

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church & Iona Presbyterian Church

1080 Finch Ave East, Toronto, Ontario

Telephone: 416-494-2442

Church office hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00

Sunday Worship by Zoom and in person 10:30 a.m.



**Advent 2,
December 7, 2025**

Minister: Every member of the congregation

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. John Oakes

Email: revdrjohnoakes@outlook.com

Phone: (647) 219-5754

Rector's Warden: Carol Berger

People's Warden: Stacey Leslie

Iona Elders: Marg Black, Dorine Bourque, Melissa Reid.

Director of Music: Laura Hope

Office Administrator Bob Williams

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?omn=83067962618>

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104

No Passcode Needed



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Mississauga.

We acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it and whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

Cell Phones

Please ensure that your cell phone is switched off or set to "airplane" mode to conserve the wifi service for our Zoom broadcast. Many thanks!

**Holy Communion (Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* and
“Worship Planner”)**

Hymns are from *The Book of Praise*, unless otherwise noted

Presider: Rev. Dr. John Oakes

Celebrant and Preacher: Rev. Kathy Brownlee

Welcome

Processional Hymn #126: *On Jordan's Bank*

- 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is
nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.**
- 2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way
for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home where such a mighty guest may
come.**

**3. For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward:
without thy grace, we waste away, like flowers that wither and
decay.**

**4. To heal the sick, stretch out thine hand, and bid the fallen sinner
stand;
shine forth and let thy light restore earth's own true loveliness once
more.**

**5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee, whose advent sets thy people
free,
whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

Responsive Call to Worship

Presider: The light shines in the darkness,

All: We come to worship, seeking the peace of Christ.

Presider: Shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

All: Renew in us Jesus' call to be peacemakers this day.

Prayer of Adoration

Presider: God of wisdom and understanding, of peace and promise, you are the giver of life, and you live in us. You have welcomed us as your children and called us to live out your image with love for one another. In Jesus Christ, you offer us living water to wash away our sin and sorrow and call us back to paths of justice and righteousness.

With the Holy Spirit, you baptize us for service and life in community, refreshing us each day with your presence and purpose. Glory and honour and praise be yours, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, this day and every day, now and evermore. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Presider: Gracious God,

All: **you have been faithful to us in every generation.**

Yet we confess that we are not so faithful to you.

We shrink from costly discipleship and we seek cheap grace.

Forgive our fleeting enthusiasms and our shallow commitments. And guide us always with the love and mercy we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Presider: Receive the Good News in peace. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Receive the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with one another.

The Peace



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

All: And also, with you.

Presider: Let us offer each
other a sign of peace.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Dorine Bourque

This Sunday we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is always with us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war or discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Let us pray. Loving God, in this time of waiting and preparation, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Teach us the creative power of hope and show us the peace which passes all understanding. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ, in whose precious name we pray.

Amen.

Wreath Lighting Hymn: *Light One Candle* (Natalie Sleeth) (vv. 1–2)



**1. Light one candle for Peace One bright
candle for Peace
Christ brings Peace to every heart He comes,
He comes**

**2. Light one candle for Hope One bright
candle for Hope
Christ brings Hope to every heart He comes,
He comes** (Hinshaw Music, 1976)

The Proclamation of the Word

Prayer For Illumination

Presider: God of peace and possibility, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, our Prince

First Reading: – Isaiah 11:1-10 – David Rudd

Reader: The first reading is taken from the eleventh chapter of the Book of Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

1. A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD –³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash round his waist. ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox

⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting-place will be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19

Presider: 1. Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**People: 2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

Presider: 3. That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**People: 4. He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Presider: 5. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

**People: 6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

Presider: 7. In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall
be no more.

**People: 18. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

Presider: 19. And blessed be his glorious name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Presider: Let us pray. O God, bring our nation and all nations to a
sense of justice and equity, that poverty, oppression, and violence
may vanish and all may know peace and plenty. We ask this in the
name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Gradual Hymn CP#712: *Alleluia* (chorus x2)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia



Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1–12 – Marg Black

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the third chapter of Saint Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.”

