



Epiphany 4

28 January | 2024 | 9.30am

The Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson - Rector

The Rev. David Montgomery - Pastoral Associate

Andy Elmhirst - Director of Music

Carrie Ford-Jones - Director of Children's & Youth Ministry

Welcome to St. Christopher's

Thank you for being here this morning! We hope that this will be a meaningful time of worship for you. Please be assured that we are continuously evaluating and adapting our liturgical customs and hygiene practices to protect the health and safety of all.

About the Service

Everything you need for the service can be found in this booklet and large print copies are also available. Blue and yellow hymn books are under the chair in front of you. You may take this service bulletin home with you or discard it in the blue box as you exit.

Children & Families

Programming for children 4 and older takes place with Carrie Ford-Jones in the preschool room during the 9.30am service. Caregivers, please pick up your children from the preschool room at the end of the service. Care is available this morning for infants newborn to age 3 in Grannie's Place. Please ask one of our greeters if you need assistance finding your way there.

Audio Loop

If you use a hearing aid with a "T" setting, you can take advantage of our audio loop in the main section (Nave) of the church.

"Collection"

We don't pass the collection plate at St. Christopher's. Instead, if you wish to make a financial contribution to support our ministries, there are donation boxes just inside the door into the worship space.

Communion

All are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist.

Please remain seated until you are invited up the centre aisle by the greeter. When it's your turn, please hold out your hands and the communion minister will drop the wafer into your hands (without touching you). Once you have received the wafer, you may wait to receive the wine, or place your hands on the cup and then return to your seat by the side aisle. Please do not dip the bread in the cup. If you are not comfortable receiving the bread or wine, you can come forward to receive a blessing - just cross your arms over your chest; the priest will pray for God's blessing on you (without touching you). If you require gluten-free bread, please ask the communion minister.

General COVID-19 Protocols

Mask use is not required at this time. As always, if you are feeling unwell, please stay home.

We encourage you to sanitize your hands frequently and there is sanitizer in many places throughout the church.

You may signal your preference to share the Peace in a distanced manner by crossing your arms over your chest, or by raising your hands, palms together. We ask you to check with your neighbours before making physical contact at the Peace.

Spending Time Together after the Service

Please join us in the Narthex for coffee and a visit!

Blessings

None of us comes to church by accident and each of us brings the rest of our lives with us. No matter what joys, burdens or dilemmas you bring with you today, we pray that this time will be a gift to you; that God's grace will touch you with hope and energy to live your life with greater depth, integrity, compassion, and courage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penny".

Canon Penny Anderson

On the Cover

Woven by artist Konrad von Friesach around 1450, this tapestry from the Cathedral of Gurk in Austria depicts Jesus casting out the unclean Spirit. Photo by Padre Josef.

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Epiphany 4

January 28, 2024

9.30 am Holy Eucharist

Prelude

January: By the Fireside

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Welcome & Announcements

Canon Penny

Land Acknowledgement

We gather for worship on the territory of the Anishinaabeg, and the Haudenosaunee peoples, just 50 km from the nearest site of a former Indian Residential School in Brantford. Very likely, children who died at the Mohawk Institute were buried on the grounds of the school. In his recent report, "Where are the Children Buried?" Dr. Scott Hamilton writes, "While we know that over 3,200 children died, we remain uncertain where they were buried. The cemeteries that have been documented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission are, for the most part, abandoned, disused and vulnerable to accidental disturbance." Dr. Hamilton makes eight recommendations for documenting and protecting Indian Residential School cemeteries. The fourth is based on the fact that surface evidence of long abandoned cemeteries is likely fragile, if it exists at all. Because any remaining surface evidence is valuable, and because of the risk of disturbance without archeological expertise, Dr. Hamilton recommends that "The collection and integration of archival data and local knowledge should precede any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site." In a spirit of reconciliation, may we join our voices with those calling for this process of data collection and integration to begin.

Please stand

Opening Hymn: God, You Have Caused to Be Written

Blue book #476

Collect

Presider

Loving God,
in Christ you make all things new.
Transform us by your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
empower us to co-create
your new society;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

All

Hearing God's Word

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy (18:15-18)

Read by Gill Jones

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

Presider Holy Word. Holy Wisdom.
All **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark (1:21-28)

Reader May God be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Reader The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All **Glory to you, O Jesus Christ.**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
All **Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.**

Please be seated

Homily

Rev. David Montgomery

Silence for Reflection

Anthem: Teach Me Your Ways

David Catherwood

Teach me your ways, O Lord,
and make them known to me.
Teach me to live in truth,
your servant here to be.

I put my trust in you
for days I cannot see.
Teach me your ways, O lord,
and make them known to me.

Teach me your will, O Lord,
and make it known to me.
Teach me to live in love,
a friend to others be.

I put my trust in you
for days I cannot see.
Teach me your will, O Lord,
and make it known to me.

Please stand

Affirmation of Faith

Presider

Let us affirm the faith we share.

