



Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
Four Sundays in Advent



The Advent banners currently on display were originally designed by Willem Hart, at the urging of Fr Brian Freeland, in 1980.

They were executed as sewn banners in applique using dacron sail cloth. The current version, revised, takes advantage of newer technologies and are printed. Please see the Advent Banners leaflet for more details.

*From left to right (clockwise):
The Reign of Christ, Tidings of Joy,
A shoot shall grow, The people that
walked in darkness, The Holy
Spirit will come over you, and
Shalom. The seventh banner,
displayed in the Narthex (not
shown) represents The Word was
made flesh and dwelt among us.*



Sung Eucharist at 9:30 am

Saint Thomas's Anglican Church
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Welcome to Saint Thomas's and the beginning of a new Church year

SERVICE NOTES:

The hymns are listed in the weekly bulletin and found in the blue hymnal. The readings, including the congregational parts, are printed on a separate insert.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Holy Eucharist. You are welcome to kneel or stand as you prefer. If you would like to receive a blessing instead of the Eucharist, please come forward and cross your arms over your chest.

Children are very welcome at the service. Please ask the Greeters about the Children's Activity Box. If you wish, please inquire about other child care arrangements during the service.

There is no collection taken at this service, but if you would like to make a financial donation to the parish we would be very grateful. Donations are placed in the basin on the table in the aisle, next to the bread and wine. To receive an income tax receipt please fill out the envelope on the pew shelf.

If you have particular prayer requests please speak with the greeter who will show you the Intercessions Book on the table in the centre aisle.

After the Eucharist we would be delighted to have you join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall, adjacent to the Church.

ABOUT ADVENT

Advent is a rich liturgical season of preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not only the season of preparation for our Christmas festivities, but it begins a new church year. The liturgical colour is purple, representing the Penitence, Hope, and Expectation, with which we prepare for Jesus to come to us.

First, we look forward to the coming of the Son of God as an Infant at Christmas. Over the course of the coming year we intend to grow in our response to the mystery of the Incarnation by learning to love more deeply the world Christ came to redeem.

Second, we look for the coming of Christ in Spirit, and pledge to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us more freely. As the Holy Spirit draws us into union with God and one another, so we renew our intention to live as members of the Body of Christ with peace and joy and all the fruits of the Spirit.

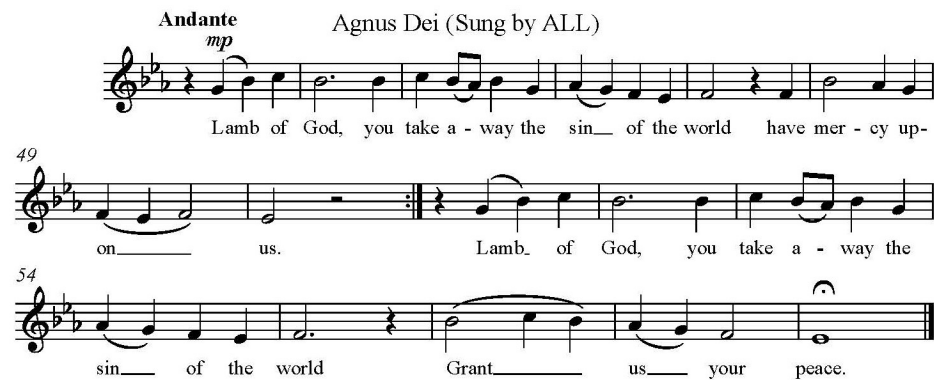
Third, we look for the coming of Christ in glory as judge of the living and the dead. Far from being a fearful event, Advent is time in which we learn to grow in hope and expectation that God will establish His kingdom in truth, justice, and beauty. As we look forward to the advent of God's kingdom, we learn to live now as worthy citizens of that kingdom.

As John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord by calling people to repentance, so Advent is a natural time to renew our spiritual lives. Many people choose to make their confession during Advent. It allows them to know God's forgiveness and the liberty of life in the Spirit. Confessions are heard on Fridays at 6 pm throughout Advent, or by appointment.

May God bless you this holy season, and throughout the new Church year.

Mark Andrews +

Andante
mp Agnus Dei (Sung by ALL)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin_ of the world have mer - cy up-
49 on_ us. Lamb_ of God, you take a - way the
54 sin_ of the world Grant_ us_ your peace.

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*All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive Communion. The sacrament is given with the following words: “The body of Christ (given for you)”... “The blood of Christ (shed for you)”; or “The body of Christ, the bread of heaven”... “The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation”. The communicant responds each time, **Amen**.*

During the communion, the choir may sing a motet and a hymn is sung.

