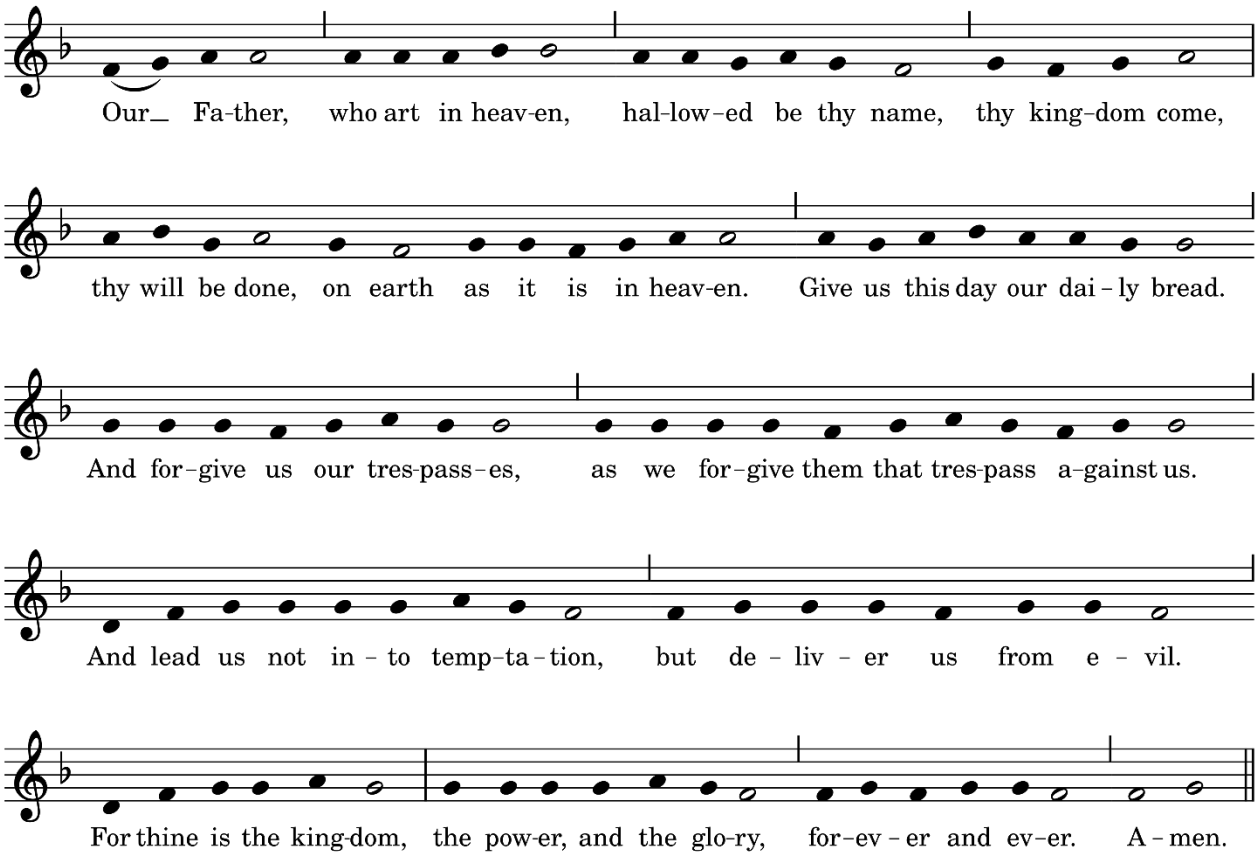
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All:

The Lord's Prayer — John Merbecke

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

All:



