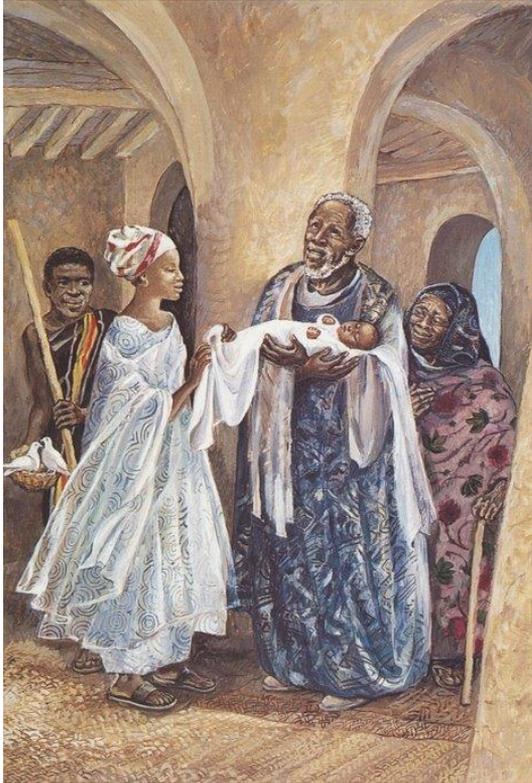


ORDER OF SERVICE
First Sunday After Christmas
December 27th 2020 10:00am



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 519-743-022

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 27 2020– 10:00 a.m.

Opening Words from the Rector

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

Almighty God,

you have shed upon us the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Hymn 153

Good Christians All Rejoice

1. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!
2. Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

3. Good Christians all, rejoice!
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grace;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

Hymn 123

Once in Royal David's City

1. Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Reading

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah
(Isaiah 61:10-62:3)

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 137

What Child is This

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lie he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading

Refrain

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain.

Anthem

A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace
As ancient seers imparted
From Jesse's holy race
It blooms without a blight
It blooms without a blight
Blooms in the cold bleak winter
Turning our darkness into light

This shoot Isaiah taught us
From Jesse's root should spring
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing
Our God of endless might
Our God of endless might
Gave her this child to save us
Thus turning darkness into light

Reading

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul
to the church in Galatia (Galatians 4:4-7)

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

Hymn 148

See Amid the Winter's Snow

1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below;
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years!

Refrain

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain

4. "As we watch at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth."

Refrain

Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter

Pat Messick

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But only His Mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Luke. (Luke 2:22-40)

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus' parents brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Hymn 138

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king.*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity
Please as man with man to dwell.
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

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.**

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.**

Parish Announcements and Events

Church Office Closure The church office is close until January 4th at 9:00am. While calls and emails will be monitored, they will not be replied to until the office re-opens. Merry Christmas!

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

Cover Art: JESUS MAFA. Presentation of Jesus in the temple, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48303> [retrieved December 23, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).