The Church of

ST STEPHEN

Downsview





With Fr Matthew Waterman

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent

First time at St Stephen's?
See what we're about!

Order of Service

Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.
(Luke 21.28) ……..…..……. (BAS 268)

The Great Litany ……. (BAS 138)

Prayer of Approach to God

Celebrant: God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,
All: Have mercy on us.
Celebrant: God the Son, redeemer of the world,
All: Have mercy on us.
Celebrant: God the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
All: Have mercy on us.
Celebrant: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God,
All: Have mercy on us.

Prayers of Deliverance

Celebrant: Lord, remember not our offences, nor the offences of our forebears; spare us, good Lord, spare your people whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
All: Spare us, good Lord.
Celebrant: From all evil and mischief, from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil, from your wrath, and from everlasting condemnation,
All: Good Lord, deliver us.
Celebrant: From all spiritual blindness, from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
All: Good Lord, deliver us.
Celebrant: From all deadly sin, and from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
All: Good Lord, deliver us.
Celebrant: From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of your word and commandment,
All: Good Lord, deliver us.
Celebrant: From earthquake and tempest; from drought, fire, and flood; from civil strife and violence; from war and murder; and from dying suddenly and unprepared,
All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayer Recalling Christ's Saving Work

Celebrant: By the mystery of your holy incarnation, by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; and by your proclamation of the kingdom,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Celebrant: By your agony and bitter grief, by your cross and passion, by your precious death and burial, by your glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Celebrant: In our times of trouble, in our times of prosperity, in the hour of death, and on the day of judgement,

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant: Receive now our prayers, Lord God. May it please you to rule and govern your holy Church universal and lead it in your way.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Strengthen your servant Charles our King in true worship and holiness of life, be his defender and keeper, that he may always seek your honour and glory, and endue the leaders of this nation with wisdom and understanding.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Bless and defend all who strive for our safety and protection, and shield them in all dangers and adversities.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Grant wisdom and insight to those who govern us, and to judges and magistrates the grace to execute justice with mercy.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Enlighten all bishops, priests, and deacons with true knowledge and understanding of your word, that in their preaching and living they may declare it clearly and show its truth.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Bless all your servants preparing for ministry in your Church. Pour your grace upon them that they may serve others as Christ himself has served us, for the building up of his Body in love.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Encourage and prosper your servants who spread the gospel in all the world, and send out labourers into the harvest.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Bless and keep your people, that all may find and follow their true vocation and ministry.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Give us a heart to love and reverence you, that we may diligently live

according to your commandments.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: To all your people give growth in grace to listen to your word, to receive it gladly, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Strengthen those who stand firm in the faith, encourage the faint-hearted, raise up those who fall, and finally beat down Satan under our feet.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: To all nations grant unity, peace, and concord, and to all people give dignity, food, and shelter.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Grant us abundant harvests, strength and skill to conserve the resources of the earth, and wisdom to use them well.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Enlighten with your Spirit all who teach and all who learn.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Come to the help of all who are in danger, necessity, and trouble; protect all who travel by land, air, or water; and show your pity on all prisoners and captives.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Strengthen and preserve all women who are in childbirth, and all young children, and comfort the aged and lonely.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Defend and provide for the widowed and the orphaned, the refugees and the homeless, the unemployed, and all who are desolate and oppressed.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Heal those who are sick in body or mind, and give skill and compassion to all who care for them.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Grant us true repentance, forgive our sins, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.

All: Hear us, good Lord.

Celebrant: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

All: Son of God, we ask you to hear us.

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

All: Grant us your peace.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

All: Grant us your peace.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.

All: Christ have mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord, have mercy.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
All: Come, let us go up the mountain of the Lord, that we may learn God’s ways and walk in God’s paths.
Leader: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem
All: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!
Leader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of hope.

~ The first candle is lit ~

Leader: It is a call to “keep awake” and it is a symbol of the hope we have in the promise of the Lord’s coming.
Let us pray. O God of all hope, we thank you for all your promises which find their fulfillment in your Son. So we rejoice in his coming in the flesh and look for his appearing in glory.
By your Word and Holy Spirit make us ready to receive Christ truly as our only Lord and Saviour, and with thankfulness to praise him, now and forever.
All: Amen

Hymn: Light One Candle!

The Collect …… (BAS 268)

Celebrant: 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**

ISAIAH 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear

has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 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.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

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

Celebrant: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
People: As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. **Amen**.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

Rb389… Come thou long expected Jesus

Gospel Reading (Please Stand)
Reader: The Lord be with you
People: And also with you
Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to MARK 13:24-37
People: Glory to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

MARK 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that

summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon (transcript & video will be posted to our website)

Apostles' Creed ……... (BAS 189**)**

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, 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**

Commissioning of Sunday School Volunteers

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good.
Our purpose today is to recognize and affirm the ministry for which these persons have offered themselves.
Is it your will that Aliya Whyte, Iasha Philips, Sabrina Saigo, Allan Austin, Natasha Austin, Fanella Hodge, Lanre Williams, Latoya Phillips, Omoyeni Oni, and Chris Senatus fulfil this ministry?

People: It is.
Celebrant: you have been called to this ministry. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with care, to the honour of God and the benefit of the Church?
Answer: I will.
Celebrant: Will you uphold them in this service?
Answer: We will.
Celebrant: Let us pray. Blessed are you, gracious God, our creator and redeemer. In every age you call people to minister in your name. May the work of these your servants so build up your Church, that we may faithfully serve you and show your love in all the world. Blessed are you, O God, now and for ever. Amen
Children: "Jesus Loves Me" (Hymn)

Peace ..... (BAS 192)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you,
All: And also with you.
Please Greet One Another With a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Gifts

square.link/u/PRfEKUAz MANY WAYS TO GIVE, ONE TAX RECEIPT: Scan the QR code to give by debit, credit, Google Pay or Apple Pay. Send an eTransfer (email on back page). Use the pink pew envelope for cash/cheque. All gifts support the mission of the Church & will be included in your single charitable tax receipt that we issue at tax time.

