



Dear Friends: Welcome to St. John's! Athanasius, the 4th century Bishop of Alexandria, wrote a famous book (before he was 23 years old) called 'On the Incarnation of the Word'. The focus of the book is why Jesus had to come in human form. This is a helpful topic around Christmas, when we celebrate the anniversary of his entry into the world in human form (the "incarnation"). Here is a summary of the first half of the book from young Athanasius:

We have seen that to change the corruptible to incorruption was proper to none other than the Savior Himself, Who in the beginning made all things out of nothing; that only the Image of the Father could re-create the likeness of the Image in men, that none save our Lord Jesus Christ could give to mortals immortality, and that only the Word Who orders all things and is alone the Father's true and sole-begotten Son could teach men about Him and abolish the worship of idols.

Among the truths asserted in that quote is that Jesus did not come solely to remove and cleanse sin; he came to restore the image of God in us (to "re-create the likeness of the Image..."). Salvation is not simply rescue, but new creation. You may say, "Well, that's fine, but what does the image of God look like, anyway?" Athanasius, along with Scripture and church history, says that Jesus is the perfect image of God, in human form. Our great need and hope at Christmas is to recognize why Jesus came. The astonishing thing is not simply that Jesus came, but that he works in his followers to restore what once was lost, and to fulfill that restoration at his return. Warmly, **Sean**

TODAY'S SERVICE

LITURGY AND LYRICS will be on-screen and are available online by using the code:

BIBLE READINGS 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Psalm 13 Isaiah 25:1-9 Adesanwo family

CHILDREN AND YOUTH After the children (K-grade 6) come forward for prayer, their class meets upstairs; they will be returned to their parents during or after the service. Youth (grades 7-12) will likewise leave for their class upstairs.

COLLECT OF THE DAY O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR ADVENT Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

OFFERING We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from our church family! Please use the offering plate or give online, using the code. If you are visiting SJR, please simply be our guest.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

Ed Matalas

NOTICES

- SJR Lecture Series - 'Following Christ in the Military', by Nathan Faryon, this Mon. Dec. 16, 6-9pm, at the church. Potluck dinner at 6pm. Please sign up for the potluck using the emailed link; any questions, please see Matt Myers.
- SJR Advent & Christmas services and church events - schedule emailed; can also be found & shared on our website.
- Leadership Training Course (LTC) - Spiritual Formation - begins mid-January; details emailed. Sign up w/ Rev. Guy.



Welcome to St. John's Richmond!

Our desire is to joyfully love and serve Jesus Christ and share him with our neighbours.

We are excited to gather on Sunday Evenings for this special way to worship God at the end of the day and the beginning of the week. If you are new to us, please stay for refreshments so we can introduce ourselves to you.

As Anglicans, we use liturgy (structured prayer) to walk through the wonderful story of who Jesus Christ is, and what God has done for us through his life, death, resurrection and reign. The music, readings, prayers and participation are arranged to help us rehearse the good news ('gospel') of salvation: our new life in Jesus.

Our Evening Prayer and Holy Communion services follow patterns set out in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), developed in the 1500's during the English Reformation by Thomas Cranmer. About 88% of the BCP is directly taken from the Bible.

The best reason to use these classic liturgies is that they remind us of our sin, point to the grace of Jesus Christ, and invite us to respond in faith. This is the pattern of our prayers, and the pattern of the Christian life.

Want to find out more about us? Pick up the "Introducing Anglican Worship" booklet at the Welcome Table, and email us at "contact@stjohnsrichmond.com" to ask any questions or sign up for our weekly email update.

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

OPENING HYMN *(All lyrics will be screen-shared)*

CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

CONFESSION

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against your holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.

But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore them who are penitent; according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

A DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN *(said by the leader)*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

He [God] pardons and absolves all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

RESPONDING WITH PRAISE *(Sung)*

O Lord, open thou our lips;

And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

(Standing)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

Praise ye the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

SONGS

FIRST BIBLE READING *(Bible Readings are found on Page 1)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

PSALM OR CANTICLE *(found on Page 1)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

SECOND BIBLE READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SONG

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

The Apostles' Creed is an historic profession of faith in the faithfulness of God, and locates us in a community of faith stretching back to the early Church. It is a theological summary of apostolic doctrine, originating before the 4th century and ratified by the 7th.

SERMON

OFFERING SONG and PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God of Israel, for ever and ever.
All that is in the heaven and in the earth is yours.

All things come from you, and we offer only what you have first given us.

The Lord be with you;

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

**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 them that 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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY & any additional **COLLECTS** (*printed on Page 1*)

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

NUNC DIMITTIS (*Latin, from the first words of the Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29*)

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word.

For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

NOTICES

CLOSING HYMN

BENEDICTION

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and at the last a perfect end; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

Advent: Anticipation, Preparation, Hope

A Prophetic Picture of Salvation

Salvation: The Wonderful End of Opposition

Salvation: The Joyful End of Death