



ST. STEPHEN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE

To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Luke 1:79



Maestra Peace Mural; Juana Alicia Women's Building, San Francisco, CA

Ante-Communion

The Second Sunday Advent

December 5, 2021 @ 10:00am

Celebrant & Homilist: Fr. Ian

**Prelude O Come, O Come Emmanuel Interlude #1 Sarah Bereza
Welcome**

St. Stephen's is a missional outpost of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. We share in Christ's mission to make the mercy, forgiveness, and love of God known in all creation; and to invite all into the household of God! Thank you for joining in worship today. Welcome!

Announcements

Bulletins and YouTube links, included in the Call to Worship are also available at ststephensmaple.ca .

Prayers of the People-Please send prayer requests to church@ststephensmaple.ca

The Lessons for The 3rd Sunday of Advent: Lessons: Zeph 3:14-20; C 3 (Is 12:2-6); Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:7-18

Thank you for helping to publicize St. Stephen's website, YouTube channel and Facebook page.

We give thanks for our Chancel Guild, Readers and Intercessors, We pray for families preparing for baptism .

Sunday School Online: Families are invited to the York Simcoe Sunday School , on Zoom, every Sunday at 9:30am. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82142029783?pwd=K2tuYnVnVVVzZUdtY3NoYSthdWg0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 821 4202 9783. Passcode: 339161

We give thanks for Youth @ St. Stephen's meeting biweekly, Wednesdays, 5:30 –6:30 pm on Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85963671776?pwd=SzNWUmY1TEUxNWxlck5TSWI1aE00dz09>

Calendar:

December 12, 2021– The Third Sunday of Advent -

Advent Lessons and Carols in-person @ 10am

Advent Lessons and Carols on YouTube , available from 10am.

Evening Prayer in person and via Zoom @ 5:00 pm.

December 19, 2021– The Fourth Sunday of Advent– Christmas Pageant 10 am on Zoom.

December 24, 2021-Eve of Christmas 5pm in-Person

December 25, 2021- The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day– 9 am in-person

Will you please stand.

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territory

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, with special recognition to the Mississauga of New Credit.

We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario.

This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty¹, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes.

In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

¹[A Dish with One Spoon | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)



The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn: 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 thee path or knowledge show.
And teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

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

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.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray,
Almighty God,
**to you 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.**

Trisagion

**All: Holy God, holy and
mighty, holy
immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, holy and
mighty, holy
immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

**Holy God, holy and
mighty, holy**

**immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray,
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.**

Will you please sit.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading

BARUCH 5: 1-9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF BARUCH

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 19

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, 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.

The dawn from on high shall break upon us.

The Second Reading

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

I thank my God every time I remember you, -constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, -because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. -I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. - It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. -For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight -to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, -having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. -

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God

Will you please stand.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 3:1-6

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to LUKE

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, - as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; -and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily: Fr. Ian

Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People CP 100

Comfort, comfort ye people;
Speak ye peace; thus says your God
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Bowed beneath oppression's load;
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits them
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over,

Hark! The herald's voice is calling
In the desert far and near, calling us
To new repentance since the reign of God is here
Oh, the warning call o-bey!
Noe prepare for Christ away;
Let the valley's rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to great him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain,

Let your hearts be true and humble
As befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth
Is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see
The token that God's Word is never broken.

Will you please stand.

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism

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.**

Prayers of the People

Leader: In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid we pray to Jesus.

Silence

Leader: Come to your Church as Lord and judge. We pray for our siblings in need of housing, refuge, medicines and vaccines; For our neighbours in Iqaluit without clean drinking water for the past

seven weeks; for the 84 million forcibly displaced people worldwide seeking refuge.

Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus..

Silence

Leader: Come to your world as King of the nations. We pray for Tuvalu, Japan, The Philippines, Germany, Madagascar, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Rwanda, Canada and Fiji, the countries most threatened by and vulnerable to climate change; for Afghanistan, Mexico, Yemen, Ukraine, and Tigray, and for all nations suffering the threat and ravages of war.

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus..

Silence

Leader: Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter. We pray for Indigenous Peoples in Canada and throughout the earth; for justice and the restoral of right relationships; For our neighbours in British Columbia, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island affected by extreme storms and flooding; for creatures now extinct or at risk of extinction; for the sick and suffering: Venetia, Charles... Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever....

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence

Leader: Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. We remember The Rev'd Canon, Mtr. Joyce Barnett-Cowan...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus we pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Linda, Primate of Canada; Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; Anne, Metropolitan of Ontario; Andrew, Bishop of Toronto and the College of Bishops; the College of Presbyters and all ministers.

Leader: Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with Stephen and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Silence

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence

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 strength you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,
present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people,
who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join
with them to receive you in my heart, and in our
community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be
now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in
bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may
you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with
grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed,
may my hunger for you and for your reign of
justice and peace increase, that I may, with your
Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall
come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn: On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry CP 103

On Jordan's bank,
The Baptist cry announces that that Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken,
For he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts home,
Where such a mighty guest may come

For thou art our salvation,
Lord our refuge,
And our great reward; without thy grace we
Waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
And bid the fallen sinner stand; shine forth,
And let thy light restore earth's own true
Loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son,
To thee whose advent doth they people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost forever more.

Dismissal

Deacon: *Let us bless the Lord!*

All: *Thanks be to God!*

**Diocesan and Area Bishop
Incumbent**

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil
The Reverend Ian LaFleur
priest@ststephensmaple.ca

Assisting Today

Marina Groulx & Taraji Murray
Celio de Andrade
Amecia Davis
Jason Chen

Reader
Video editing
Bulletin editing
AV Coordinator

Come and See!

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