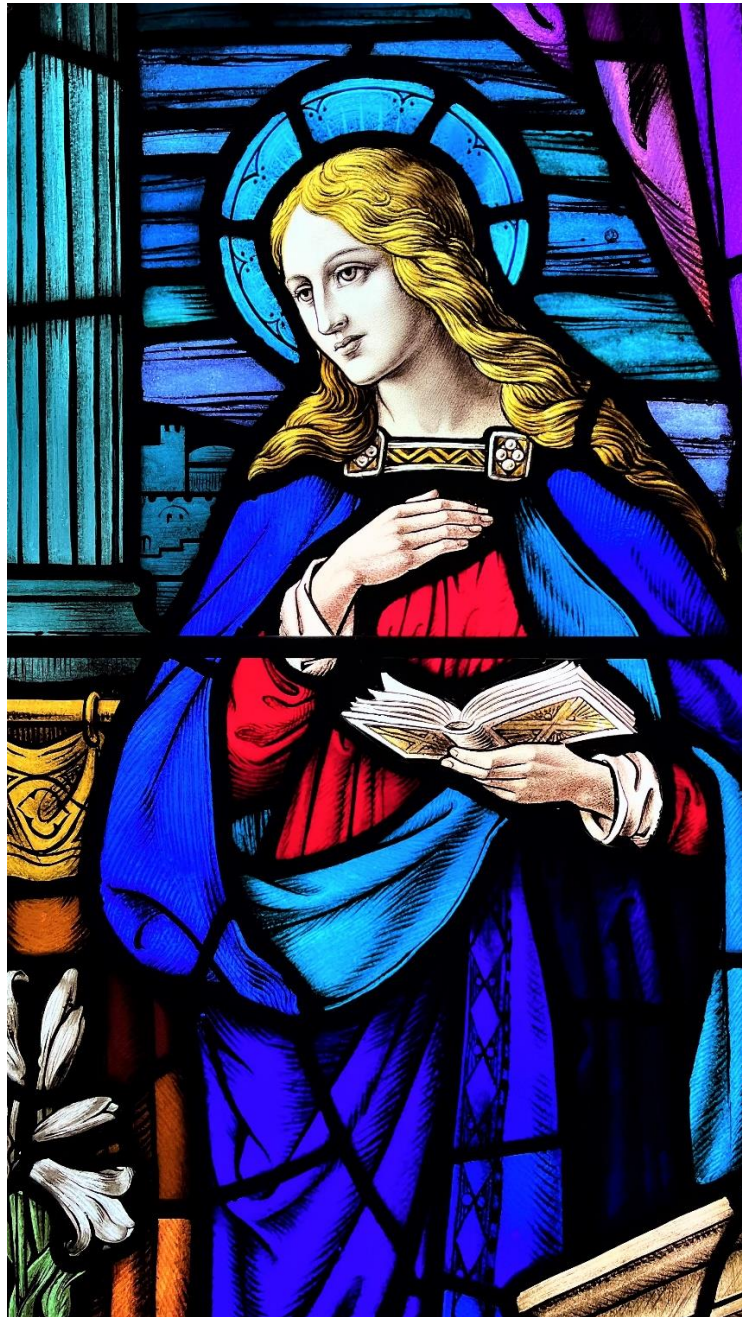


# New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada  
"Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others"  
Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.



Detail from *The Annunciation to Mary* (1933), New St. James

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Janice Mark

Advent Candle: The Kalonta Family

Choristers: Nathan Dyck, Ariel Harwood-Jones, Robert Hutson,  
Briana Sutherland, Patricia Wrigglesworth

## We Gather to Worship God

**Prelude** *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People (Freu' dich sehr, o meine Seele)* G. Near (1995)

\* **Processional Hymn** Herald! Sound the note of judgement (UNSER HERRSCHER) 117

\* **Responsive Call to Worship** Isaiah 40:3, 5

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together.”

### Prayers of Adoration and Confession

**Word of Assurance for Advent (sung in unison)** Titus 3:4-6 (RICHMOND) 118

The kindness of our God appears  
to pour out richest grace;  
as we are saved from sin and fears,  
we see the Saviour's face!

**Introit** *Prepare the Way, O Zion (Bereden Väg För Herran)* *Them Svenska Psalmboken* (1697)

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion; He comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name. [text: F. M. Franzen (1772-1847)]

### Welcome

## We Hear the Word of God

\* **Children's Hymn** There's a voice in the wilderness crying (ASCENSION) 128

### Word to the Children

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace**

**PWS&D Liturgy (see insert)**

**Sung Response** Hope is a star (MOON BEAMS)

119, verse 2

**Anthem** *This Is the Record of John*

O. Gibbons (1583-1625)

This is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who art thou?” And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, “I am not the Christ.” And they asked him, “What art thou then? Art thou Elias?” And he said, “I am not.” “Art thou the prophet?” And he answered, “No.” Then said they unto him, “What art thou, that we may give an answer unto them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?” And he said, “I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, ‘make straight the way of the Lord!’”

### Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Old Testament Lesson** Isaiah 40:1-11

p. 667 in O.T.

**Responsive Psalm** Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

LORD, you were favourable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,

to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.  
Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.  
Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

\* **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson** Mark 1:1-8

p. 34 in N.T.

