

Gathering Table
a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant: Jim Sutton
Preacher: Richard Pepper

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19th, 2021

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE

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For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land, and relationship with the land is at the centre of life and spirituality. We are gathered as treaty people on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg of the Fort William First Nation and acknowledge this people's stewardship of this land through the ages.

Welcoming Remarks

Prelude: Lord Hear Our Prayer
Ted and Donna Hamill

I am the servant of the Lord:
let it be to me according to his word.
Luke 1. 38

Opening Music:

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

(Please stand as you are able)

As the candles are lit, we remember what they represent on our Advent journey: the first - hope, the second - peace and the third – joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. This flame represents the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

Introductory Response for Advent

BAS Page 96

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Will you not give us life again,

That your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

And grant us your salvation.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading is from The Book of Micah 2 – 5a

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.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle 18 (Luke 1: 46 – 55)

BAS page 86

18a The Song of Mary

Luke 1.46–55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

Second Reading is from The Letter to the Hebrews 10: 5 - 10

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.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual: People Look East

Lay Reader: Richard

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke 1: 39– 55**

ALL: GLORY TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

This is The Gospel of Christ

ALL: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST

Sermon / Message: **Richard Pepper**

A Time of Silent Reflection

Music:

Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

Hear, O Israel

BAS - page 53

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

PRAYERS

Litany 12 for Advent

BAS -pages 119-120

(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!

Additional Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord saying “Lord hear our prayer”

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for health care workers, researchers and decision

makers working hard to address the challenges of the pandemic as new variants arise; and especially for people in countries with little or no vaccine resources.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for those affected by the tornadoes last week in the USA, that they would be comforted in their many losses and relieved of their suffering.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all people, as the effects of climate change are ever more evident, help us to urgently address this issue in both big and small ways.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for Archbishop Anne, Archdeacon Deborah, Pastor Gail, for members of our Concurrence Committee, and for the members of this parish listed in our bulletin.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for this City of Thunder Bay, and agencies providing comfort and provisions for those in need this Christmas season.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for the sick, lonely and grieving, that they may be sustained by the Lord's love, let us pray to the Lord;

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for this parish of Gathering Table, that we would draw ever nearer to Jesus, and in doing so, reflect his

service and love in this beautiful yet broken world.

Lord hear our prayer

Collect of the Day For the 4th Sunday of Advent

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, now and for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 those who 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.

A Blessing

Let us be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of our lives; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be

among us and remain with us always.

Announcements:

Closing Music:

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.
Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !**

Please note that there is a 'treasure chest' at the back of the church where offerings can be left when leaving the church.

At the conclusion of the service, please remain seated until an usher dismisses you. If you are helping with post-service cleaning or counting, please remain seated until ushers indicate it is safe to move about.

Readings for Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62: 6 – 12

Psalm 97

Titus 3: 4 – 7.....

Luke 2: 1 – 20

Anglican Cycle of Prayer - please pray for:

4th Sunday of Advent

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer:
please pray for:**

ACC The Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Director, and the staff of Faith, Worship, and Ministry; Sheilagh McGlynn, Youth Ministries Animator; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

ELCIC Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the National Bishop, Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Gretchen Peterson, Assistant to the National Bishop, Youth and Leadership

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: please pray for:

St. James', Gravenhurst -The Rev. Heather Manuel
The Rev. Canon Tom James (Hon.), The Rev. Jim Schell (Deacon)

Parish Cycle of Prayer - please pray for our own church members: Bruce and Georgina Adderley, Roberta Adderley, Angela Alberta and Ava, Katelin Anderson, Ryan Thrasher, Brooke-Lynn and Scarlett, Olivia, Margaret Aris, Darlene Armstrong, Errol Atkinson, Wilson Barton, Sabata Baya, Brandon and Ellen Beaudry and Clint, Richard and Lesley BeauParlant, Wendy Bell, Ellie Bennett , Kerri and Shane Bernardi, Sydney and Samuel, Kim Bienvenue, Adrian Boissoneau, Jim Bolt, Margaret Boone

Please pray for: Our young people in Junior High School, High School, College and University who are struggling academically, social and mentally, as well as with understanding their own identities.

A grace note from www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

Jesus is coming to make all things new!

Reminder about Visitations:

Pastoral care visits will continue to be restricted to emergency situations – please call the office if such a situation arises.

Gathering Table Prayer Chain

During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to pray for one another. If you would like to be a part of the Gathering Table prayer chain or you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the prayer chain please contact

Sheila Chisholm at chisholmsheilak@gmail.com
or text /phone 306-240-0771.

Sunday Sermons: Sunday service can be viewed on the Gathering Table website <http://gatheringtable.ca> and on the Gathering Table Facebook page. The whole service will be live streamed at 10 a.m. Sunday at the link <http://gatheringtable.ca> **Please Note** You may be visible on the online stream

PWRDF

(Primates World Relief Development Fund)

Archbishop Anne Germond in her charge to Synod in the fall of 2021, talked about the importance of the **PWRDF'S Vaccine Equity Fund**, a resolution to support this project was passed by Algoma's synod. When you receive your vaccine, "Pay it forward" and make a donation to PWRDF'S Vaccine Equity Fund. Your gift will support PWRDF partners in the most vulnerable parts of the world as they prepare for vaccination rollout, including work already underway to supply PPE, thermometers, sanitation and hand washing facilities, and accurate public health information. After you make your donation, you can help yourself to a Christmas tree ornament at Gathering Table as a thank you from the Deanery. You may donate online by going to pwrdf.org/give-today and click on Vaccine Equity Fund. Or phone Donor Relations Officer Mike Ziemerink at 416-822-9083, or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and someone will return your call. Or send a cheque with "Vaccine Equity Fund" in the memo field to PWRDF, 80 Hayden St, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2 See the **World of Gifts Guide**, on the website or the insert in the Anglican Journal. For a unique meaningful gift, you can order seeds for farmers, livestock and contribute to projects worldwide, etc.

- You can order beautiful **Christmas cards** and spread the good news of PWRDF.
- Sign up for a **daily Advent reflection**.

For further information go to www.pwrdf.org

Linda Rintamaki (rep) linjrin@tbaytel.net



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th – Christmas Eve – 7 p.m.

Communion Rev. Gordon H



December 25th – No Service

December 26th – 10 a.m.

Communion – Rev. Gail Clifton

January 2nd, 2022
Lessons and Carols



2022 Envelopes

are now available at the back of the church.

Or Ask About Electronic Offering Program



Gathering Table
228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

Email: office@gatheringtable.ca

Web: <http://gatheringtable.ca>

Office: 345-6898

Hall: 345-6088

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday from 8 a.m. to noon

Pastor: Currently Vacant

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865 email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Lay Readers: Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine,
Brenda O'Neill and Jim Sutton, **On Leave:** Kim Bienvenue,

Lay Reader in Training: Richard Pepper

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| Rector's Warden: | Marg Boone |
| Deputy Rector's Warden: | Dr. Michelle Proudfoot |
| People's Warden: | Jim Sutton |
| Deputy People's Warden: | Sheila Chisholm |
| Co-Music Directors - | Pianist Donna Hamill
Organist (Vacant) |

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2021

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.” *Micah 6:8*