**ST. LUKE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH, PALERMO**

Second Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 6, 2020 ◊ 10:30 am



**The Reverend Garfield Wu – Presider & Preacher**

**Welcome to St. Luke’s!**

We are glad to be able to worship with you in person. Our service will look a little different than usual week as we take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Though this time may bring challenges, we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

None of us comes to church by accident. No matter what joys, burdens, or problems you bring with you this day, we pray that God’s grace will touch you and fill you with the hope and commitment to live your life with peace, courage, compassion, and love.

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**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Processional Hymn**

**O Come, Divine Messiah – CP 95 (v.** **1, 3)**

1. O come, divine Messiah;

the world in silence waits the day

when hope shall sing its triumph

and sadness flee away.

Refrain

Dear Saviour haste! Come, come to earth.

Dispel the night and show your face,

and bid us hail the dawn of grace.

O come, Divine Messiah;

the world in silence waits the day

when hope shall sing its triumph

and sadness flee away.

3. You come in peace and meekness

and lowly will your cradle be;

all clothed in human weakness

shall we your God head see.

Refrain

**Greeting**

Celebrant: 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.**

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: **And blessed be God's kingdom forever. Amen.**

**Collect for Purity**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All:**to whom 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**

All:**Lord, have mercy upon us,**

**Christ, have mercy upon us,**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter**

***2 Peter 3:8-15a***

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hasteningthe coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**

**Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring – CP 97 (v. 1, 3, 4)**

1. Jesus came, the heavens adoring,

came with peace from realms on high.

Jesus came for our redemption,

lowly came on earth to die:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Came in deep humility.

3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,

bringing news of sins forgiven.

Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,

leading souls redeemed to heaven.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Now the gate of death is riven.

**The Gospel**

**Mark 1:1-8**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

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

The beginning of the good newsof Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
    who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
    ‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
    make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appearedin the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you withwater; but he will baptize you withthe Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of Christ.

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

4. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,

When the heavens shall pass away.

Jesus comes again in glory:

Let us then our homage pay,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Till the dawn of endless day.

**The Sermon**

**By the Rev. Garfield Wu**

**Choir Anthem:**

**Hey! Hey! Anybody Listening?**

**The Apostle’s Creed**

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| 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 – Advent (from BAS p. 119)**

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| Leader: | 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; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | 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; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | 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; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | 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; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | 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; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | 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. |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |
| Celebrant: | O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God; |
| All: | **Lord Jesus, come soon!** |

**Family Cycle of Prayer:**

Richard & Paula Scott, Margie & Bob Simms, Stephen & Natasha Skolny, Jo Stadnyk, Nicole & Kevin Stevenson, Judy & Robert Szucs, and their families.

**In the Diocese of Niagara:**

We pray for the parish of St. Thomas, St. Catharines; The Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell, Rector; The Rev. Canon John Cathcart, Hon. Assistant; The Rev. Jason Van Veghel-Wood, Hon. Assistant; The Rev. Canon Philip Velpel, Hon. Assistant; and the people of that parish.

Let us take a moment to say the names of those we know to be in need, or allow those things are weighing heavy our on our hearts this day to come before the Lord. […]

So, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father. **Amen**

**Confession and Absolution**

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| 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. |
| 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. |
| All: | **Amen** |

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Preparation of the Gifts**

**Offertory Hymn**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel – CP 89 (v. 1, 4, 7)**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

and ransom captive Israel

that mourns in lonely exile here

until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse’s stem,

from every foe deliver them

that trust your mighty power to save,

and give them victory o’er the grave.

*Refrain*

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind

in one the hearts of humankind;

O bid our bitter conflict cease,

and be for us our Prince of Peace.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to you, O Israel.

**The Prayer over the Gifts**

God our strength, we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer #2)**

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| Celebrant:  People: | The Lord be with you.  **And also, with you** |
| Celebrant:  People: | Lift up your hearts.  **We lift them to the Lord.** |
| Celebrant:  People: | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** |
|  |  |
| Celebrant: | 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. |
| 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: | 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. |
| People: | **Amen.** |

**The Lord's Prayer**

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| 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,**  **forever and ever. Amen.** |

**The Breaking of the Bread**

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| 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**

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| Celebrant:  All: | The gifts of God for the people of God.  **Thanks be to God.** |
| All: | **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**  **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.**  **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.** |

