

**St. John's Anglican Church, Ida
Parish of Ida and Omemee**

December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

The Christmas story in word and song

*Welcome to Worship this morning!
We invite you to participate fully in the service,
and to remain following the service for our Coffee Hour.*

*As we worship, at any time during the service, please assume
whatever physical position is best for you.*

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn *CP89 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.***

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.**

Refrain:

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.**

Refrain:

**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.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.***

**O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

Refrain:

**O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

Refrain:

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.**

Refrain:

Welcome

The Lighting of the Third Candle in Advent

Reader: Jesus came into the world, he said that his joy
may be in us, and our joy may be complete.
We give thanks for the gift of the greatest joy of
all – God's beloved son, our Saviour and Lord.

We light the candles for hope, peace,
and the rose-coloured candle for joy!

Lighting of the three Advent wreath candles.

Let us pray.

Giver of Joy, Emmanuel,

we pray that you will send your light into our hearts during this season of Advent. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing.

We pray that you will prepare our hearts to receive Jesus at his birth as the shepherds did, with great joy. Amen.

Hymn

Hope is a Star

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

***The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.***

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

***The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.***

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

***The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.***

Please be seated.

The Bidding

Let us pray:

Gift-giving God,

**of angels and stars, magi and shepherds,
promise and hope, journeys and longing;**

**God who calls and sends, blesses and guards,
hides and reveals, asks and waits,**

Ancient love, that is always new;

God of Christmas, God of our hearts;

**we pray for those who long for good news,
for those who wait in the shadow of death,
for the church in every place that it may be
Christ to all who need him,
and allow his birth in us again. Amen.**

Anthem *Waiting for Bethlehem's Light*

The First Lesson *(Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19)*

*God has formed the first human from the dust of the ground
and has breathed life into them. God then places them in
a garden they are to care for. They are commanded not to eat
the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They
disobey God, and the result is that the ground is cursed,
and the humans are banished from the garden.*

Hymn *CP156 The People That in Darkness Sat*

**The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.**

**To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.**

**For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.**

**For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.**

**Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one.**

The Second Lesson

(Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

The prophet, Isaiah, speaks to the people of Israel, who are suffering during a time of war, with a message of God's light shining in the midst of darkness and despair, a promise that is present in the here and now, not in a future time. He speaks of the birth of a child who will establish peace and justice on the earth.

The Third Lesson

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Jeremiah was a prophet in Israel at the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the people. It happened because they were unfaithful to God, but here God shows that He has not given up on the people. God will make a new covenant with them, one written on their hearts.

Hymn CP140 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (1,2,3,5)

**It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven's most gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;**

above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not
the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

The Fourth Lesson

(Luke 1:26-38)

Zechariah has been told by an angel that his wife, Elizabeth, will bear a child in her old age. He will be named John. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and will "turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Now the angel has another announcement to make.

The Fifth Lesson

(Luke 1:39-45)

As the angel, Gabriel, foretold, Elizabeth is now six months pregnant with John the Baptist, and her relative Mary carries Jesus, foretold to be the Son of God, in her womb. God will make Jesus a king of David's line; he will rule Israel for ever.

Hymn CP123 *Once in Royal David's City*

**Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.**

The Sixth Lesson (Luke 2:1-20)

In our readings from the gospel of Luke, he wants us to know first, that Jesus was a real human being, born in a particular place at a particular time. He also wants us to understand that he has come forth from God as the prophets foretold. He is the holy child foretold, who will bring peace to all humankind.

Hymn CP136 *While Shepherds Watched*

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.**

**"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.**

**"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**"the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid."**

**Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:**

**"All glory be to God on high
and on earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to me
begin, and never cease."**

The Seventh Lesson

(John 1:1-14)

John tells us in the prologue to his gospel, that before God created the heavens and the earth, Jesus was with God. This is the mystery at the heart of our faith. Here is how the First Nations Translation of the New Testament tells the story.

Storytelling by The Rev. Deb Wilson

Anthem *Angels Watching Over Me*

Offertory Hymn *CP137 What Child is This*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

***This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.***

**Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain:

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain:

Prayer over the Gifts

God of hope,
**renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.
Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.
Jesus, our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
Jesus, our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
Jesus, our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
Jesus our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
Jesus our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, who is more willing to hear our prayers than we are to pray, pour your love into the hearts of your people, especially those of our church family for whom we pray today....

Jesus our Saviour, **hear our prayer.**

**Jesus our Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever.
Amen.**

Collect for the Day

God of power and mercy,
**you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your
Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and
wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

With joy in our hearts, let us gather our prayers and praises together, praying as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Benediction

May the God of infinite goodness
scatter the darkness of sin
and brighten our hearts with holiness;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *CP138 Hark, the Herald Angels*

**Hark the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

***Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”***

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.**

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."*

The Dismissal

Let us go forth rejoicing
to follow the light that is coming into the world!
Thanks be to God!

*The altar flowers are given today by Denise Byard
in celebration of her birthday and in memory of loved ones.*

Our Leaders Today

<i>Officiant</i>	The Rev. Denise Byard
<i>Storyteller</i>	The Rev. Deb Wilson
<i>Music Director & Pianist</i>	Linda Parsons
<i>Readers</i>	Hayley Bagg Hunter Thomas Fiona Kydd Charlotte Kydd Naomi Kydd Ben Conrad
<i>Intercessor</i>	John Amesbury
<i>Technical Team</i>	Hayley Bagg and Ben Conrad

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