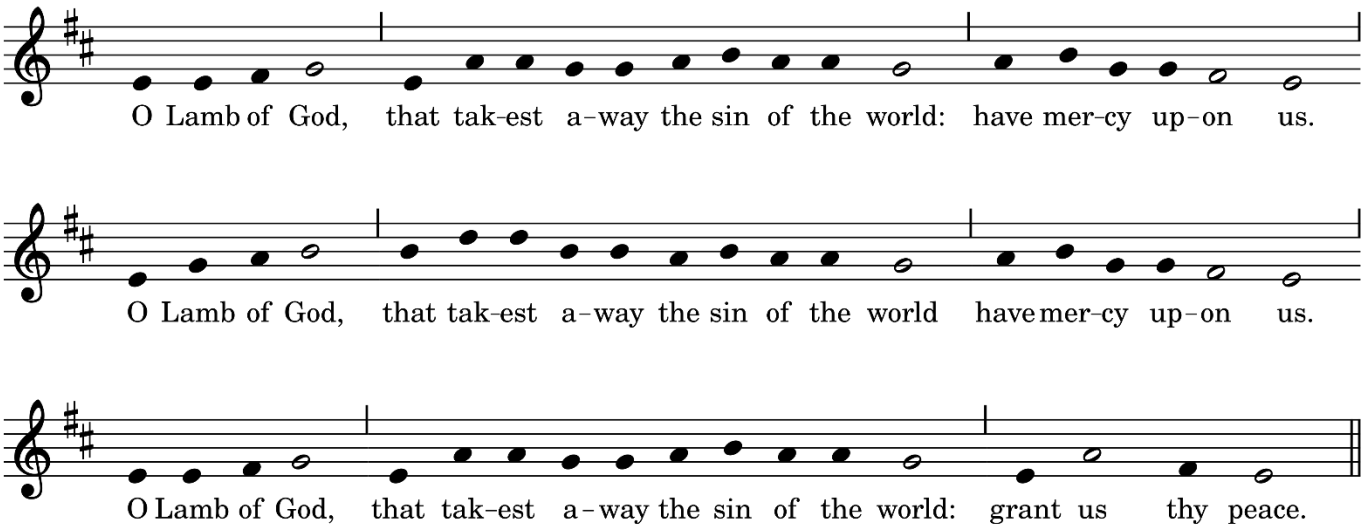
Breaking of the Bread

Presider: 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.**

Presider: The gifts of God, for the people of God.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

(please be seated)

Agnus Dei John Merbecke



All are welcome to receive communion with us

As the sidespeople pass your pew, please line up in the centre aisle.

- **To receive a blessing,** as you reach the priest with the bread, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat after receiving the blessing.
- **To receive the bread,** hold your hands in front of you, palms up.
- **To receive the wine from the cup,** take the bottom of the cup and the base and guide it to your mouth. (Please note the dipping of bread into the wine is no longer permitted in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.)
- **If you prefer to take only the bread,** you may indicate this to the cup bearer by crossing your arms over your chest, or simply walking past them.

Communion Motet

The Advent Prose Plainsong, Rorate Caeli

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord,
neither remember iniquity forever:
Thy holy cities are a wilderness,

Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praisèd thee.
Drop down…

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. *Drop down…*

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me: I even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.
Drop down…

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. *Drop down…*

Text: based on Isaiah, Latin, 4th Century, anonymous English adaptation

Communion Hymn #94 J. Berthier (Taizé)

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Psalms 31: 5, 130:5 adapted
Music: Jacques Berthier ©1991 Taizé Community

Prayer after Communion *(please stand as you are able)*

Presider: 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 the Lord.

All: Amen.

Closing Prayer & Blessing

All: **On the mountains,**
In the cities,
Through the corridors of power,
And the times of despair,
Be with us to help and to heal,
To confront and comfort.
O come, O come Emmanuel.
Amen.

Presider: Be people of hope.
Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.
Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.
Share hope by listening to someone's story.
Share hope by praying for our world.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this Advent and always.

Announcements

Closing Hymn #108

Hark, A Herald Voice is Sounding MERTON

Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven,

that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,

with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.

Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the everlasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.

Text: Latin, 10th cent., tr. Edward Caswall
Music: William Henry Monk

Dismissal *(please stand as you are able)*

Presider: In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Postlude *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* "Saviour of the Nations Come", P.386 J. Pachelbel

Please join us in Elliott Hall for Coffee Hour.

Memorial Flowers

The flowers in the church this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of David Raymond Byers by his wife, Mary Byers.

Assisting with the Liturgy

Presider:
Stephen Drakeford

Preacher:
Cathy Gibbs

Director of Music:
Stefani Bedin

Section Leads:
Sonya Harper Nyby, Julia Barber
Peter Warren, Lucas Kuipers

Crucifer:
Bianca Mathews

Advent Candle Lighters:
Nigel and Delores Johnson

Reader:
George Lewis

Prayers:
Katherine MacDonald

Warden on Duty:
Katherine MacDonald

Sidesperson:
Supipi Weerasooriya

Livestream Technician:
James Harding MacDonald

Flower Arrangement:
Pat Butler

Verger:
Rikk Scapillato

----ANNOUNCEMENTS----

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTAL STRIKE: The postal strike came just as we were preparing to mail our stewardship letters! So, for the time being, please pick up your envelope from the baskets which will be in Elliott Hall each Sunday morning.

OUR GENTLE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Thank you to Michael Overbury, Debbie Wilkinson, Andrew Harding, Rhona Samuel, JoAnn Alderson, Elsa Jones, Jan and Peter D'Angelo, and Robert Gorham and Angelito Pena for bearing witness and sharing their testimonies through our gentle Stewardship Campaign. Your stories of your spiritual journeys, and why you support CCDP, is truly inspiring. Thank you!

