**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 am to 1:00 pm

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



**Advent 1**

**December 1, 2024**
Minister: Every member of the congregations
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

Lay Assistant: Mary Nagrani

**Zoom Link**

**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?pwd=WTVXeWtJZWV2RW9JVGJGOE5VUVB1dz09**

Or call: 647 374 4685 or 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104 Passcode: 432441

**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.

**Baptism and Holy Communion (BAS)**

**Hymns are from *Common Praise***

**Presider and Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Oakes**

**Celebrant of Baptism: Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark**

*Today we welcome Niculae Aldo Dumitrache as a new member of Christ’s church.*

**Welcome**

**The Gathering of the Community**

**Opening Sentence:** “Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Luke 21.28).

**Processional Hymn #89: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** (vv. 1–4 & 7; first verse

 Solo sung by Sandra Baker)

Presider: 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.**

Presider: There is one body and one Spirit,

**People: There is one hope in God’s call to us;**

Presider: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**People: One God and Father of all.**

Presider: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

Presider: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Presider: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In preparation for that coming, we reflect on the Advent of Christ and light candles for the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The word “Advent” literally means “coming” and this special season in the church year speaks to the deep truths that Christ has come in a manger in a stable in Bethlehem, that he comes to us right now by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that he will one day come again in glory to usher in a new heaven and a new earth.

So today, as we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath, the candle of hope, we rejoice in the great hope that Christ brings for peace, healing, salvation, and the well-being of all creation. In 1 Peter 1:3, we read, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Let us pray.

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, help us to open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed that we may walk in the light of Christ every single day of our lives. In his precious name we pray. **Amen.**

**Wreath Lighting Hymn: *Hope Is a Star*** (Brian Wren & Joan Collier Fogg)(v. 1)

**Hope is a star that shines in the night**

**Leading us on till the morning is bright.**

**When God is a child, there’s joy in our song**

**The last shall be the first and the weak shall be strong,**

**And none shall be afraid.**

**The Collect of the Day**

Presider: Let us pray.

 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.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Ron Bloor**

Reader: The first reading is from third chapter of St. Paul’s First Epistle to the

 Thessalonians, beginning at the ninth verse.

**9**How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? **10**Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. **11**Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. **12**And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. **13**And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 25:1–10**

Presider: 1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;

let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**People: 2. Let none who look to you be put to shame;**

**let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

Presider: 3. Show me your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths.

**People: 4. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

Presider: 5. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

**People: 6. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;**

**remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.**

Presider: 7. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

**People: 8. He guides the humble in doing right**

**and teaches his way to the lowly.**

Presider: 9. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**People: 10. For your name’s sake, O Lord,**

**forgive my sin, for it is great.**

Presider: Let us pray. God of compassion and love, forgive our sins, relieve our misery, satisfy our longing, and fulfil all our hopes for peace;

through your Son Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

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

**Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25–36 Mary Nagrani**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the twenty-

 first chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the twenty-fifth verse.

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

**25**[Jesus said] “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. **26**People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. **27**At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. **28**When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. **29**He told them this parable: “Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. **30**When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. **31**Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. **32**Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. **33**Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. **34**Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. **35**For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. **36**Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus**

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

**Sermon: “Signs of the Times” –** Rev. Dr. John Oakes

**Choir Anthem: “**Come,Thou Redeemer of the Earth” (Ambrose & J.M. Neale)

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidate for Baptism**

**Presider:** The candidate for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

**Parents and sponsors:** I present Niculae Aldo Dumitrache to receive the

 sacrament of baptism**.**

**Presider:** Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

**Parents and sponsors:** I will, with God’s help.

**Presider:** Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

**Parents and sponsors:** I will, with God’s help.

**Presider:** Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**Parents and sponsors:** I renounce them.

**Presider:** Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**Parents and sponsors:** I renounce them.

**Presider:** Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Parents and sponsors:** I renounce them.

**Presider:** Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

**Parents and sponsor:** I do.

**Presider:** Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

**Parents and sponsors:** I do.

**Presider:** Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

**Parents and sponsors:** I do.

**Presider:** Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support this child in his life in Christ?

**People: We will.**

**PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE AND THE COMMUNITY**

**Leader:** Let us now pray for Niculae who is to receive

 the sacrament of new birth, and for the church and our world.

