



the Church  
of St Peter and  
St Simon-the-Apostle

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

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Welcome to the Church of St Peter and St Simon-the Apostle.

### **Holy Eucharist at 9.00 am.**

The service begins on page 67 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

For the Readings, please see the 10.30 am. Service.

*Bishop & Preacher*     The Reverend Abraham Thomas

Collects – BCP p. 102 & 95

### **Choral Eucharist at 10.30 am.**

The service is from the *Book of Alternative Services*, beginning on page 185.

*Celebrant & Preacher*   The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson

*Assisting*                 The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess

                                   The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

                                   The Reverend Abraham Thomas

*Servers*                     Fen Nanton, Gary Toneguzzo, Celine & Vincent Wong

*Communion Ministers*   Paul Faulkner, Fen Nanton

*Director of Music*         Robin Davis

*Mass Setting*                 *Deutsche Messe - Sanctus/Benedictus*                     Franz Schubert  
   *Missa Brevis #4 Divinum Mysterium - Agnus Dei*     Healey Willan

Hearing Assistance Units are available at the back of the church.  
Please join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after the service.

***The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of Almighty God  
and in thanksgiving for the ministry of Bishop Kevin Robertson  
and for his presence with us today.***

## † THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY †

**Prelude** *Es Ist Ein Ros*

JOHANNES BRAHMS

**Introit** *I Sing of a Maiden that is Makeless*

MAURICE WHITE

*Choir I sing of a maiden that is makeless; King of all Kings to her son she ches. He came all so still where his mother was, as dew in April that falleth on the grass. Mother and maiden was never none but she; Well may such a Lady God's mother be.*

**Processional Hymn CP 116** *Your Kingdom Come on Bended Knee*

IRISH

### Greeting

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*All* **His mercy endures forever.**

*Bishop* Almighty God,

*All* **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.**

*Bishop* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,  
welcoming sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins  
confident in God's forgiveness. *Please kneel or be seated.*

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* Almighty God, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all  
your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all good ness and keep you in  
eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Please be seated.*

## Lighting the Advent Candle

*Leader* On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we remember the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Angel Gabriel visited Mary. Gabriel announced that she would be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

*Leader* Lord Jesus,  
*All* **light of the world, bless us your children  
as we wait to celebrate your birth at Christmas.**

*The fourth candle is lit.*

*Leader* We wait for your loving kindness O God,

*All* **In the midst of your temple.**

*Leader* The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

*All* **And all flesh shall see it together.**

*Leader* Show us your mercy O Lord.

*All* **And grant us your salvation.**

**Gloria** – CP Hymn Book 376

TAIZÉ

*All* **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia! Repeat  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

## The Collect of the Day

*Bishop* 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 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## † THE LITURGY OF THE WORD †

**First Reading** *Micah 5.2-5a*

Read by Carol Peck

*Reader* A reading from the Second Book of the Prophet Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of

the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.  
*All*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80.1-7** *Qui regis Israel. All are invited to sing the Psalm.*



1. HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph **like** a flock; \*  
show thyself also, thou that sittest **up**-on the Cher-ubim.
- 2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, **and** Manasseh, \*  
stir up thy strength, **and** come and help us.
- 3 Turn us a-**gain**, O God; \*  
show the light of thy countenance, **and** we shall be whole.
- 4 O Lord **God** of hosts, \*  
how long wilt thou be angry with thy **peo**-ple that pray-eth?
- 5 Thou feedest them with the **bread** of tears, \*  
and givest them plen-**teous**-ness of tears to drink.
- 6 Thou hast made us a very strife un-**to** our neighbours, \*  
and our ene-**mies** laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Turn us again, thou **God** of hosts; \*  
show the light of thy countenance, **and** we shall be whole.

**Epistle** *Hebrews 10.5-10*

Read by Mary Martin

*Reader*            A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God” (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’ When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

*Reader*            The word of the Lord.  
*All*                    **Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel** *Luke 1.39-55*

*Gospeller*      The Lord be with you.

*All*                **And also with you.**

*Gospeller*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

*Gospeller*      The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Homily**

**Prayers of the People**

Led by Peggy Needham

*Bishop*            Let us pray for the Church and the world.

*Please stand, sit or kneel as comfortable. The prayers follow.*

**Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

*Bishop*            Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death and raised with him to new-ness of life. I call upon you, therefore, as we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

*Bishop* Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them?

*People* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*People* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*People* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

*People* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

*People* I do.

*Bishop* Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

*People* I do.

*Bishop* Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

*People* I will, the Lord being my helper.

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Bishop* We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith. We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Bishop* Let us now reaffirm our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?  
*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
*All* **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.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?  
*All* **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.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain, and renew the face of the earth?  
*All* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

## Offertory Sentence

*Bishop* As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all people; and especially unto them that are of the household of faith. *Galatians 6. 10.*

*During the hymn, the Bishop sprinkles the congregation with water as a reminder of the new life given in Holy Baptism.*

## † THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST †

**Offertory Hymn** *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

HERMON

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly, Virgin-mother undefiled.  
Sing of God's own Son most holy, Who became her little child.  
Fairest child of fairest mother, God the Lord who came to earth,  
Word made flesh, our very brother, Takes our nature by his birth.

