

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

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion

December 21, 2025

*Welcome to Worship this morning!
We invite you to participate fully in the service,
and to remain following the service for our Coffee Hour.
Children are welcome to attend our Children's Program or to
remain with their families.*

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

The Gathering of the Community

*I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his
word. Luke (1:38)*

Opening Hymn *CP91 People, Look East!
The Time is Near*

**People, look east! The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength
the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

**Blessed are you, O Christ, Word of God,
born before time began.**

**Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness,
you brighten the universe with God's love.**

**Blessed are you, Child of Mary,
you became a human child,
so that we can become children of God.**

The children are invited to gather by the Advent wreath.

The Lighting of the Fourth Candle in Advent

Reader Jesus is born as one of us, "for God so loved the world." Those who follow Jesus and live in him, strive to live in love. Love transforms and perfects all things. Love never ends.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us that God is love. We thank God for the hope he

gives us, for the peace he bestows on us, for the joy he pours into our hearts, and for the love that redeems us and shows us the way.

We light the fourth candle, the candle of love.

Celebrant Let us pray.
O God of Love, Emmanuel,
we pray that you will send your light into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ's appearing. Grant that we may so dwell in him that his perfect love fills our entire being. Make our worship a time in which we celebrate your love, so that we are made ready to show that same love to the whole world – both today and forevermore. 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.**

Refrain:

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

Refrain:

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

Refrain:

*Children leave for their program after the singing of the hymn
and will return during the passing of the peace.*

The Collect of the Day

God of grace,
give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where
the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise
and to awaken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (7:10-16)

After the reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (80:1-7)

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
How long, Lord God Almighty,
will your anger smolder
against the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.
Restore us, God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

The Psalm Prayer

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, our good shepherd;
you have led us to the kingdom of your Father's love.
Forgive our careless indifference to your loving care for
all your creatures, and remake us in the likeness of your
new and risen life. We ask this in your name. Amen.

The Second Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans (1:1-7)

After the reading

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Proclamation of the Gospel

Gospel Hymn *CP117 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour,
when half spent was the night.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew (1:18-25)
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing:

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.**

The Sermon

A silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Celebrant.

The Apostles' 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.

The Prayers of the People

We pray for the world, the church and ourselves, assuming whatever physical position helps us to pray (remain standing, kneel, or sit).

The response to the intercessions will be:

... Hear our prayer.

Invitation to Confession

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

A brief silence is kept.

Prayer of Confession

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.**

Absolution

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 Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

*We greet one another saying, "Peace be with you" or
"The Peace of Christ".*

The Celebration of Holy Communion

The offering of money is a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected in the plates placed at the front and back of the church before the service. The offering plates will not be passed during the service.

Offertory Hymn *Come, Thou Redeemer (Tune CP628)*

**Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.**

**Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**

**From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**

**O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.**

**Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.**

**O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost, for evermore.**

The Prayer over the Gifts

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

**By the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy One, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our
Saviour and Redeemer 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, with the church on earth, and the company of
heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, most holy all holy the Lord,
in power and wisdom for ever adored.
The earth and the heavens are full of your love;
our joyful hosannas re-echo above.**

**Blessèd, most blessèd, all blessèd is he
whose life makes us whole, and whose death sets us free:
who comes in the name of the Father of light,
let endless hosannas resound in the height.**

Holy One, the beginning and the end,
The giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for the promise to your people.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
The Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks: broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us.
Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God Incarnate, Power of the Most High, One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A brief silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 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.

Spiritual Communion

For those who are worshipping with us online, we invite you to make your spiritual communion, by inviting Jesus into your heart, saying "Come, Lord Jesus."

A brief silence is kept.

Agnus Dei

**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, grant us peace.**

A brief silence is kept.

For those who are present in person, all baptized persons may receive Communion. If you prefer, Communion can be brought to you in your seat. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may place a hand on their heart when they come forward.

Prayer will be offered during communion at the back of the sanctuary for those who wish to be prayed for.

All are welcome to be anointed before or after receiving communion at the pulpit side of the nave.

Communion Hymns

Hymn *Christ, Be Our Light*

**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.**

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

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

Refrain:

**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:

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

Refrain:

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

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

Hymn *CP88 Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

**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.**

Hymn *CP101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

**Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

Hymn *CP98 Hark the Glad Sound*

Hark the glad sound!
The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield.

Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

The Community is Sent Out

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray:

Faithful God,
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.
May we, like the Virgin Mary,
be obedient to your will.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Doxology

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.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn CP95 *O Come, Divine Messiah*

O come, divine Messiah;
the world in silence waits
the day when hope shall
sing its triumph
and sadness flee away.

*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.*

**O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
whom priest and prophet long fore-told,
come, break the captives' fetters,
redeem the long-lost fold.**

***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.***

**You come in peace and meekness
and lowly will your cradle be;
all clothed in human weakness
shall we your God-head see.**

Refrain:

The Dismissal

**As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Our Leaders Today

<i>Celebrant & Preacher</i>	The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Deb Wilson
<i>Music Director & Pianist</i>	Linda Parsons
<i>Crucifer</i>	Adrian Olley
<i>Reader</i>	Sarah Bloom
<i>Intercessor</i>	Phil Winslow
<i>Communion Assistants</i>	Adrian Olley and Moyra Seabright
<i>Technical Team</i>	Jason Conrad and Dalton George
<i>Prayer Ministry Team</i>	Bette Holder and Don Winslow
<i>Anointer</i>	Cathy Olley

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A Warm Welcome to all

Are you new to St. John's? We are so glad you have joined us today for worship. We encourage you to stay for coffee hour and introduce yourself to one of the clergy. We also have a welcome package available that will tell you a little bit about our church.

Would you like a visit? We'd be happy to visit with you at your home, in a coffee shop or at the church for pastoral conversation and/or home communion at your request. Please call the office and one of the clergy will get back to you. 705.944.5350

If you experience a pastoral emergency (someone in the hospital or in urgent need) you can call our priest, The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer at 705.886.0057

Are you on the parish mailing and email list? If you would like to be, please let the office know.

St. John's Anglican Church, Ida

"To know Christ, and make Him Known"

*We are a community church in the Anglican Tradition.
Everyone is welcome here regardless of church experience
or affiliation.*

Visit our website: www.stjohnsida.com

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsida>

Priest-in-charge: The Rev. Canon Susan Spicer
Assistant Curate: The Rev. Denise Byard
Secretary: Becky Barber