**The Eucharist**

*You are encouraged to receive the Holy Communion, standing or kneeling at the communion rail or at your request in your seat. In accordance with COVID-19 health guidelines, only the host will be distributed. Let us know if you require a gluten-free wafer. If you prefer a blessing only, please indicate so by crossing your arms. If you find it difficult to get to the altar, we will be honoured to bring the Holy Communion to you.*

**Guzheng Solo** by Angela Zhang

**THE SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

**The Prayer after Communion**

Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**Doxology**

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| 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, forever and ever. Amen.** |

**Blessing**

*The Celebrant blesses the people, and all respond,*

**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn**

**Prepare the Way, O Zion – CP 102**

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,

your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley

a level way appear.

Greet one who comes in glory,

foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain*

Oh, blest is Christ that came

in God’s most holy name.

2. He brings God’s rule, O Zion;

he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom,

and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding,

for grace and joy abounding.

*Refrain*

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;

your Saviour’s rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation

proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him,

their voices will adore him.

*Refrain*

**The Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord, love others.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

This liturgy is used with the permission of the Bishop of Niagara.

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| **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**  **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28** |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MORNING PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays @ 9:30am**

Our Morning Prayer services continue at St. Luke’s and online! Join us for a nourishing liturgy followed by a short Bible Study each Wednesday morning. This is a fun and friendly time of discussion and learning. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required. Come and check it out!

This week’s readings:

**Isaiah** **6:1-13; Psalm 38;**

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12; Matthew 11:28-30**

Contact: **garfield@stlukepalermo.ca**

or **647-878-8650** for details!

**Support St. Luke’s this Fall and Double Your Donation!**

This fall, St. Luke’s is holding a special fundraiser to support our community services! An anonymous donor has offered to match all donations up to $3,000, which means your support will be doubled! Place your donation in an envelope marked “St. Luke’s Fundraiser,” or contact Richard at **treasurer@stlukepalermo.ca** to donate!



**St. Luke’s Palermo**

**2020 Gift Card Sale!**

Sales have now ended. Thank you everyone for your support!

Gift cards will be ready for pick up the week of **December 7**.



Donations are Open to Support Nourishing Neighbours!

The Oakville Community Foundation has approved St. Luke’s Nourishing Neighbours COVID Relief Project for public fundraising in their GIVE Oakville Program! Visit St. Luke’s donation page on the GIVE Oakville website to make a donation, and be sure to share the webpage widely. Every dollar helps us cover the costs of running our fresh food program during the COVID pandemic.

Visit this link today to donate, and share it with others:

**https://ocf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?grant\_id=8572**

**Health and Safety Protocol:**

* Always wear a mask when in the Church.
* Please sanitize your hands as you come into the Church, going up for communion and coming down after communion and when you are leaving the building.
* Please take your bulletin home with you.

**If you have any of the following symptoms, please contact your family doctor.**

Symptoms of COVID-19 can vary from person to person. Symptoms may also vary in different age groups. Some of the more commonly reported symptoms include:

* new or worsening cough
* shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
* temperature equal to or over 38°C
* feeling feverish
* chills
* fatigue or weakness
* muscle or body aches
* new loss of smell or taste
* headache
* gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
* feeling very unwell

Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms and skin changes or rashes.

In severe cases, the infection can lead to death.

Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19.

Evidence indicates that the virus can be transmitted to others from someone who is infected but not showing symptoms. This includes people who:

* have not yet developed symptoms (pre-symptomatic)
* never develop symptoms (asymptomatic)

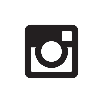
While experts know that these kinds of transmissions are happening among those in close contact or in close physical settings, it is not known to what extent. This means it is extremely important to follow the proven preventative measures.

For more information, please look online at

**https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html**

**Thank you for joining us today.**

**We do hope that you will come again.**

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**@stlukepalermo**



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**St. Luke’s Anglican Church, Palermo**

3114 Dundas Street West,

Oakville, Ontario, L6M 4J3

**Tel:** 905-825-3364

**Email:** office@stlukepalermo.ca

**Website:** stlukepalermo.ca

**Rector:** The Rev. Garfield Wu

**Email:** rector@stlukepalermo.ca

**Tel:** 647-878-8650

**Reader:** Gladis Di Paolo

**Music Director:** Janet Correia

**Duty Warden:** Gemma Young

**Greeter:** Peter Malue