

THE PARISH OF MISSISSIPPI LAKE

Sunday, December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am

Christ Church Ashton – Rev. Canon Mary Ellen Berry
St James Franktown – Ven. Brian Kauk
St James Carleton Place – Rev. Rosemary Parker

Parish of Mississippi Lake - Live on Our Facebook Pages

11:00 am

St John's Innisville – Rev. Canon Mary Ellen Berry
St Bede's Nolan's Corners – Ven. Brian Kauk

Thank you for joining us in worship today! For those at home,
have your Candles and Prayer Spaces ready.

Prelude

We are gathering today on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace. For those who maybe be watching this from beyond our parish, we invite you to acknowledge the traditional territory you are on today.

The Gathering of the Community

The Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God,
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The Light of the Advent Wreath

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Light All Four Candles on the Advent Wreath

Gracious God, as we wait for the coming of your Son, help us to recognize him in those we know and also in the stranger. Help us to love not only our families and our friends, but also our enemies. Help us to be patient and to be prepared to receive your Son in our hearts, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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 we in all things 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 for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18a: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
**He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
**He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
**the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

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.

Gospel: Luke 1: 46-55

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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, favoured 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 favour 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Prayers of the People

Sisters and brothers in Christ, for the sake of the world that God so loves, let us pray with the words ...hear our prayer. Remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us according to the promise of your steadfast love. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world. In the Canadian Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry; Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. In our Diocese, we pray for the Staff of our Diocesan Office: The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, The Venerable Linda Hill, The Rev. Canon Dr. Peter John Hobbs, Sanjay Grover, Carol Sinclair, Jane Scanlon, Heidi Pizzuto, Joyce Couvrett, Lilian Asiimee, Heidi Fawcett, Bill Gilbert, Kiran T Otto, Sandra Purdy and Glenn Lockwood. Lord, in your mercy...

...hear our prayer.

Show the strength of your hand, and lift the burdens of the poor; work wonders for the humble and scatter the plans of the proud; look with favour on the lowly, and cast down the tyrants from their thrones; and keep in your tender care and mercy, O God, those who are sick in mind, body, or spirit...those weighed down by depression or pain...those recuperating from surgery or accident. Lord, in your mercy...

...hear our prayer.

For the silent intentions we hold in our hearts...(a time of silence is kept)...
Lord, in your mercy...

...hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to acknowledge human frailty, limitation, and even death, with confidence in you. We pray for those who have died and those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy...

...hear our prayer.

Where hope has grown tired and thin, lift our sights, so that we may see hope beyond hope, life beyond death, and your Son lifted up before us. Lord, in your mercy...

...hear our prayer.

God of the future, make us ready to receive your reign, when you will bring everlasting peace, hope, and joy to renew the face of the earth; then we will sing out with joy and glorify you forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

**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.

Remaining in your seats, bow to those around you.

Musical Offering

The Holy Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

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. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise. [...]

As children of your redeeming purpose
who await the coming of your Son,
we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.
[...]**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without
end.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,

**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

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

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

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

Please remain in your seats, and sanitize your hands.

The celebrant will distribute communion down in the pews.

When the celebrant has left your area of the church,

briefly remove your mask to receive the host,

put your mask back on, and then sanitize your hands again.

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 the Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Please leave the church building as directed, and head safely home.

NO WORSHIP SERVICES ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 27, 2020

Please note that there will be **no worship services in the Parish of Mississippi Lake on Sunday, December 27th; all of our church buildings will be closed that day.** After a demanding year, this will give our Wardens, Cleaners, Pandemic Teams, and Leadership time to rest and rejoice in the Birth of the Christ Child!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Adapted from Full Homely Divinity, accessed Nov. 18, 2020: <http://fullhomelydivinity.org/articles/advent%20ofullpage.htm>

Eucharistic Prayer: The Scottish Liturgy 1982: Eucharistic Prayer I (General Use).

Unless otherwise indicated, materials are from The Book of Alternative Services (1985).