

THE FIRST READING

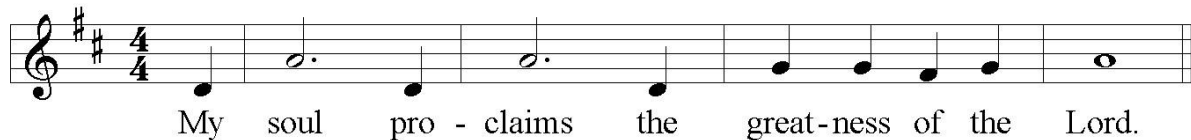
Micah 5:2-5a

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46B -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,
and has lifted up the lowly.
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 our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever Amen.

THE SECOND READING

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.

Aussi, en entrant dans le monde, le Christ dit: De sacrifice et d'offrande, tu n'as pas voulu, mais tu m'as façonné un corps. Holocaustes et sacrifices pour le péché ne t'ont pas plu. Alors j'ai dit: Me voici, car c'est bien de moi qu'il est écrit dans le rouleau du livre: Je suis venu, ô Dieu, pour faire ta volonté. Il déclare tout d'abord: Sacrifices, offrandes, holocaustes, sacrifices pour le péché, tu n'en as pas voulu, ils ne t'ont pas plu. Il s'agit là, notons-le, des offrandes prescrites par la loi. Il dit alors: Me voici, je suis venu pour faire ta volonté. Il supprime ce qui est premier pour établir ce qui est second. C'est dans cette volonté que nous avons été sanctifiés par l'offrande du corps de Jésus Christ, faite une fois pour toutes.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN S-35

Hope is a Star

"Moon beams"

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

May God be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer

ANTHEM

Christ is the morning star

John Rutter

APOSTLES CREED

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The people are invited to confession.

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 96 *Creator of the Stars of Night* *"Conditor alme siderum"*

The offering plates are passed through the congregation during the hymn. Financial gifts support the presence and ministries of St John's including Sunday worship and our many community initiatives. Your support is welcome but not required to participate in the life of this community. You may choose to place a gift on the plate or give it to a greeter at the conclusion of the service. If you already give financial support to St John's by other means – such as monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or QR Code – you are invited to place a small card on the plate (called a "PAR Chit"). PAR Chits are found at back of the church beside the nametags.



DONATIONS

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God our creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

4

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heaven and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho- san - na in the high - est. Bless ed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the highest, ho- san - na in the high - est.

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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

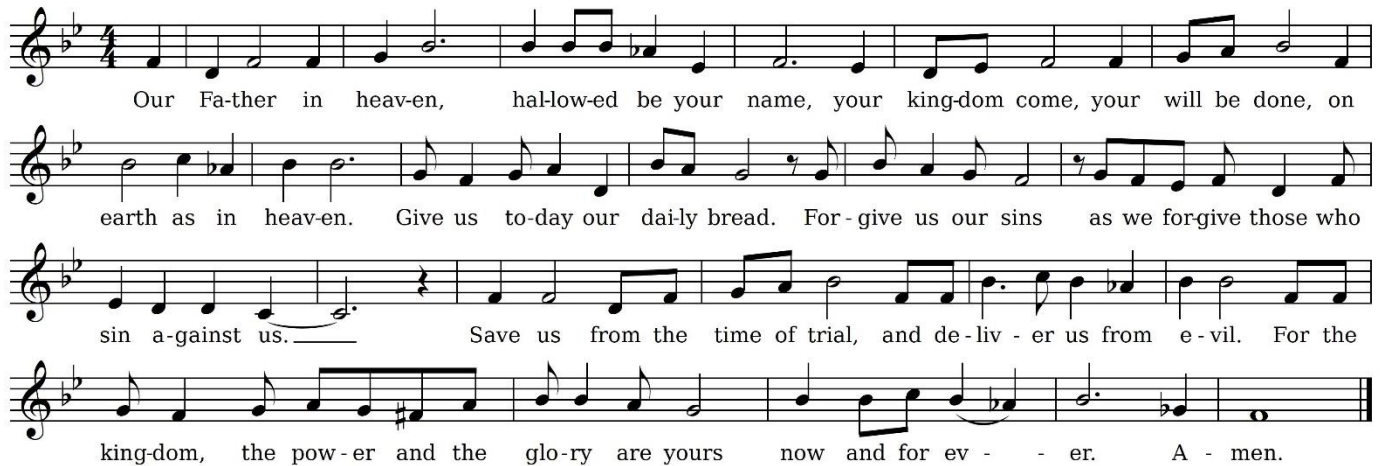
**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

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. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:



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 pow-er and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev - - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

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

Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.

The gifts of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION *Gabriel's Message*

Basque Carol

All are welcome to come forward to participate in the Eucharist. Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSINGS

DOXOLOGY

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Fantasy on "Helmsley"*

Kenneth Leighton

REFRESHMENTS

<i>Presider</i>	The Reverend Christina Guest
<i>Preacher</i>	The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer
<i>Interim Music Director</i>	Tom Annand
<i>Lead Warden</i>	Monica Patten
<i>Crucifer</i>	Jill Moll
<i>Servers</i>	Wendy McCutcheon and Mary Gorreth Katusime
<i>Cantor</i>	Anna Sharrett
<i>Intercessor</i>	Erin Biggs
<i>Readers</i>	Glenn Calder and James Myles
<i>Communion Assistant</i>	Wendy McCutcheon and Marilyn Box
<i>Sidespeople</i>	Elinor Clark and Jim Cummings
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Brian and Margot Cameron
<i>Tower Bell</i>	Glen Robinson
<i>Audio Tech</i>	Detlef Dransch
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	April Dickson, Margot Cameron and Karen Marks
<i>Hospitality</i>	Mary Frances Marshall
<i>Smudging</i>	Kimberly Johnson
<i>Lock-up Duty</i>	Jo Cassie

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