

ORDER OF SERVICE
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 3rd 2021 10am



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

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Officiant	The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons
Preacher	The Rev'd Paul Kett
Readers	Rebecca McKay
Singers	Rebecca McKay
Tech Support	Simon Guthrie
Organist	Sarah Cardwell

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Hymn 125

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
2. Flocks are sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet tomorrow:
Christ the babe was born for you,
Christ the babe was born for you!

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

God of power and life,
the glory of all who believe in you,
fill the world with your splendour
and show the nations the light of your truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.
(Jeremiah 31:7-14)

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them

gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalm

(Psalm 147:13-21)

For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates
and hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders
and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth
and his word runneth very swiftly.

He giveth snow like wool
and scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels
who is able to abide his frost?

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them
he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.

He sheweth his word unto Jacob
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.

He hath not dealt so with any nation
neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.

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

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

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul
to the church in Ephesus.
(Ephesians 1:3-14)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

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

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to John
(John 1:1-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev'd Paul Kett

Silent Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant 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.**

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

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. We pray for Todd, our Bishop; Preston, our Rector, and other worshipping communities in our neighbourhood. 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.**

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendour. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us.

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

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labour under the weight of pain of sickness, including those we name aloud, or remember in silence. (*A time of silence*).

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppression and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honour your image in one another.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness, gather us all together in your mercy.

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.**

Hymn 131

Love Came Down at Christmas

1. Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine'
love was born at Christmas-
star and angel gave the sign.
2. Worship we the Godhead,
love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus-
what shall be our sacred sign?
3. Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mind;
love to God and neighbour,
love for prayer and gift and sign.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant 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.**

Hymn 140

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven’s most gracious king!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains”
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
5. For Lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the evercircling years
shall come the time foretold:
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Announcements

Dismissal

Officiant 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.**

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

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prayer Intentions for the Week of January 3 2021

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

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.

In the Anglican Church of Canada this week we pray for the The Most Reverend Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous People.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada this week we pray for Bishop Michael Pryse, the people and rostered ministers of the Eastern Synod.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for parishes, people, and clergy throughout our Diocese of Huron.

FOR OUR COMPANION DIOCESE

Pray for the Diocese of Amazonia, for Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassoto, Bishop, and for our common mission and ministry.

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Alice Croft, Graham Currie, Jean Davidson, Claudine Dey, and their families.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO ARE ILL

Colleen, Pat, Tracy, Marlin, John and Family, Nicholas, Catherine, John, Guy, Connor, Emily, Ron and Anne, Melanie, Alison, Jennifer, Franco, David, Scott, Andrea, James, Linda, Wayne, Ida, Catherine, Carman, Heather,

Sherri, Ann, Farzana, Scott, Vivian, Margaux, Sylvia, Alexander, Kyle, Sherri, Elyse, Percival and Janet, Mike, Lee, Chris, Todd and Rebecca, Jeannie, Susan, Alice, Valerie, Cedric, Hazel, Al and Ann, St. John's, Margaret and George Strack

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

PRAY for Preston, our Rector, the Bishop, Archdeacon, regional Dean and clergy of our Deanery, ministers of the Gospel everywhere, and leaders of other faith groups. With new restrictions on worshipping together, may we be mindful of each other, and patient in the midst of disappointment. Help us continue to find ways to fulfill our calling to care for all people.

PRAY for all who are alone or lonely during this Christmas season. Pray for family members separated from one another.

PRAY for the health of people throughout the world, and in our own community as we continue to face challenges in our lives. Be with those who care for the sick and those who face increased health compromise in these days. As winter weather advances, pray especially for all who are disadvantaged by hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and unemployment. Give thanks for those in our community who are working to provide temporary shelter for those who have nowhere to call home, and others who are partnering to provide affordable housing.

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:

<http://www.servicioskoinonia.org/cerezo/dibujosB/07navidad2.jpg>