Bb401… The Church's One Foundation…

Prayer over the Gifts ..... (BAS 269)
Celebrant: 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

Celebrant: The Lord be with you ..... (BAS 204)
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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain

the universe.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing (say),

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected.

Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom.

We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer ……..……. (BAS 211 at 9AM, Shane 11AM)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

All: [Shane] Our Father in heaven we hallow your Name! Most holy and glorious ever the same! Establish your kingdom your purpose fulfill, On earth as in heaven may all do your will! Our Daily bread give us, fulfill every need. Grant food for both spirit and body we plead.As we forgive others, our debts please forgive, With all reconciled and at peace may we live. **Amen.**

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: These are the Gifts of God for the People of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

All baptized persons are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

rb278 … Thy Kingdom Come
bb591… Have Thine Own Way
bb691 … Surely Goodness
bb235… Take the Name of

Prayers For Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Occasions

Prayer After Communion …….. (BAS 269)

Celebrant: 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. Amen.

The Blessing …….. (BAS 683)

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. Amen.

Welcome

Stay in the loop: Subscribe to our weekly news email

One URL to connect https://ststephendownsview.ca
Dial-in: 437-781-4585 PIN: 151 626 290 7527#
6:00PM SUN: evening prayers
7:30AM T-F : morning prayers

7:00PM THU: Bible study

Angel Tree: Sponsor a gift to help bridge the gap for children with incarcerated parents

Stewardship Follow-up: Target 29-Nov to turn in completed forms.

To get more details go to https://StStephenDownsview.ca

Prayer for Birthdays ..... (BAS 696)

Celebrant: God our Father,
All: the birth of your Son Jesus Christ brought great joy to Mary and Joseph. We give thanks to you for those, whose birthday we celebrate today. May they ever grow in your faith, hope, and love. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

bb754... Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending

Dismissal ..... (BAS 215)

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
People: Thanks be to God!

How to help...

Some suggestions on how you can help St Stephen's celebrate the Advent-Christmas Season

- SANCTUARY POINSTTIA: Make a donation for the purchase of a poinsettia to be placed in the St Stephen's sanctuary Dec 20-27th (suggest $25). Plants will be donated to mobility hallenged worshippers.
- ANGEL TREE: Help the children of incarcerated parents remember they are loved; donate for a present (suggest $40).
- CHRISTMAS DONATION: With additional services, and additional pastoral care, comes additional expenses. Help us with an additional donation.
- SAINTS CAFE: Christmas is a busy time for all food banks and Saints Cafe is no exception.
- YEAR END DONATION: Donations received up to midnight, December 31st, will be included in your 2026 charitable tax receipt.

square.link/u/PRfEKUAz

MANY WAYS TO GIVE, ONE TAX RECEIPT: Scan (or click) the QR code to give by debit, credit, Google Pay or Apple Pay. All gifts will be included in your single charitable tax receipt that we issue at tax time. Type in the "note" field if you are giving for Christmas, Saints Cafe, a poinsettia or angel-tree.



Advent & Christmas 2026

Date	Service Times	Occasion
6-Dec	9AM in-person 11AM in-person & live on YouTube	Advent 2
13-Dec	9AM in-person 11AM in-person & live on YouTube	Advent 3
Saturday 19-Dec	4PM in-person ONLY NEW UPDATE	Lament and Hope
20-Dec	9AM in-person 11AM in-person & live on YouTube	Advent 4
Thursday 24-Dec	07:00PM in-person ONLY NEW UPDATE	Children's Pageant
	10:30PM in-person ONLY	Christmas Eve
25-Dec	10AM in-person ONLY	Christmas Day
27-Dec	9AM in-person 11AM in-person & live on YouTube	Feast of St Stephen
Thursday 31 Dec 26	11PM in-person ONLY	New Year's Eve

ANGEL TREE





December 6: 2nd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40.1-11, Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13,
2 Peter 3.8-15a, Mark 1.1-8



Bible Study

Thursday, Dec 3, 7:00pm

Exodus 16.1-17.7

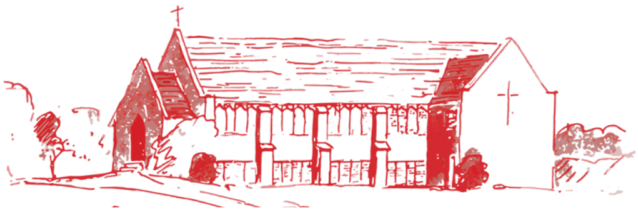
Nothing but
Bread and Water

1- Why was it so difficult for the Israelites to trust God for water, bread, and meat even after witnessing his power at the Red Sea crossings?

2- Why would the Israelites, so soon after being set free from slavery, rebel against the commandment to observe a day of rest each week?

3- Why did the LORD lead them through such a barren land before bringing them into the Promised Land of milk and honey?

4- Why did the people keep putting the LORD to the test rather than trusting him after each miracle he did for them?



In-Person Office Hours (Parish Office)	2259 Jane St, North York ON, M3M 1A6 Wednesdays & Fridays, 11:00AM to 2:00PM
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Pastoral Care & Priest	priest@ststephendownsview.ca 437-524-4284 **(direct number)**
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Only one URL to remember

https://stStephenDownsview.CA

