



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

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

*The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Marina Caytap to the honour and glory of Almighty God and in thanksgiving for the many blessings of life.*

### Holy Eucharist at 9.00 am

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

*Collect* God of power and mercy, who calls us once again to celebrate the coming of thy Son. Remove those things which hinder love of thee, that when he cometh he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who live and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now end forever. Amen.

### Choral Matins at 10:30 am

The service begins on page 1 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Officiant & Preacher	The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine
Servers	Ferdinand Galigan, Fen Nanton, Gary Toneguzzo
Music Ministry	Mervin Fick & Choristers of the Parish

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**Prelude** *Chorale Preludes on 'Comfort, Comfort Now My People'* G. BOEHM, M. Reger

### Opening Sentence – BCP p. 1

Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. *St. Matthew 3.2.*  
*Other sentences may be added at the discretion of the Officiant.*

### Lighting the Advent Candle

*Leader* On this Third Sunday of Advent, we remember the prophets and rejoice in the peace that Jesus gives to the world.  
May we watch and wait faithfully for His coming as our Messiah and King.

*The third candle is lit.*

**Hymn** *When He Cometh*

JEWELS

When He cometh, when He cometh to make up His jewels,  
All His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.

*Refrain*

*Like the stars of the morning, His brightness adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty, bright gems for His crown.*

Little children, little children, who love their Redeemer,  
Are the jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own. *Refrain*

*Leader* Arise, shine for your light is come,

*All* **And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.**

*Leader* Though night still covers the earth and darkness covers the nations,

*All* **Over you will the Lord arise, over you will his glory appear.**

*Leader* Grant us Lord to walk in the light of Christ, that like John and the prophets  
of old, we may be found ready and watching on the day of his coming.

*All* **Blessed be God forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn 98** *Hark the Glad Sound*

RICHMOND

**Confession & Absolution** *BCP* pp. 4-5

*Officiant* Almighty and most merciful Father,

*All* **We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto all people in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

**The Absolution – BCP p. 5**

**The Lord's Prayer – BCP pp. 5-6**

*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 them that 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.**

**Versicles & Responses – BCP p. 6**

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips;

*All*      **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us;

*All*      **O Lord, make haste to help us. *Please stand.***

*Officiant* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*All*      **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Officiant* Praise ye the Lord;

*All*      **The Lord's Name be praised.**

**The Venite – Psalm 95 BCP pp. 6-7 Sung by All**



Our King and Saviour draweth nigh : / O come let us worship.

O come, let us | sing unto · the | Lord: /

\* let us heartily rejoice in the | strength of | our sal | vation.

Let us come before his | presence with | thanksgiving /

\* and show ourselves | glad in | him with | psalms.

For the Lord is a | great | God /

\* and a great | King a·bove | all | gods.

In his hand are all the | corners · of the | earth /

\* and the | strength of · the | hills is · his | also.

The sea is | his and · he | made it /

\* and his | hands pre | pared the · dry | land.

O come, let us worship and | fall | down /

\* and | kneel be·fore the | Lord, our | Maker.

For he is the | Lord our | God /

\* and we are the people of his pasture, | and the | sheep of · his | hand.

To-day, O that ye would | hear his | voice: /

\* ‘Harden not your hearts as in the Provocation, and as in the day of Temp | tation  
| in the | wilderness;

When your fathers | tempted | me, /

\* proved | me, and | saw my | works.

Forty years long was I grieved with that gene | ration, and | said, /

\* “It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they | have not | known my | ways”;

Unto whom I | swear in my | wrath, /

\* that they should not | enter | into my | rest.’

Glory be to the Father, and | to the | Son,

\* and | to the | Holy | Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever | shall be,

\* world without | end. | A- | men.

Our King and Saviour draweth nigh : / O come let us worship.

