

Welcome to St Timothy's

**The Fourth Sunday of
Advent**

*They shall name him
Emmanuel,
which means,
"God is with us."
Matthew 1:23b*



December 21, 2025
In-Person & Online Service at 10:00am

O Emmanuel

O come, O come, and be our God-with-us
O long-sought With-ness for a world without,
O secret seed, O hidden spring of light.
Come to us Wisdom, come unspoken Name
Come Root, and Key, and King, and holy
Flame,
O quickened little wick so tightly curled,
Be folded with us into time and place,
Unfold for us the mystery of grace
And make a womb of all this wounded world.
O heart of heaven beating in the earth,
O tiny hope within our hopelessness
Come to be born, to bear us to our birth,
To touch a dying world with new-made hands
And make these rags of time our swaddling
bands.

- *by Malcolm Guite*

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland (Saviour of the Nations, Come) (J. S. Bach)
(Performed by Edward Connell)

Processional Hymn: (Please stand as you are able)

88, Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

(Stuttgart)

Opening Sentences

Celebrant: 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.

Penitential Rite

Celebrant: Now is the time to wake out of sleep.

All: For the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Celebrant: Our Sovereign and Saviour draws near.

All: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

Celebrant: A voice cries out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’
This Advent let us heed the prophet’s call and
turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.
Heavenly Father,

you have created a universe of light,
All: forgive us when we return to darkness.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

All: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Celebrant: Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts,

All: renew us in faith and love.

Kyrie Eleison (sung)

**Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison. Lord, have mercy.**

(Page 1 in the Mass for Advent booklet)

Absolution

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.

All: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

*The Children are invited to come forward for
the lighting of the Candle of Love, the 4th of Advent.*

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: We light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy
again as we remember that Jesus, born in
Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill God's
promises.

(The first, second & third candles are lit)

Today, we light the Candle of Love to remind us that God so loved the world that he sent his son Jesus to live amongst us.

All: **Love is like a candle shining
in a dark place.
As we look at the light of this
candle, we recognize the
presence of Christ in our lives.**



(The fourth Advent Candle is lit)

Song: **A Candle is Burning**

**A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,
A candle to point us to heaven above
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

(Sung to the tune of "Away in a Manger")

The Prayer of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of promise, you show us your love by sending Jesus to be with us. Like Joseph and Mary, we trust your message and listen for your presence. We pray for the world, confident in your love and care for all.

All: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

The Proclamation of the Word

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Then the Lord spoke to Ahaz again. The Lord said, "Ask for a sign to prove to yourself that these things are true. It may be a sign from as deep as the place where the dead are or as high as the heavens."

But Ahaz said, "I will not ask for a sign. I will not test the Lord."

Then Isaiah said, "Ahaz, descendant of David, listen very carefully! Isn't it bad enough that you wear out the patience of people? Do you have to wear out the patience of my God also? But the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name him Immanuel. He will be eating milk curds and honey when he learns to reject what is evil and to choose what is good. You are afraid of the kings of Israel and Aram now. But before the child learns what is good and what is evil, the lands of Israel and Aram will be empty.

Isaiah 7: 10 - 16 (ICB)

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 80: 1 - 7, 16 - 18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and
Manasseh, ***

stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God of hosts; *

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; *

give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Romans 1: 1 - 7 (NRSV)

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reader: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand as you are able)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Christ appears on earth to reign.

(Helmsley)

The Gospel

(Please stand as you are able)

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Matthew.

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but
before they lived together, she was found to be with child
from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned

to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1: 18 - 25 (NRSV)

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Christ appears on earth to reign.

(Helmsley)

(Please be seated)

Homily

(Please remain seated for the Anthem)

Anthem: As Joseph Was A-Walking

As Joseph was a-walking, he heard an angel sing;
“This night there shall be born on earth,
our heav’nly King, our heav’nly King.

He neither shall be clothèd in purple nor in pall,
But in the fair white linen that babies usen all, that babies
usen all.

He neither shall be rockèd in silver nor in gold;
But in a wooden cradle that rocketh on the mould, that
rocketh on the mould.

As Joseph was a walking, he heard an angel sing;
“This night there shall be born on earth,
our heav’nly King, our heav’nly King.

*(Traditional English, sometimes called “The Cherry Tree
Carol” arranged by Fred Gramann)*

The Affirmation of Faith (Please stand as you are able)

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we
exist?

All: We believe and trust in God.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who
took our human nature, died for us, and rose
again?

All: We believe and trust in God.

Celebrant: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes
Christ known in the world?

All: We believe and trust in God.

Celebrant: This is the faith of the Church.

**All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one
God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*(Please adopt the pose most comfortable for you during the prayers
of the people and respond as indicated.)*

Leader: ... We pray:

All: Lord, show us your light.