THANK YOU once again to our many volunteers and leaders who put on an excellent and successful Christmas Fair! We especially thank Jayne, Mary, and Sharon for their leadership. We heard from many people just how wonderful the fair was. Thank you for bringing us to the season of Advent with such good cheer.

WORSHIP

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Each week of Advent this year we will look at a different person: Zechariah (week 1), Elizabeth (week 2), Joseph (week 3), and Mary (week 4). Also, mark your calendars and join us for **Advent Lessons & Carols** at 10:30am on December 15th!

THE FINAL JAZZ VESPERS OF THIS YEAR is December 15th at 4:30pm. The service will feature the Brian Barlow Big Band playing Duke Ellington's *Nutcracker*. For more details, please visit our website.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Mark your calendars now!

***The Coldest Night of the Year*, Friday, December 20th at 6:30pm**
A Church on Tap service for those who want a quieter time of worship in a season filled with festivities.

***Family Service with Instant Pageant,* Tuesday, December 24th at 4pm**
A fun, informal service for families in which we tell the Christmas story through song and pageantry.

***Jazzy Christmas,* Tuesday, December 24th at 7pm**
A contemporary worship service with your favourite carols – but in a jazz style!

***Traditional Sung Eucharist,* Tuesday, December 24th at 9pm**
Our beautiful Christmas Vigil service, with organ & choir, Eucharist, homily, and joy. Come at 8:30pm to sing carols with our choir and listen to some fabulous organ preludes.

***Christmas Eucharist,* Wednesday, December 25th at 10am**
A quiet, Book of Common Prayer Eucharist service with favourite carols.

PASTORAL

OFFICE HOURS: Rev. Stephen's office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10am-2pm. Please feel free to stop by or make an appointment with him. (Please note Rev. Stephen will be away on Thursday, December 5th.)

COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATION WITH THE CLERGY: One of the things that has come to the attention of the clergy on Sunday mornings is the tight turnaround between services leaving little time for us to mingle over coffee and speak with each other. We have decided to do this: at any given coffee hour one of the clergy will remain to meet and greet while the other begins the next service. The cleric who has remained at coffee hour will join the next service when they have finished their coffee conversation (they're not late! Just doing pastoral work.)

PASTORAL CALLS: An integral part of Christian community is to support one another through times of joy and celebration and also times of grief and confusion. If you or someone you know may benefit from a call or visit from one of our clergy, please reach out to our congregational care team by email at communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE DRIVERS NEEDED: We are very much in need of more drivers we can add to our list, who upon occasion, can assist with providing a ride to church for fellow parishioners. This does not have to be an every week commitment; any commitment would be very helpful! Please contact Ann Atkins at communitycare@christchurchdeerpark.org

MEMORIAL FLOWER COMMITTEE NOTICE: After decades of creating fresh flower arrangements for our Memorial Flower requests we are putting this project on hold until such time that we have sufficient volunteers to continue this service that beautifies the chancel and honours loved ones at the same time. Until recently our Committee has been operating with a tiny number of dedicated members, but like life, it's aging.
However, we will continue through to the New Year. Pat Butler will be the contact for any interested volunteers in the future and I will be retiring from my post.

Nina Overbury, Chair
Pat Butler, Coordinator
Monica Peel
Mary van Straubenzee, our longest serving member

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS & GREENERY: If you would like to contribute towards the purchasing of poinsettias and greenery for our Christmas Services in memory of a loved one, please designate 'Christmas flowers' on your envelope and include with your gift the name(s) you'd like printed in the Christmas bulletins. Donations for flowers & greenery will be accepted through December 15th. You may include a donation for flowers & greenery with your normal offering; simply indicate the amount that is to go towards Christmas flowers. Thank you!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SILENCE IS GOD'S FIRST LANGUAGE (JOHN OF THE CROSS): Advent is a time gifted to us when we can connect with God as we anticipate the birth of his son, Jesus. It is sometimes considered a period of darkness or silence before the light. However, there is light in the darkness. We are going to explore the hope we experience in the darkness using Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Learning to Walk in the Dark*. You can purchase your book now from Reverend Cathy for $20 (only 20 copies available).
Dates: Tuesdays of November 26, December 3, 10 & 17
Time: 7:15pm-8:30pm
Place: Zoom
To Register: please send an email to cgibbs@christchurchdeerpark.org

ADVENT POETRY READING: Advent and Christmas come around each year, so the question often is: how do we engage in a new way with a two-thousand-year-old story that is so well-known? How do we imagine the Incarnation in the twenty-first century? Well, W.H. Auden pondered these questions in his long poem *For the Time Being*, an attempt to see Christmas as both a moment in the history of the Roman Empire and Judaism and as an ever-new and always contemporary event for those of faith. Join us as we read together this poem over four evenings in Advent. You can purchase the book from Rev. Stephen for $25 (only 20 copies available).
Dates: Wednesdays of November 27, December 4, 11 & 18
Time: 7:00-8:30pm
Place: In person in the sanctuary
To RSVP: please email Rev. Stephen as sdrakeford@christchurchdeerpark.org
All welcome!