## **The First Lesson** Isaiah 35.1-10

Read by Regi Khokher

*Reader*     The first lesson is written in the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah,  
beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to

those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Reader*      The word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 146.4-9** *Lauda, anima mea.*



<sup>4</sup> Blessed are they that hath the God of Jacob for his **help**,  
and whose hope is **in** the Lord their God;

<sup>5</sup> Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein **is**;  
who keepeth his pro-**mise** for ever;

<sup>6</sup> Who helpeth them to right that suffer **wrong**;  
who feed-**eth** the hungry.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord looseth those **out** of prison:  
the Lord giveth **sight** to the blind.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord raiseth up them that are **fall-en**:  
the Lord lov-**eth** the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord careth for the strangĕrs; he upholdeth the fatherless and **wi**-dow:  
as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth **it** upside down.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**  
and **to** the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be  
world with-**out** end. Amen.

## The Second Lesson James 5.7-10

Read by Michelle Veronesi

*Reader* The second lesson is written in fifth chapter of the Letter of James,  
beginning at the 7<sup>th</sup> verse.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

**Canticle** *Benedicite, Omnia Opera* – BCP pp. 26-28 *Please stand.*

VIII. 1.



*Cantor* O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the **Lord**:  
praise him, and magnify **him** for ever.

*All* O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye Heavens, **bless** ye the Lord.

*Cantor* O ye waters that be above the firmament, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O all ye powers of the Lord, **bless** ye the Lord:

*All* O ye sun and moon, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye stars of heaven, **bless** ye the Lord

*Cantor* O ye showers and dew, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye winds of God, **bless** ye the Lord:

*All* O ye fire and heat, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye winter and summer, **bless** ye the Lord

*Cantor* O ye dews and frosts, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye frost and cold, **bless** ye the Lord:

*All* O ye ice and snow, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye nights and days, **bless** ye the Lord

*Cantor* O ye light and darkness, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye lightnings and clouds, **bless** ye the Lord.

*All* O let the earth bless the **Lord**:  
praise him and magnify **him** forever.

*Cantor* O ye mountains and hills, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O all ye green things upon the Earth, **bless** ye the Lord:

*All* O ye wells, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye seas and floods, **bless** ye the Lord

*Cantor* O ye whales, and all that move in the Waters, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O all ye Fowls of the Air, **bless** ye the Lord:

*All* O all ye beasts and cattle, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye children of earth, **bless** ye the Lord.

*Cantor* O let Israel bless the **Lord**:  
praise him, and magnify **him** for ever.

*All* O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye servants of the Lord, **bless** ye the Lord:

*Cantor* O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the **Lord**:  
O ye holy and humble of heart, **bless** ye the Lord.

*All* O Ananias, Azarias, and Misael, bless ye the **Lord**:  
praise him, and magnify **him** for ever.

### **The Third Lesson** *Matthew 11.2-11*

*Reader* The third lesson is written in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning at the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

**Hymn 11** *Blessed Be the God of Israel (Benedictus Paraphrase)*

NOEL – CP 141

Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free  
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.  
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm  
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall:  
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;  
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,  
in holiness and righteousness before God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord, you will prepare the way,  
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.  
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease  
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.

**The Apostles' Creed** – *BCP* pp. 10-11

*Officiant* I believe in God

*All* **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the Resurrection of the body, and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you;

*All* **And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray. *Please kneel as able.* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy upon us.