⁴ John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the River Jordan. ⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

¹⁰ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.¹¹ I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual Hymn CP#712: *Alleluia* (chorus x2)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia



Sermon: “Are You Prepared?” – Rev. Kathy Brownlee

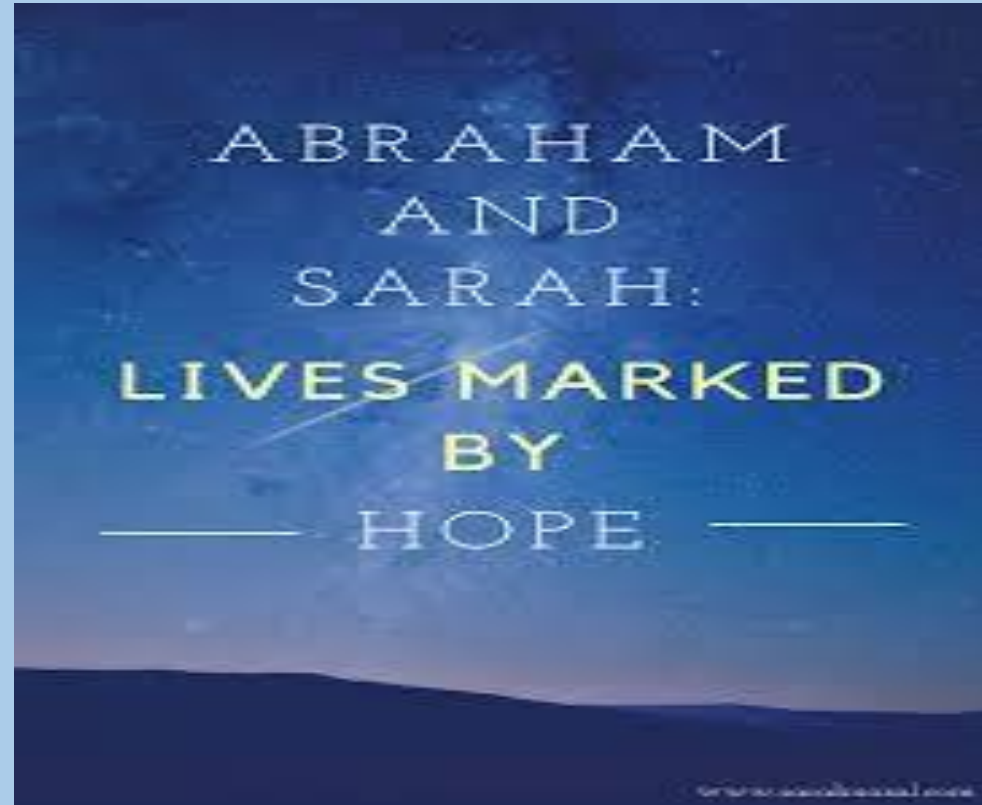


Are You Prepared

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Choir Anthem "*Hope Of Abraham and Sarah*"

Natalie Sleeth



The Apostle's Creed

Leader: 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Presider: Loving God, in Jesus Christ you teach us to pray and to present our petitions to you in his name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love for all. Gracious God, you have called together a people to be the church of Jesus Christ. We pray for our leaders, including Bishops Andrew, Kevin and Riscylla, Alex our Interim Moderator, John our priest and pastor, and all other ministers. May your people be one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together, and telling good news so that the world may believe you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Presider: Creator God, you made all things and called them good. May your planet earth be held in reverence by all people. May its resources be used wisely and its fragile balance between life and death respected. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Presider: Eternal Ruler,
in your mighty realm the nations rise and fall. Hear our prayers for those who govern, especially in conflict-ridden areas like Russia, Ukraine, and the Middle East. May the world's leaders learn wisdom and truth, establish justice and mercy, and seek the ways of peace. Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Presider: Healer of our every ill, we lift up all in our communities of faith and among our friends and families, who are suffering from illness, grief, depression, loneliness or anxiety, including Diane, Edna, Judy, Margaret, Jessima, Stanley, and all others whom we now name . . . We ask you to minister your healing grace, peace, comfort and provision to them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Presider: Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider. Our Father

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering



Presider: When we gather as God's Church, we also offer financial gifts in Jesus' name. Now is our opportunity to do so, so that God will be praised and Jesus' love will be spread in this generation and in those to come.

Offertory Hymn #115: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

**1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son;
hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.**

**2. He brings salvation speedy to those who suffer wrong;
he saves the poor and needy, and helps the weak be strong;
they sing who once were sighing, their darkness turned to light,
for they, who once were dying, are precious in his sight.**

**3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.**

**4. All powers shall bow before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing,
for he shall have dominion o'er river, sea and shore,
far as the eagle's pinion or dove's light wing can soar.**

**5. O'er every foe victorious, Christ on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest:
the tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.**

Prayer of Dedication

Celebrant: God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts in gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless them with growth so that peace will take root in people who face conflict and danger, and in places seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be their peace and their promise, we pray, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Celebrant: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. People will come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at table in the Kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

This is the Lord's Table. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 1

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.