All

**We believe in God,
whose love is the source of all life
and is the desire of our lives;
whose love was given a human face
in Jesus of Nazareth;
whose love was crucified
by the evil that waits to enslave us all;
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.**

**Therefore,
though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
we trust in God.
Putting our hope in Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves
to seek justice and live with integrity,
to honour others and live peaceably in creation,
to join God's work in the world
and to take part in creating
God's new society of justice and peace.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Led by Gerry Anthony

The Peace

The presider addresses the people.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The members of the community offer signs of peace to one another.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: Teach Me, My God and King

Blue book #496

The Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of steadfast love,
 may our offering this day,
 by the power of your Spirit,
 renew us for your service;
 through Jesus Christ,
 in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Living God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the God of the universe.

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

Presider

We praise you, O God,
because you sent sages to record your work in creation,
and prophets to hold your people to account
for their life in you.

Those same prophets told of a day
when you would restore your covenant
and open wide your arms
to bring your people home to you.
In Jesus you fulfill your promises to us.
In his death and resurrection
we receive your gift of everlasting life with you.
And so with saints and angels,
and all the company of heaven,
we join in singing the hymn of your unending praise:

All

Weber

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blest is the one who comes in the name of
God. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

Gracious God,
your beloved one, Jesus Christ,
ate with friend and stranger,
with devoted disciple and skeptical inquirer,
with the one who would betray
and the one who had denied.
Jesus made food a place of encounter with you.
By the power of your Holy Spirit visit your people
and restore the fullness of your image within us.

Presider

By the same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine
to be for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
"Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me."

After supper Jesus took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks,
and gave it to his friends, saying,
"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.
As often as you drink it, do this to remember me."
Great is the mystery of faith:

All

Weber



Presider

Restoring God, your beloved one Jesus Christ
taught and healed as one with authority.
Where your children search in vain for someone to trust,
show them your face.
Where your people long for one to lead or a path to follow,
re-sound your call in our hearts.
Where your church is faltering in fear and doubt,
strengthen us and renew us in our identity as your beloved children.
Usher in the day when all may taste and see
the goodness of your grace,
and your arms of love will embrace our world,
and you will be all in all,
O Trinity of peace and love.

All

Weber

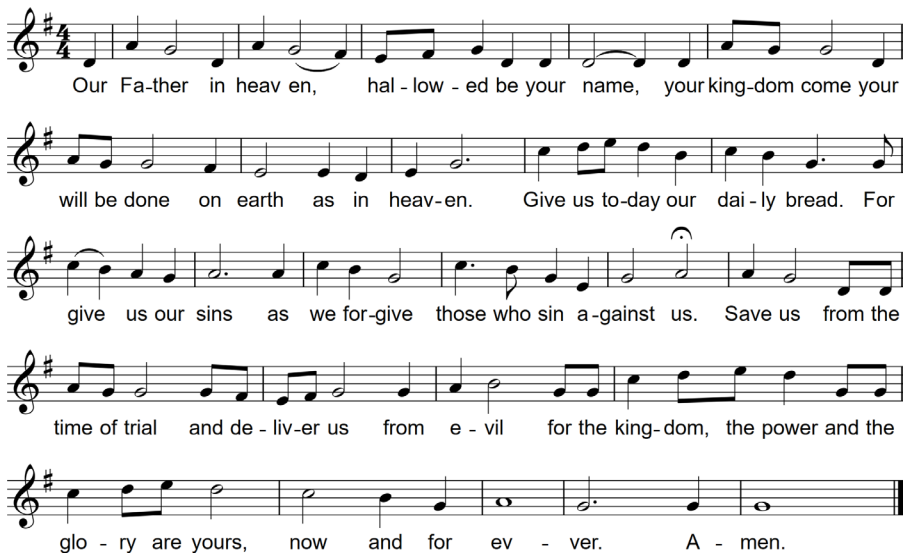


Presider

We pray as Jesus taught us, singing,

All

Haas



Our Fa-ther in heav en, hal - low - ed be your name, your king-dom come your
will be done on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For
give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the
time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil for the king-dom, the power and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - ver. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Invitation

Presider

This is God's table
ready for those who love God
and those who want to love God more.

So come,
you who have much faith
and you who have little,
you who have been here often
and you who have never been before,
You who have tried to follow Jesus
and you who have failed.
Come, because it is Christ who invites us
to meet him here.

The gifts of God, for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

All

Please be seated

All are invited to share in the Holy Eucharist. Please remain seated until you are invited up the centre aisle by the greeter. If you require gluten-free bread, please ask the priest.

Songs During Communion

Come to Me, All Who Are Weary

Yellow book #235

Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

Blue book #557

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

Presider

Source of all goodness,
in this eucharist
we are nourished by the bread of heaven
and invigorated with new wine.
May these gifts renew our lives,
that we may join your work in the world;
through Jesus Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

Doxology

All

**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.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word

Blue book #560

Dismissal

Presider

Alleluia! Go forth into the world shining with the light of Christ!

All

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Offertoire

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)

Eucharistic Prayer based on Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher,
Eucharistic Prayers.

Thought for the Month

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



We are a dynamic, inclusive, diverse community
rooted in the life-giving, life-affirming, life-changing love of God
reaching beyond ourselves
caring for creation
making a difference with others.

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