**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

***Anglican Church of Canada***

***November 27, 2022 — First Sunday of Advent***

We come and worship God.

**November 27, 2022 — First Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP)**p.4

Officiant – Bill Graham

Organist – Dorothy Miller

**Opening Hymn # 88**​

***Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus***

Greeting

**First Sunday of Advent – Candle of Hope**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Hope.

Our hope is in God, and in his son Jesus Christ.  He is the one appointed by God to be judge of all things.  He is the one through whom God has promised to save and redeem his people.

We light this candle today to remind us that he is our hope and the hope of the world.  We thank God for the promises he has made to us and for the light he has brought into the world.

**Lighting of the First Candle (Hope)**

Let us pray:  O God of Hope, Emmanuel, God with us, we pray you to send your light into our hearts at this time.  Help us to be ready for the day and the hour of Christ’s final appearing.  Live in us and help us to live in you.  By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform us so that our worship, our celebration, our time of preparation, may be pleasing unto you – both now and forevermore.  **Amen.**

**All sing:  “A Candle is Burning”**Words by Sandra Dean, 1986. Tune by James Murray 1887 (public domain)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,**

**a candle of hope in December’s dark night.**

**While angels sing blessings from heaven’s starry sky,**

**our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Exhortation​              p. 4

General Confession​p. 4

Absolution​               p. 5

The Lord’s Prayer​   p. 5

Responses​              p. 6

Venite​                      p. 6

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading:​Isaiah 2: 1-5

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**
The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm​122 ​**BCP**​p. 498

I was glad when they said unto me, ‘We will go into the house of the Lord.

**Behold, our feet now stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity in itself;

**Wither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.**

For there were set the thrones for judgement, even the thrones of the house of David.

**O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper that love thee.**

Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.

**For my brethren and companions’ sakes, I will wish thee prosperity.**

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good.

2nd Reading​Romans 13: 11-14

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel​Matthew 24: 36-44

Benedictus​                p.  9

The Apostles’ Creed​ p. 10

Versicles​                   p. 10

The Lord’s Prayer​     p. 11

Responses​               p. 11

**Collect of the Day:   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.**

Collect for Peace.      p. 11

Collect for Grace​p. 11

**Offertory Hymn. #374**​

***Alleluia! Sing to Jesus****(vs1, 3, 5)*

SungOffertory Response ​

***All Things Come of Thee***

Sermon

               Happy New Year!

I am not hallucinating, have not smoked weed or drank any of the communion wine. My calendar is not broken either. This is the first Sunday of the new Church year.  We have been in the long growing season of Pentecost for over a half year and now you can tell by the violet vestments and the Advent wreath, things have changed.  The church years are divided into 3 annual liturgical time slots with the readings, psalms and gospels for each day outlined.  We are starting over from Year C at year A. Let’s take a look at what the season of Advent means, where it came from and what, if anything, it has to do with us, in an age when Christmas seems to start, at the latest, on the day following Thanksgiving.

 ​First Advent comes from the Latin word “*advenio”*for “to come to”.  Thus, we have, in the season of Advent, a time of waiting on something that is to come to us.  What are we waiting for?  There is not a person over the age of about three in this church who would not immediately come up with ..Christmas!  That would be partly right. We are, indeed waiting for the Feast of the Nativity, of Christmas, which is the second season of the new church year. This has not always been the case that Church had an official season of Advent to come before the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

 ​Advent was originally a season of repentance, similar to Lent.  It was a season of fasting and prayer where people prepared themselves to properly celebrate not Christmas but the adoration of the baby Jesus by the Magi (Epiphany) on January 6th.  The exact starting date of the season has been lost in history, but it was not until the mid Fourth Century that it more or less took the shape that we now know. In the mid 300’s Constantine the Great, built the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and declare Jesus’ birthday to be a national holiday.  Near that time, Julius, the Bishop of Rome (or the Pope) declared that the date for the celebration of Jesus’ birth would be December 25th. It was at this time that Christmas took on a happier, more festive feel, meaning that Advent also took on a less introspective and solemn tone.  That explains the colours and feel of the season, but once again, what is it exactly that we are waiting for?