Celebrant: Through the words of your prophets you gave your people hope by promising them the Redeemer. And now we rejoice that in your Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour has come and will come again in power and glory making all things new. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all who have served you in every age,

All: we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:

Sung (CP#735) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and Might ,heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: God of majesty and mercy, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Sent to be our Saviour, he delivered us from sin and death, bringing us abundant life through his courage and compassion. Dying on the cross, he gave up his life so that we might live. By raising him to new life, you promise us life everlasting. Ascended to your right hand, he spreads his mercy throughout your whole creation. We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving.

All: Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon this bread and wine, that we, and all who share
this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us. Here we
offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable
to you. In your mercy, accept our sacrifice of praise and
thanksgiving. Fill us with the joy of eternal life, that we
may be your faithful people until we feast with you in
glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (1 Cor. 10:17).

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ. (1 Cor. 10:16).

When we bless the cup, it is a sharing in the blood of Christ. (1 Cor. 10:16).

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Communion: *All who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are welcome to receive Communion. It will be administered to you, as you remain seated— first the bread, which we will all consume together after it has been distributed, then the cups, which we will also drink together.*

Communion Hymn: #151: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as prophets long have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

**2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Saviour,
when half spent was the night.**

**3. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendour our darkness everywhere.
True flesh, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us
and shares our every load.**

**4. O Saviour, child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Saviour, King of glory, who dost our weakness know,
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven
and to the endless day.**

Prayer after Communion

Presider: Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit, you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal. We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it. We have seen your love, so send us out to show it. We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it. And let all things be done for your glory, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Presider: Glory to God,

All: 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.**

Announcements

Benediction

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #128: *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying*

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!

**2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, go up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a dream away,**

**3. but the word of our God is steadfast; the arm of the Lord is
strong;
God stands in the midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs will gently hold,
to pastures of peace will lead them, and bring them safe to the fold.**

Presider: Alleluia! Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Cyprian's and Iona, as we continue our combined worship and ministry at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. After today's service, we invite everyone to join a joint fellowship time together in the Iona space.

Noon Meditation

The **Wednesday meditation** meets with David Rudd and others at **12 noon**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9321564941?pwd=QmhLdDZ6ekQ2a1FLMmRWK2tXU0F0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 932 156 4941

Passcode: 1080

Friday Zoom Bible Study

Rev. John's **weekly Zoom Bible Study, which meets on Fridays at 7 p.m., on Zoom continues our** series on "David: Developing a Heart for God." All are welcome to join at any time.

The link for the Zoom study is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8517044556>

Meeting ID: 851 704 4556

You can also join the meeting by phone on 647-374-4685
or 647-558-0588.

Ministry Opportunities

There are **ministry opportunities** in a number of **different areas**, for which **volunteers are welcome**. To help, **please contact Rev. John or one of the St. Cyprian's wardens or Iona elders**.

Memorial Flowers

We will be purchasing memorial flowers for the Christmas services for both St. Cyprian's and Iona.

If you would like to remember someone in this way, **please donate by Sunday, December 14.** On your donation envelope, please clearly print the following information:

- 1) Your name or family name (i.e., how you wish it to appear in the bulletin)
- 2) The name(s) of those you wish to remember/honour.

If preferred, write-ups may be emailed to Stacey at:

Stacey.leslie.2993@gmail.com

Food Donations

As the holiday season approaches, we would like to help others in need through food donations.

Brenda Haddock, who volunteers at the Scott Mission, and **Stacey Leslie**, who volunteers at the St. Paul's Food Bank in Pickering, **will be collecting food donations** on the following Sundays:

November 30, December 7 and December 14

Scott Mission needs: Fresh produce, cookies, chocolate, and bakery treats

St. Paul's Food Bank needs: cans of chickpeas, cooking oil, canned fruit, canned meats, crackers, cookies and juice

Any help is always appreciated if you would like to contribute.

Please talk to Brenda or Stacey if you have any questions. Thank you

Happy Birthdays

Joe Halstead Dec 12



**Happy birthday, Happy birthday, God loves you.
Happy birthday and may all your dreams come true.
When you blow out the candles, one light stays aglow
It's the love light of our Lord for all to know.**