COMMUNITY BUILDING

9:15AM POTLUCK & ADVENT WREATHS: Today's planned wreath-making has been cancelled due to low sign ups. Our potluck will also not be today, but instead will happen in January.

RETREATS: 10:30am Service: New date of Sunday, January 26th! Please RSVP to Rev. Stephen at sdrakeford@christchurchdeerpark.org We'll gather after the 10:30am service in Elliott Hall for a time of reflection, prayer, and a catered lunch.

BRIDGE GROUP: Tuesdays from 1-3pm in the Arthur Smith Room. All are welcome to join us for a game of bridge!

VOCA CHORUS CONCERT: One of our own parishioners, Ruwani, sings with VOCA Chorus, and as such we are all cordially invited to their December concert, which will feature selections by Joni Mitchell, Sarah Quartel, Ola Gjeilo, and many others. Saturday, December 14th at 7:30pm at Eastminster United Church. General admission is $30 (students are $15). For full details and tickets, please visit www.vocachorus.ca

TORONTO CHILDREN'S CHORUS CONCERT: Toronto Children's Chorus does many of their rehearsals here at CCDP, and they have an upcoming concert at Roy Thomson Hall. Sunday, December 15th at 2pm. Tickets available on their website: www.torontochildrenschorus.com Celebrate the magic of the holidays with "Songs of the Season with Toronto Children's Chorus," a cherished tradition co-produced by the Toronto Children's Chorus and Roy Thomson Hall for over 30 years. Featuring all TCC choirs, this festive concert will fill the hall with the joyful sound of children's voices, accompanied by guest instrumentalists from the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and TCC's own Alumni Choir, led by Dr. Darryl Edwards. Special performances by emerging bass-baritone Owen Phillipson and renowned percussionist Jamie Drake will add extra brilliance to the program, which blends beloved classic carols with innovative Latvian works for treble choir by Ēriks Ešenvalds and Laura Jēkabsone. This one-of-a-kind concert promises to inspire and uplift, bringing warmth and holiday spirit to all who attend.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP: In 2023, Europe's Cryosat spacecraft tracked the 200,000 or so glaciers on Earth and found they have lost 2,720bn tonnes of ice in 10 years due to climate change. That's equivalent to losing 2% of their bulk in a decade. The world's glaciers are distributed across all latitudes, not just at the poles. Monitoring how quickly glaciers are changing is important because millions of people rely on them for drinking water and farming. More than 20% of the world's population is thought to be dependent in some way on summer melt waters that flow from glaciers - for drinking, for agriculture and to drive hydropower stations. The satellite's observations indicate the vast majority - 89% - of the ice loss seen between 2010 and 2020 was due to melting in an ever-warmer atmosphere. 11% of the loss was the result of glaciers experiencing melting or increased flow because their fronts terminate in warmer ocean or lake waters.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP: We are looking for new participants for this group. Please email Cathy if you are interested, have suggestions, or have questions: cgibbs@christchurchdeerpark.org

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we worship is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee *(ho-den-oh-show-nee)*, and Anishinabek *(ah-nish-nah-bek)* Nations, and most recently, the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. This territory is part of the *Dish with One Spoon Treaty*, an agreement between the Anishinabek, Haudenosaunee, and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island *(North America)* and we seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations with them as we meet and worship on this territory. We are grateful for the resources we are using, and honour all the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people who have been living on this land since time immemorial.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Hearing Assistance Devices are located on the table beside the bell-tower entrance.

Large Print Orders of Service are available.

Happening this week at Christ Church Deer Park

Tuesday, December 3
7:15-8:30pm Adult Education
Advent Series
On Zoom

Wednesday, December 4
11:00am Holy Eucharist

7-8:30pm Advent Poetry Series

Thursday, December 5
10:00am Daily Office

Saturday, December 7
8-9:30am Community Breakfast

Sunday, December 8
8:00am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

9:15am Contemporary Worship

10:30am Holy Eucharist (BAS)
In person & Livestreamed

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