**Sermon** "Comfort My People"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

**We Respond in Faith and Service**

\* **Hymn** Comfort, comfort you my people (GENEVAN)

113

**Offertory Anthem** *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People*  
*(Freu' dich sehr, o meine Seele)*

G. Böhm (1661-1733)

\* **Doxology for Advent** (WINCHESTER OLD)

138, verse 6

"All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin, and never cease!"

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**Announcements**

**Solo** *He Shall Feed His Flock*  
Ariel Harwood-Jones, soprano

J. Ness Beck (1986); arr. C. Courtney (1990)

He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently shall lead those that are with young. He shall gather in His arm, and carry them close to His heart, and gently, so gently shall lead those with young.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Commemoration,  
and the Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

\* **Recessional Hymn** On Jordan's bank (WINCHESTER NEW)

126

\* **Commission and Benediction**

\* **Threefold Amen** (DANISH)

780

**Postlude** *Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People (Freu' dich sehr, o meine Seele)*

M. Reger (1873-1916)

## Announcements

New St. James is a mask-friendly environment. Masking is now optional, however, we continue to encourage masking (especially while singing or when distancing is difficult). If you are feeling unwell, please consider joining Worship online, avoiding in-person attendance, and wearing a mask.

Please join us following worship for **refreshments and fellowship** in New St. James Hall.

**Highland Group** welcomes young children into **the nursery**, outside the west doors of the Sanctuary.

The **Highland Group** will meet this Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 p.m. in the parlour for our annual Christmas party. Please bring an unwrapped gift for the Mothers at the Pregnancy and Family Support Centre. It has been suggested that a \$5.00 gift card for Tim Hortons or the Dollar Store would be appreciated. Also, please bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$15.00 for our Christmas gift exchange. For any further information, please contact Karen Buchwald at (519.641.6742 or karenbuchwald@hotmail.com).

The **Bible Study** continues this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Please knock at the Wellington Street door between 6:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and someone will let you in. If you are later than 7:00 p.m., please phone Linda Robinson's cell (519.615.0559).

The Salvation Army **Christmas Toy Drive**: your donation of a new, unopened, unwrapped gift will help provide a Merry Christmas to many children in our community. A nonviolent toy that does not require batteries is preferable, and please do not wrap the toy. You will have until this Tuesday (December 12) to drop off your toy in the large toy box near the entrance of the NSJ Hall. To find out more and to see their "Wish List" visit <https://londoncfs.ca/christmas-hamper-donations>

On Sunday, **December 24**, we will enjoy two Worship Services at New St. James. At 10:30 a.m., we will offer our Sunday morning service, celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent. At 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with our Christmas Eve service.

### Financial Update, end of November, 2023:

	Jan - Nov 2023	Jan - Nov 2022	\$ Change	% Change
Total Income	\$ 276,469	\$261,161	\$ 15,308	5.9 %
Total Expense	\$ 337,903	\$292,460	\$ 45,443	15.5 %
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -61,325</b>	<b>\$ -31,299</b>	<b>\$-30,135</b>	<b>-95.9 %</b>

There are now several options for you to provide regular **financial support** to New St. James:

- For Offering Envelopes, please call the Church Office (519.434.1127)
- Cheques may be mailed to NSJ: 280 Oxford St. E., London, ON N6A 1V4
- Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) it is a convenient way to give—and the church benefits from your steady contributions. Contributions are automatically debited from your bank account on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. To sign up for PAR, call the Church Office or visit [www.newstjames.ca/donate-2](http://www.newstjames.ca/donate-2)
- To make an offering through e-transfer, please email Judi Le Blanc (Office Administrator) at [admin@newstjames.ca](mailto:admin@newstjames.ca)

Income Tax statements are issued by New St. James each year by the end of February.

Thank you for supporting the life and mission of New St. James!

**Save those stamps!** We are collecting cancelled postage stamps for the Canadian Bible Society. Sales from these stamps help pay for the translation and distribution of bibles around the world. Stamps can be placed in the small box attached to the wall just inside the Wellington Street door. Note: there must be at least a 1/4" border around the stamp.

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New St. James Presbyterian Church • 280 Oxford St. East • London, ON • N6A 1V4  
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## Second Sunday in Advent

# Peace

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**Voice 1:** The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.

**Voice 2:** "For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace."

*(Isaiah 9)*

"The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

*(Philippians 4)*

**Voice 1:** The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace—shalom—in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God's shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

**Voice 2:** Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**All:** **Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.**

**Voice 2:** We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**All:** **We light this candle to shine for peace.**

*(while lighting the candle of peace)*

*Sing verse 2 of #119 Hope is a star*



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THE DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

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# “This assistance has provided me relief”



In Pakistan, Hafiza Bibi, a single mother of four, suffered the loss of her husband and daughter and saw her home crumble before her eyes during a devastating monsoon season.

Hafiza’s husband had worked as a farmer labourer, while Hafiza stayed at home, caring for her four children. “Our relatives would sometimes help us by giving wheat or money as charity. However, after the floods, everyone suffered badly, and no one we know was able to help,” she explains.

Hafiza and her family were selected to participate in a food assistance project supported by PWS&D through our local partner Community World Service Asia, with support from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. “I bought essential food items such as wheat flour, rice, sugar, tea, milk and vegetables. This assistance has provided me with some relief and allowed me to put food on the table for my children,” she shares, with peace of mind.

**This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to provide comfort by ensuring families have the necessary resources to sustain their lives.**

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