At the conclusion of the communion, silence may be kept.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please remain standing

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*The Celebrant offers the Prayer after Communion after which the people respond, **Amen**.*

DISMISSAL & BLESSING

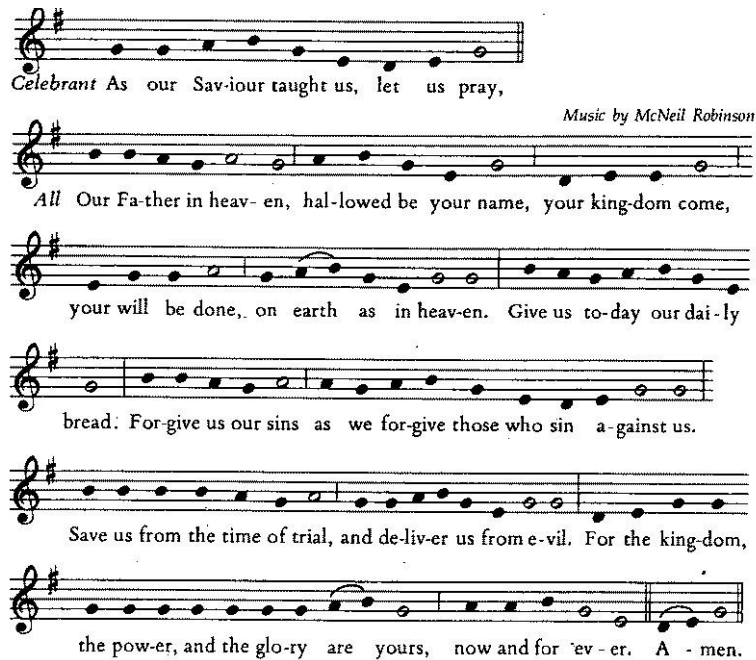
The Celebrant blesses the people saying:

May our Lord Jesus Christ be near us to defend and preserve us, within us to refresh us, before us to guide us; And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen**.

Celebrant: Go forth in peace proclaiming the advent of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



Celebrant As our Sav-iour taught us, let us pray,
All Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed 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-against 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.

Music by McNeil Robinson

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says,

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

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

THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant invites the people to share in communion and says,

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY EUCHARIST IN ADVENT

The Hymns for each service are printed in the Leaflet.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

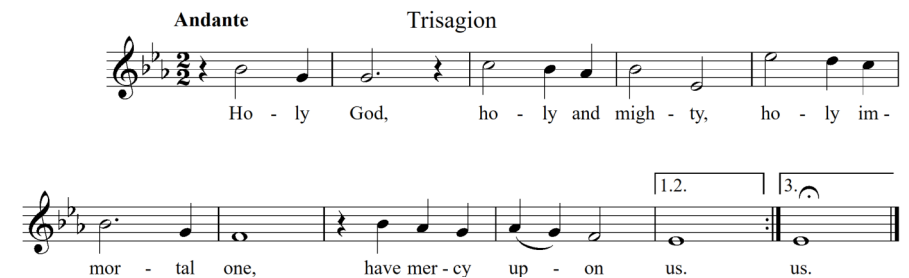
Please stand

The Celebrant greets the community:

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.**

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.**



Andante *Trisagion*
Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh - ty, ho - ly im -
mor - tal one, have mer - cy up - on us. us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: Let us pray.

*After a brief silence, the Celebrant prays the collect, after which the people respond, **Amen.***

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated

*The readings for the day, including the congregational parts, are found on the accompanying insert. At the end of the first two readings, the reader says "The word of the Lord", and the People respond **Thanks be to God***

Please stand for the Gospel

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

At the conclusion of the Gospel

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

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

SERMON

A silence for reflection may follow

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:

All: **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.**

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.

after which all join in singing the Sanctus and Benedictus

Andante Sanctus & Benedictus (Sung by ALL)
mf

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of
15 pow - er and might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
22 - na in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he that co - meth in the
28 name of the Lord Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Please kneel at the conclusion of the Benedictus.

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

THE NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We
look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A member of the congregation leads the Prayers of the People, announcing the people's response. Please feel free to stand, sit, or kneel. Your own requests can be written into the Intercession Book before the Service.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Dear friends, as we wait in joyful expectation of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the hope of the nations and our Saviour, let us confess our sins, for with the Lord there is mercy:

Please kneel. A Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,
All **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

Please stand

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The members of the community may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Preparation of the Gifts

A hymn is sung while the Gifts of the People, (the monetary Givings are placed in the Basin on the Table in the Aisle), together with the Bread and Wine, are brought to the altar.


The Prayer over the Gifts

The Celebrant offers the prayer for the Day and the people respond, Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


Celebrant The Lord be with you *People* And al - so 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.

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.