 For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy

Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For our bishops, and for all clergy and people, let us pray to the

Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For the sick and the suffering, especially those whom we now name . . . let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For Niculae, O Lord, that you will deliver him from the way of sin and death.

**All:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Open his heart to your grace and truth.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Fill him with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Teach him to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Send him into the world in witness to your love.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Bring him to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

**THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

**Thanksgiving over the Water**

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Celebrant:** We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Celebrant:** We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Celebrant:** We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Celebrant:** We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who

teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

**All: Blessed be God for ever.**

**Celebrant:** We give you thanks for you have called Niculae to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify this water, that your servant who is washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Anoint him with your Holy Spirit and bring him to new birth in the family of your Church, that he may become an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. We give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**All: Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.**

*Please stand*

**The Baptismal Covenant**

**Presider:** Let us renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**Presider:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: 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.**

**Presider:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Presider:** Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**Presider:** Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**Presider:** Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**Presider:** Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**Presider:** Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**Presider:** Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

**People: I will, with God’s help.**

**The Baptism**

**Celebrant:** Niculae Aldo, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

 I sign you with the cross,

 and mark you as Christ’s own for ever.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you bestow upon your servants the forgiveness of sin,

and raise us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart,

the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

**The Giving of the Light**

**Celebrant:** Receive the light of Christ,

to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

**All: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good work sand glorify your Father in heaven.**

**Presider:**  Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**All: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

*Please stand*

**THE PEACE**

**Presider:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet those around you in the name of Christ.*

**Offertory Hymn #35: *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters***

**Prayer over the Gifts**

Presider: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**The Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Communion Prayer**

Presider: The Lord be with you.
**People: And also with you.**
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

Presider: It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious

God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever. Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing,

**All (sung): #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.**

Presider: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are

able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him.

He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself,

he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends,

took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, “Take and 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.”

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour’s sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

**All:** **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this

Cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(“Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer” from *Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer Supplementary to The Book of Alternative Services*. ABC Publishing, 2001.)

**The Lord’s Prayer**

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

**All:**  **Our Father, 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 trespasses, as we**  **forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into**  **temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the**  **power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

Presider: 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.**

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**All (sung): #735**

 **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the** **world: have mercy on**  **us.**

 **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on**  **us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace. Grant us peace.**

**Communion:** *All who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are welcome to receive Communion. You may choose between the common or an individual cup. If you would rather not receive either, simply push out your hand. If would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms when you approach the Communion station.*

**Communion Hymn #91: *People, Look East!***

**Prayer after Communion**

Presider: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord.

**All: 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 forever and ever, Amen**.

**Announcements**

**Blessing**

Presider: The Peace of God, which passes all understanding. Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Recessional Hymn #114: *Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending***

**Dismissal**

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome!**

**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**.

**Sunday Bible Study**

The **Sunday Bible Study continues at noon** in the Fellowship Room**.** Rev. John is helping facilitate **a study on 1 Corinthians,** using a study guide by N. T. Wright. **All are welcome!**

**Christmas 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 15.** 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

**Christmas Services**

We have **a rich programme of Christmas services** to look forward to in the next few weeks:

December 22, 10:30 a.m. — Service of Seven Lessons and Carols

December 24, 7:30 p.m. — Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight with Communion

December 25, 10:30 a.m. — Traditional Christmas Day Communion

**All are invited and all are encouraged to bring family and friends** to these special services!

**Wednesday Noon Meditation**

The **Wednesday meditation with David Rudd continues at 12 noon.** It is **20 minutes long** and **a helpful way to nurture your faith** through the practice of silent prayer.

The **Zoom link** is:

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

**Friday Zoom Bible Study**

Rev. John’s weekly **Zoom Bible Study continues on Fridays at 7 p.m.**

**All are welcome at any time.** You can join online at:

**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 Opportunity**

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 in December:  1, 8 and 15.**

Current **key items are vegetable oil, syrup, peanut butter, canned tomatoes, canned meat, juice, boxed stuffing, canned gravy and canned cranberries**. Any help is always appreciated if you would like to contribute. **Please continue bringing bags**, especially the clear bags for vegetables and fruits.

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

**Happy Birthdays**

 Gizaw Otoo-Annan Dec 1

 Freda Hopkinson-Manning Dec 1

 Boris Xiao Dec 5

**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 is the love light of our Lord for all to know.**

**Happy Birthdays**

**???**

**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 is the love light of our Lord for all to know.**