

St. John's Anglican Church

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg ON N4G 5L8

Rector:

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

Deacon:

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

Honorary Assistant:

The Rev'd. Fr. David Joyce

Choir Director/Organist:

Joanne Smith

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Order of Service
December 7, 2025**

**A Celebration
of the Holy Eucharist**

PEACE
White Gift Sunday



*Book of Alternative Services
of the Anglican Church of Canada—1992*

CELEBRANT

The Ven. Fr. Tom Stradwick

DEACON

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

LAY READER

Les Burden

ORGANIST

Joanne Smith

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIANS

Ian McDowell/Frank Van Heck

OPENING HYMN

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry (103)

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SESSIONS

Last session on **Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

We start each session with a **Pot Luck Supper in the Church Hall.**

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, December 12, 2025 – 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00. Family and Friends Welcome.

WE STILL NEED LED CANDLES, CAN YOU HELP?

Today is Second Sunday of Advent: This is White Gift Sunday.

Third Sunday of Advent: Lessons and Carols and Christmas Lunch
Don't forget to sign up for a Turkey Lunch.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

We have a special service at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Followed by a Lunch.

INDUCTION SERVICE

Induction Service for The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick
at St John's on January 11, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. Followed by a Reception.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Carole McNeely, Keith St. John, Kirk Armstrong, Avah Sanderson,
Paul Woods, Dale Smith, Andrew Boutin, Sherry Hamilton, Jeff Monk.

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries listed for this coming week.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Second Candle (Candle of PEACE)

Lighting the Candles: Jeff and Diane Monk

Leader:

Last Sunday we lit the candle of **HOPE**

Let us light it again today as a symbol of our desire for healing and renewal of all of
God's creation.

(Light first candle) - Jeff

Our hope is in the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The second candle symbolizes **PEACE**. As we light the candle today, we read and reflect on scriptures about the peace God promised and ushered in during the first advent of Jesus, and the cosmic peace that will be consummated by Christ's second coming. Jesus said, "peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (*John 14:6, 27.*)

Light Second Candle - Diane

We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of **PEACE**. He shows us how to share the peace of God with others.

Let us join together in prayer for **PEACE** for ourselves and the world, using the words of the International Peace Prayer.

Congregation:

**Lead me from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead me from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead me from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts,
Our world, and our universe. Amen!**

HYMN

Hope Is a Star (NB 35 verses 1 and 2 only)

The Gathering of the Community

All stand. The presiding celebrant greets the community

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:

The following prayer may be said.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: 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.

Collect for Advent

Celebrant: Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility,
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Trisagion (sung)

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

Please be seated for the readings

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Read by Carol Turner

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

(ISAIAH 11:1-10)

After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19

Les Burden

REFRAIN: In his time shall peace and justice flourish.

Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
That he may rule your people
righteously and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

REFRAIN: In his time shall peace and justice flourish.

He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.

REFRAIN: In his time shall peace and justice flourish.

In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!
And blessed be his glorious name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

REFRAIN: In his time shall peace and justice flourish.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Read by Millie Heimbecker

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (ROMANS 15:4-13)

After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel Gradual Hymn.

Gospel Gradual Hymn

There's a Voice in the Wilderness (106)

Verses 1 & 2

The Holy Gospel

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." (MATTHEW 3:1-12)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Gradual Hymn Continues

There's a Voice in the Wilderness (106)

Verses 3 & 4

THE HOMILY

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

Please stand for the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, in these or similar words, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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.**

Please be seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Les Burden

Lay Reader: Let us pray

In our prayer cycle today, we pray for the following Parish families:
Peter and Betty Johnson, Father David Joyce and Elaine Balpataky, Carol Kelman,
Frank and Judy Mattan, Mae McClintock.

And at this time, we keep in our prayers, all those who are sick and bereaved and their families.

Including: Mary Jean, Elaine and Dean, Lynda and Derrell, Gary, Lori, Rayburn, Joan, Tanya, Marg, Gladys, Allan, Laurel, Pauline, Sue, Ann, Reg, Jim, Nathalie, Marilynne, Judy, Ada, Pat and Ted, Michelle, James, Keith and Joan, Holden, Monica and Marley.

And at this time, we pray for Reverend David Hewett, Rector of Petrolia; May God restore him to health.

In the Diocese of Huron, we pray for the Parishes of:
St. Andrew's, Harrow; St. Mark's-by-the-Lake, Tecumseh; All Saints', Windsor;
Church of the Ascension, Windsor.

Today we pray for Karen, Mark, and Justin Cook, who have donated the altar flowers to the Glory of God and in loving memory of parents/grandparents Isobel & Wallace Fuller and June & Ivan Cook.

The Litany for Advent

Les Burden

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying,
“Lord Jesus, come soon!”

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

Confession and Absolution

The people are invited to confession in these or similar words.

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 is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: 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 strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The members of the community, ministers and people, may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn (5 Verses) **“Your Kingdom Come” (116)**

Doxology (Sung)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer Over Gifts

Celebrant: God our strength,
we are nothing without you.
Receive all we offer you this day
as you sustain us with your mercy;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST Eucharistic Prayer #3

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



Here follows one of the proper prefaces:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,
and opened to us the way of salvation.
Now we watch for the day when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing his hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (689)

People: **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.**

Celebrant: 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."

All: Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People: **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 service continues with the Lord's Prayer

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and may say the following:

Celebrant: God of promise,
 you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

People: **Happy are those who are called
 to the supper of the Lamb.**

Jesus, Lamb of God (747)

All: Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Communion

We invite all Christians who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, who are communicant members of their own church, regardless of their denomination, to join with us in receiving the church's highest offering of praise to God, the Holy Eucharist.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

*The celebrant and people then receive communion.
The sacrament is given with the following words.*

Celebrant: The body of Christ (given for you).
The blood of Christ (shed for you).

Communion Hymns

O Ancient Love (36 NB)

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendour (84)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Faithful God,
we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet.
Help us always to hear the prophet's call
to turn our hearts to you;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen

Please stand for the Doxology.

The Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God,
People: 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.**

The Benediction

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go Now In Peace



Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Recessional Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending (114)

Dismissal