Sing of Jesus, son of Mary, In the home at Nazareth.  
Toil and labour cannot weary Love enduring unto death.  
Constant was the love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,  
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer, Till on Calvary he died.

Sing of Mary, sing of Jesus, holy Mother's holier son.  
From his throne in heav'n he sees us, thither calls us ev'ry one,  
where he welcomes home his Mother to a place at his right hand,  
there his faithful servants gather, there the crowned victors stand.

Joyful Mother, full of gladness, in thine arms thy Lord was borne.  
Mournful Mother, full of sadness, all thy heart with pain was torn.  
Glorious Mother, now rewarded with a crown at Jesus' hand,  
age to age thy name recorded shall be blest in every land.

Glory be to God the Father; Glory be to God the Son;  
Glory be to God the Spirit; Glory to the Three in One.  
From the heart of blessed Mary, From all saints the song ascends,  
And the Church the strain re-echoes Unto earth's remotest ends.



## Prayer over the Gifts

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.



*All* **And al - so with you.**

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.



*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Bishop* *The Proper Preface follows. Then all sing:*

*All CP735* **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.**

*Bishop* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of

sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*All* **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Bishop* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer – CP Hymn Book #744** *Sung by all*

*Bishop* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

*All* **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**

*Bishop* 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.**

*Bishop* The gifts of God for the People of God.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Agnus Dei**

*Choir* O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the Lord, grant us thy peace.

## † HOLY COMMUNION †

- Holy Communion is administered at the High Altar and a standing station at the St. Peter's Altar in the south aisle. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward for a blessing. Fold your hands over your chest to indicate this to the administering priest. Please follow the directions of the sides-people.
- You may choose to receive the bread only where the fullness of the sacrament is present. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, simply receive the bread and return to your seat. You may also touch the base of the chalice while the words of administration are said.
- Intinction (dipping the bread into the chalice of wine) is not permitted in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.
- During Communion *Anointing for Healing* will be administered in the north and south aisles of the Church.

**Communion Hymn CP 89** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

**Motet** *A Hymn to the Virgin*

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

*Of one who is so fair and bright  
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]  
Brighter than the day is light,  
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]  
I cry to thee, thou see to me,  
Lady, pray thy Son for me, Tam pia, [so pure]  
That I may come to thee. Maria! [Mary]  
All this world was forlorn,  
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]  
Till our Lord was yborn,  
De te genetrice. [through you, his mother]  
With ave it went away,*

*Darkest night, and comes the day  
Salutis; [of salvation]  
The well springeth out of thee.  
Virtutis. [of virtue]  
Lady, flower of everything,  
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]  
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,  
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]  
Of all thou bearest the prize,  
Lady, queen of paradise Electa: [chosen]  
Maid mild, mother es effecta. [you are made]*

### **Thanksgiving after Communion**

*Bishop* All your works praise you O Lord,  
*All* **and your faithful servants bless you.**

*Bishop* Gracious God,  
*All* **we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May we who share his body live his risen life, we who drink his cup give life to others, we who the spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Blessing & Announcements**

**Recessional Hymn CP 109** *When the King Shall Come Again* TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

### **Dismissal**

*Leader* Followers of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit,  
serve the world God loves.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *Fantasia in g minor BWV 542*

J. S. BACH

*CCLI License Number: 20651739*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of Uganda.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church Women (ACW) Janice Hodgson, Diocesan President.

Outreach & Advocacy Cycle of Prayer: *Pray for* the Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River, its food bank, refugee support, prayer shawl ministry, and support of Sleeping Children Around the World and other outreach initiatives; *for* the Parish of Campbellford, Hastings and Roseneath, its school breakfast and lunch programs, its weekly dinners, its Deacon's Cupboard, refugee sponsorship, and support of Warkworth Hospice; *and for* Christ Church, Bolton, its support for Caledon Community Services, its community garden, prayer shawl ministry, Christmas stocking outreach to the King Nursing Home, and support of other local outreach programs.

Parish Cycle: Paul and Martha McLean, David and Marian McPherson, Margret Maynell.

Home Bound Parishioners Marie Adams, Alice Fox, Deniss Gittens, Lawrine Griffith, Sabrina Hogan, Everton Morris, Denise Orioux, Marie Samuels – Isaac, Lucy Simons, Vernita Theobold, Duncan Towe, Lila Vamosi.

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## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES at SPSS**

### **Sunday, December 22 – Advent 4**

4.00 pm This afternoon - *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas*

### **Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5.00 pm – *Family Eucharist with the Christmas Story*

10.00 pm – *Festal Eucharist*

### **Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

10.30 am – *Sung Eucharist with Carols*

### **Sunday, December 29 – Christmas I**

9.00 am – *Holy Eucharist in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit*

10.30 am – *Choral Eucharist*