

ST THOMAS ANGLICAN CHURCH
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We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1, 2 and 3 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Oji-Cree people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and service God the Creator here.

December 24th, 2021 – Christmas Eve - Service of Light

Welcome, Thanksgiving & Acknowledgement

Notices

(anything in **bold** we invite you to say with us)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Why do we light the Christmas candle?

Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth – regardless of circumstances – reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God. On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know. He is born and nothing will be the same.

Advent Hymn - Light the Advent Candle

Opening Sentence –

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2.10–11

Opening Hymn - Jesus came, the heavens adoring

Service of Light

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can extinguish.

O Gracious Light - Phos Hilaron –

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be sung by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Christmas and Epiphany Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
our eternal Father and David's king.
You have made our gladness greater and increased our joy by sending to dwell among us the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. Born of Mary, proclaimed to the shepherds, and acknowledged to the ends of the earth, your unconquered Sun of righteousness destroys our darkness and establishes us in freedom.

All glory in the highest be to you,
through Christ, the Son of your favour,
in the anointing love of his Spirit,
this night and for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight with the lights of these candles

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

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 Proclamation of the Word

The Psalm for the day -- Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth

1st Reading -Isaiah 9:2-7

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel - **Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Gospel of Christ.
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Apostles Creed

**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 For the Community

Let us pray to the Maker of the universe.
God of wisdom, you order all things: help the
church
to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill it with the Spirit of truth.
Holy One, make all things new.

Ruler of the universe,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your reign of justice
and righteousness.
Holy One, make all things new.

Source of all being,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities.
Holy One, make all things new.

Giver of peace,
you bring reconciliation
in the child of Bethlehem:
by your healing power
give to all who suffer
your gift of wholeness and peace.
Holy One, make all things new.

Collect

God of glory, your splendour shines from a manger
in Bethlehem, where the Light of
the world is humbly born into the darkness of
human night. Open our eyes to Christ's
presence in the shadows of our world, so that we,
like him, may become beacons of
your justice and defenders of all for whom there is
no room. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
As our Saviour taught us,
we invite you pray in the language your heart loves
best,

**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 forever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into the marvellous light of Christ,
bless us and fill us with peace.

Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit..
Thanks be to God.

The Closing Hymn – O Holy Night