*Officiant* Our Father

*All* **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 them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*All* **And grant us thy salvation.**

*Officiant* O Lord, save the King;

*All* **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

*All* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

*Officiant* O Lord, save thy people;

*All* **And bless thine inheritance.**

*Officiant* Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*All* **And evermore mightily defend us.**

*Officiant* O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*All* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## **The Collects**

*Officiant* God of power and mercy, who calls us once again to celebrate the coming of thy Son. Remove those things which hinder love of thee, that when he cometh he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.** *Collect of the Day*

*Officiant* O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *Collect for Peace*

*Officiant* O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Collect for Grace*

**Anthem** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (for text see hymn 88)

M. ARMSTRONG

**Sermon**

**Offertory Hymn 101** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

CRÜGER

**Prayers**

Led by Spencer Higgins

**General Thanksgiving** – *BCP* pp. 13-14

*Officiant* Almighty God,

*All* **Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all people. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.**

**Advent Prose** (*Music: adapted from Rorate Caeli*) *Sung by the Cantor and All.*



*Pour down, O heavens, from above. – and let the skies rain down righteousness.*

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever:  
your holy cities have become desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation;  
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

***Pour down, O heavens, from above. – and let the skies rain down righteousness.***

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean;

we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us  
away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities.

***Pour down, O heavens, from above – and let the skies rain down righteousness.***

You are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen;  
that you may know me and believe me:

I myself am the Lord, and none other but I can deliver;  
what my hand holds, none can snatch away.

***Pour down, O heavens, from above – and let the skies rain down righteousness.***

Comfort my people, comfort them, my salvation shall not be delayed:  
I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not for I will save you:  
I am the Lord your god, the holy one of Israel, your Redeemer.

***Pour down, O heavens, from above – and let the skies rain down righteousness.***

### **Prayer of St Chrysostom – BCP p. 15**

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **The Grace**

*All* **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

**Hymn 109** *When the King shall Come Again*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**Postlude** *Choral Prelude on ‘Praise be to God Almighty’*

J.S. BACH

*CCLI License Number: 20651739*

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### **In our Prayers this Week**

The Anglican Communion Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer Tecumseth Deanery.

Outreach & Advocacy Cycle of Prayer *Pray for* the Church of the Ascension, Don Mills, its Café 65 program for seniors and support of the Community Share food bank; *for* the Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, its support of Operation Scugog food bank, support of North House through Coldest Night of the Year, and participation in Affirming Worship Durham; *and for* the Parish of Belmont, its involvement with Habitat for Humanity and the Pimatisiwin Nipi Water Project, and its advocacy for affordable housing, food security, and poverty reduction.  
Parish Cycle Margaret Meynell, Rudy & Nadine Milne, Evan Mitchell.

Home Bound Parishioners Marie Adams, Alice Fox, Dennis Gittens, Lorraine Griffith, Sabrina Hogan, Marian McPherson, Denise Orieux, Everton Morris, Lucy Simons, Vernita Theobolds, Duncan Towe, Lila Vamosi, Vashti White.

**SCAN and DONATE**

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**THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER AND ST. SIMON-THE-APOSTLE**

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**Clergy, Wardens and Staff**

Incumbent Priest	The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, ext. 1; <a href="mailto:incumbent@stpeterstsimon.ca">incumbent@stpeterstsimon.ca</a> ; Mobile: 416.720.2099
Honorary Assistant	The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess
Music Ministry	Mervin Fick <a href="mailto:mfick0101@gmail.com">mfick0101@gmail.com</a>
Wardens	David Carrington <i>Rector's Warden</i> <a href="mailto:dcarrington.omers@sympatico.ca">dcarrington.omers@sympatico.ca</a> David Rounthwaite <i>People's Warden</i>
Deputy Wardens	Spencer Higgins, Laurie Sanderson,
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Parish Administrator	Jessy Balendra ext. 3 <a href="mailto:office@stpeterstsimon.ca">office@stpeterstsimon.ca</a>
Church Office Hours	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

**SERVICES**

<b>Sunday</b>	9.00 am	Weekly Holy Eucharist (BCP) - In the Chapel of Holy Spirit)
	10.30 am	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays Choral Eucharist – Traditional BCP Rite
		2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Choral Matins (unless announced)
		4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Choral Eucharist – Contemporary BAS Rite
		5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday & Evensong - As Announced
<b>Wednesday</b>	11.00 am	Weekly Eucharist – Contemporary BAS Rite

