

ORDER OF SERVICE
Christmas Eve
December 24th 2020 7:00pm



Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4
www.stjohn316.com 519-743-0228

CHRISTMAS EVE CHORAL EUCHARIST AT 7:00PM

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons
Readers	Nik Ward-Campbell
Singers (pre-recorded)	Rebecca McKay, Deb Sheach, Jonathan Malton, Angus Sheach
Tech Support	Simon and Daniel Guthrie
Organist	Sarah Cardwell
Mass Setting	St. Lawrence Mass - Bruce Wheatcroft

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Chorale Prelude on "Quem Pastores"-Healey Willan

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn 118

O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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.**

Celebrant 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

Eternal God,
this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known
the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour
of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.
(Isaiah 9:2-7)

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,*

*and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and, fathered 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 the earth.
3. 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.

4. 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.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.
(Titus 2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Reader The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke. (Luke 2:1-13)

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came

**he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

The shepherds sing, "Jesus Christ is born." Let your church throughout the world proclaim this good news, over the hills and everywhere. Unite the voices of all your faithful people in songs of praise and rejoicing. We pray for Todd, our Bishop; Anne, our Archbishop and Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate;

Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia, our companion Diocese; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Susan, National Bishop, and Michael, Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Give us a common vision for mission and ministry, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Heaven and nature sing, "Joy to the world." Give respite to flocks, fields, and those who tend them. Come near to us in the beauty of nighttime, the shining of the stars, and the hush of a world at rest, as well as in the bright light of the sun. May our wonder at your creation rouse our care for all the earth.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

The angels sing, "Peace on earth." Come quickly to still the strife of this world. Hush the noise of war and violence in places of unrest. Inspire leaders of nations to seek lasting peace and sustainable provision for all in their care.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Mary sings melodies of comfort and love to her newborn child. Bring rest and reassurance to those facing struggles in these days. Shelter travelers and those without adequate shelter. Console those who lie awake due to pain or anxiety. Heal those who are sick or hurting, including those we now name aloud, or remember in silence. (*A time of silence*).

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Love sings through the sound of a new baby's cry. Bless new parents and expectant parents. Surround families of every shape and size with your love and care.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

The heavenly chorus sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" We give you thanks for all the saints who have proclaimed your glory in word and deed. Let us join them in joyful praise around your eternal throne.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. **AMEN.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

All **we confess that we have
sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory

*I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all
the
people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Luke 2.10–11*

Hymn 135

Shepherds in the Fields Abiding

1. Shepherds in the field abiding,
tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tidings,
what you saw and heard that night.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. We beheld (it is no fable),
God incarnate, king of bliss,
swathed and cradled in a stable,
and the angel strain was this:

Refrain

3. Choristers on high were singing
Jesus and his virgin birth,
heavenly bells the while a-ringing,

“Peace, good will to all on earth.”

Refrain

4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
let us go to Bethlehem.
Angels hymns the king of glory;
carol we with you and them.

Refrain

Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant Source of light and gladness,
accept all we offer on this joyful feast.
May we grow up in him
who unites our lives to yours;
for he is Lord now and for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son ...
... Now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus and Benedictus

Choir 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.

Celebrant Holy and gracious God, accept our praise ...
... All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Gathering our prayers and praises into one
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Agnus Dei

Choir Lamb of god,
you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. (x3)

Anthem

Two Cradle Meditations

*O Jesu So Sweet, O Jesu So Mild
Away in a Manger*

K. Lee Scott

Hymn 119

Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born.
3. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Father of all,
tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending your Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Announcements

Hymn 154

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;

let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the grounds;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.

Dismissal

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.**

Celebrant May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo - J.S. Bach

Parish Announcements and Notices

OEW December Edition The most recent edition of OEW is available here <https://www.stjohn316.com/oew/>

BALE: Because of the recent lock down announcement, we will be unable to pack the Bale in January. Further dates will be published in the bulletin and January newsletter. Please keep your contributions until then. Many thanks for your past support.

PEOPLE AT HOME TALKING MOVIES Thoughtful conversations to keep us connected through the pandemic. Join in any of the upcoming online gatherings. Find the movie (check online streaming services, libraries, and brick-and-mortar shops), watch it, and connect via Zoom for a lightly-facilitated hour-long conversation.

Our upcoming series explores the themes of division and divisiveness. What might these movies say about human communities and the human predicament? How can we transcend discord, polarization, and isolation?

- Edward Scissorhands: Saturday, December 26, 3:00 PM
- Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country: Friday, January 1, 3:00 PM
- The King's Choice: Friday, January 22, 7:00 PM
- The French Lieutenant's Woman: Saturday, February 13, 3:00 PM
- The Lady in the Van: Friday, February 26, 7:00 PM
- Do the Right Thing: Saturday, March 13, 3:00 PM
- The Endless: Saturday, March 20, 3:00 PM

For the Zoom coordinates send an email to

FrMatthewKieswetter@gmail.com

Donation Options There are many ways you can continue your contributions to St. John's

1. Send weekly envelopes in the mail. You can send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. North Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
2. Drop off cash donations to the office through the mail slot in the office door. Write your name on the envelope!
3. Have an Errand Buddy pick up your donation.
4. Sign up for, or make changes to your DEFT by contacting the office (519-743-0228 or church@stjohn316.com).
5. Donate Online through Canada Helps by credit card. You can set up recurring, or one time donations. Canada Helps takes 3.75% but also provides the tax receipt directly to you and provides a donation report to us! [Here's the link](#)

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies you can contact him at 519-573-7797

Rector

The Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons

Assistant Clergy

The Venerable Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

Rector's Warden Marianne Mellinger

People's Warden David Sapelak

Deputy Warden Debbie Sheach

Parish Administrator Rebecca McKay