 ​This is one of the many times in the Church where we are caught in tension between two different things. On the one hand we have the  impending reenactment of the nativity event  with the cute little baby and all the hope and promise of His new life. On the other hand we have what Matthew’s Gospel points us toward this morning, the p***arousia.  Parousia*** is a Greek word, meaning, literally the arrival, but in Biblical context, the second coming of Christ, the final fulfillment of the covenant between God and humankind. This marks the  end of a long section of Matthew’s Gospel that dealt with the ***parousia.***The disciples have been asking Jesus how they will recognize the second coming  before it happens and what signs they should look for. Jesus, of course, refuses to do so ,He tells them the angels do not know when the time of the **parousia** will be. Even Jesus does not know when it will be. Only the Father knows. He gives them some examples of what will happen such as two will be working and only one will be left, or two women will be grinding meal together, one will be taken and one will be left., but nothing that will help them pin down a time and place. Jesus was trying to move them along the road where they would understand that the more important question dealt with howthey should handle the situation in which they found themselves, and **what**they could do to help usher in the Second Coming. What we are being called to do this morning is ask **what**, in this season of Advent, we can do to help prepare for the Second Coming, whenever it may come along,

      When will Christ come again? We don’t know. Does it matter when it happens? Not if we live this life in love. That puts the good of other people always at the forefront of our thoughts. Living this life in the current moment, but always with an eye toward the coming of Christ in glory, when the final days comes we will be ready and will rejoice. That kind of comfort sounds like the ultimate Christmas present to me.

**Sermon Hymn**#**91**​

***People, Look East!  The Time is Near***

Prayer for the King and Commonwealth​​​​​p.12

November 17, 2022

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Prayer for the King and Commonwealth.                     p. 12

Prayer for the Clergy and People​​​      ​p. 13

Prayer for All Conditions of Mortals​​​​      p. 14

General Thanksgiving *(said by all)*

​​​​​   ​p. 14

Prayer of Saint Chrysosto.      p. 15

**Prayer for a Renewed Church**: **Almighty God, give us a new** **vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory.  In Jesus’ name we pray.** **Amen.**

The Grace​                  p. 15

**Closing Hymn # 111**​

***Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement***

Dismissal

Officiant:​​Go in peace to love        and serve the Lord.

People:​​**Thanks be to  God.**

Sung Benediction​

***Howard’s Blessing****(vs 1,2)*

***(****found in the back of the blue hymn book)*

Please enter names in the**Intercessions Book**each week to be read in the service.

**The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of past members, a gift of the Ladies Guild/A.C.W.**

**News and Events**

Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week.  Call: 519-344-9531 or E-mail: canondavis@gmail.com

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If you would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, please let Rev. Ray know as he and/or a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

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Please join us for **Coffee**Hour after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall.

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**Christmas Poinsettias** If you wish to make a donation to the Christmas Poinsettias, please put your donation in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and include your name, envelope number, and the amount.  Please call Karen if you would like your gift acknowledged in the Church bulletins by December 8.

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Parish Council is very sorry to announce the following:  Ladies Guild will not be making pies until sometime in January 2023. CDM will not be hold a Christmas Bazaar this year.  We may hold something near the end of winter or early spring.  Ways and Means dinners have been cancelled for the rest of 2022 and will start back up in February 2023.

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The **Chancel Guild** has five Sunday’s **openings for the altar flower donors**.  They are: 1st and 2nd Sunday’s in April, 4th Sunday in June, 2nd Sunday in August and 2nd Sunday in September.  If you are interested in being an altar flower donor please contact Seonaid Laidlaw.  Thank you.

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**Church calendars** are still available for purchase after church.  The cost is $6.00.

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**This year, our Christmas Eve Service** on **December 24** will be held at **5:00 p.m. and**

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**Our Christmas Day Service of the Word** on **December 25** at **9:30 a.m**. Please join us.

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**St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 261 Christina St. N.**is hosting **Community Songs & Carol of Christmas**with the **Synergy 150 Choir** on **December 11, 2022 @7:00 p.m**.  Doors open at 630 p.m. with cookies and hot drinks afterwards.  Free will offering for our community benevolence fund.

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**The Salvation Army**has asked CDM to provide food donations of Mac and Cheese for their **Annual Christmas Food Baskets.**If you are able to contribute, donations of **Mac and Cheese** can be dropped off at the back of the church until **Thursday December 15, 2022.**

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**ST. JOHN’S BY-THE-LAKE, GRAND BEND**: Christmas Bazaar: One Stop Shopping. St. John’s-by-the-Lake, Grand Bend, Saturday, December 3, 10am-2pm. **Lots of new vendors and our returning favourites!**

**Reminders**

**Dec 14 Parish Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom**

**Dec 18 Please join us for our Lessons and Carols service.**

**Dec 24 CDM Christmas Eve Service** **at 5:00 p.m**.

**Dec 25**​**Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.**