Celebrant: Show us your light, O God, and bring us to the
day of our redemption, through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

All: Amen.

The Peace

(Please stand as you are able)

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

People: And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn:

(Please stand as you are able)

89, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!**

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

(Veni Emmanuel, vs 1,2,5-7)

*If you wish to make a donation and would like to use a donation envelope, they are available at the back of the church.
All cheques should be made payable to Church of St. Timothy.*

*You can also donate online through Canada
Helps – just open your camera app and
scan this code.*



*If the collection plate doesn't reach you and you have a donation,
please hand it to a greeter as you leave the church.*

Prayer over the Gifts

(Please stand as you are able)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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.**

(Please adopt the pose most comfortable for you - stand, sit or kneel)

Eucharistic Prayer 3

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: 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.

**All (sung): Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest the One who comes in the name of the
Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

(Page 3 in the Mass for Advent booklet)

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 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.”

All: Therefore, Father, according to his command,
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.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**All (sung): Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heav'n.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins as we forgive those, forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
Deliver us from evil.
The kingdom, the power and the glory are
yours,
Now and forever, Amen.**

(Page 4 in the Mass for Advent booklet)

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God, for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei (sung by all)

Lamb of God, you take away our sin:
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away our sin:
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
Grant us, O grant us peace.

(Page 5 in the Mass for Advent booklet)

*All persons are welcome to receive **Communion or a Blessing** as appropriate at our services. You may choose to receive both the bread and the wine or just the bread. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask the priest for these as you come to receive. If you choose to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest as you stand at the altar rail.*

*If you would like to receive an **Anointing**, please proceed to the chapel on the right where one of the anointers will meet with you.*

Communion Hymn: (Congregational singing while seated)

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.

“Fear not” the angel told her,
“I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.”

“For you are highly favoured
by the God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed,
God chose you, you are blest!”

But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel’s word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel’s message,
it troubled her to hear.

“Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God’s offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high.”

“How shall this be?” said Mary,
“that I should be with child.”
The angel answered quickly,
“The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child shall be God’s child.”

As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,”
she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready
according to your word.”

(Annunciation)

Saviour of the Nations, Come

Saviour of the nations, come;
show the glory of the Son!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
that our Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
by the Spirit of our God
was the word of God made flesh--
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous child
of the Virgin undefiled!
Mighty God and man in one,
eager now his race to run!

God Creator is his source,
back to God he runs his course,
down to death and hell descends,
God's high throne he reascends.

Now your lowly manger bright
hallows night with newborn light;
let no night this light subdue,
let our faith shine ever new.

(Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland 90)

Prayer after Communion

(Please stand as you are able)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: 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.**

Doxology

Celebrant: 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.**

The Blessing

Celebrant: Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring
in love all the days of your life;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and
remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Community Notices

(Please be seated)

Recessional Hymn:

(Please stand as you are able)

121, O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous Gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

(Forest Green)

The Dismissal

Leader: As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to
love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: **Fugue on the Magnificat** *(J. S. Bach)*
(Performed by Edward Connell)

Our worship is over – our service begins.

Coffee Hour



A warm welcome is extended especially to all visitors and newcomers. Please join us for refreshments in Soward Hall.

Your hosts today will be the Kirton & Maplazi Families.

Gluten free options are available.

Week of December 22nd to 26th



This week the office hours are on **Monday and Tuesday** from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Please call ahead and **make an appointment** if you wish to meet with a specific member of the clergy or staff. **The office is closed from Wednesday, December 24th to Friday, December 26th.**

This Week at St. Timothy's

- ***Morning Prayer with a Thought for the Day*** will be broadcast online via Zoom every morning, **Monday to Wednesday and Friday at 9:30am.**
There will be NO morning prayer on Thursday this week.
- ***St. Andrew's Group*** meets online via Zoom **on Wednesdays at 12:00nn** for lunch and fellowship. Please contact Janet Fraser janet.fraser@sympatico.ca for the link.
- ***Christmas Eve Services***
 - ***4:30pm - A Family Christmas Eve***
– an intergenerational eucharist service and children's pageant
 - ***7:30pm - Candlelight Eucharist Service***
- ***Christmas Day Service at 10:00am***
– a service of holy eucharist
- ***Next Sunday, December 28th – The First Sunday of Christmas***
 - **10:00am: Holy Eucharist with Children's Programming**

New to St. Tim's?

Are you new to St. Tim's?

Welcome! We are glad you have chosen to join us.

Please consider completing a **Newcomer Information Card** (ask a member of the Welcome Team) or contact Ashani directly

416-488-0079 or office@sttimothy.ca so that we can accurately record your information in the parish directory and ensure you are kept up to date with news and events.

Parish Directory Update

Have you recently **moved, changed your phone number or email address?**



Please contact Ashani office@sttimothy.ca or 416-488-0079 and provide her with your updated information.
