

Sunday, December 24, 2017

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Eve



7:00 p.m. – Spontaneous Pageant & Family Eucharist

**Welcome**

### Words of Welcome and Instruction

For those who are at St. George on Yonge for the first time or who are visiting, it's good to have you with us! Welcome!

- ❖ We invite you to participate in as much of the worship as you wish and are able.
- ❖ We welcome your participation, **children and adults**, in the *"Spontaneous Christmas Pageant"* during the service. Is there a part you've always wanted to play?
- ❖ Please do not worry about your children, as this service is for them as well as everyone else here tonight.
- ❖ During the times of prayer throughout the service, we encourage you to stand or sit, whichever is most comfortable and meaningful for you.
- ❖ The Anglican Church teaches that all that are baptised in any Christian tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament at the time of communion.
- ❖ If you wish to receive communion, please come forward to the two stations on either side of the Altar. It is God's invitation to the table, if you feel so moved you are invited and welcomed.
- ❖ If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come to the Altar for a blessing, and to indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest.
- ❖ If you do not wish to drink the wine from the chalice, please feel comfortable to receive only the bread. Please do not dip the wafer in the chalice as studies have shown that this practice presents a health risk.
- ❖ To minimise health risks in the handling communion wafers, clergy and administrators apply an anti-bacterial lotion immediately before administration. The lotion is also available for congregational use.
- ❖ Personal hearing systems are available—please speak with the ushers if this would enhance your experience of worship at St. George on Yonge.
- ❖ Large print bulletins are available—please speak with the ushers.

***May your presence in our midst be a blessing to us, even as we hope our time together is a blessing to you.***

## We Gather Together

**Music** as we reflect and pray, preparing for our worship to begin.

*Celebrant* He's coming! He's coming! The Saviour of the World is coming!

*People* **Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!**

*Celebrant* He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

*People* **Praise be to God for God's mighty gift to us.**

*Celebrant* O Come, Prince of Peace, bring your light to us!

*People* **We are ready to receive you in our lives! Amen.**

**Carol** #118, verses 1-4 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Celebrant* A light shining in the darkness . . .

*People* **What could it be?**

*Celebrant* The sound of angels' wings . . .

*People* **What could it mean?**

*Celebrant* A baby born in a stable . . .

*People* **Who could it be?**

*Celebrant* Let's go to Bethlehem and see.

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Last Candle – The Birth of Jesus Christ

#### The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus

*Leader* Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Leader* Today is Christmas Eve, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love, and joy.

*Each candle will be lit as the reader speaks.*

First Candle: We speak of hope – because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle: We work for peace – because Jesus is the "Prince of Peace" and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle: We show love – because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle: We share joy – because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God.

Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

*A person lights the Last Candle.*

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

*People* **Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

**Carol** #118, verse 5 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

### Blessing of the Crèche

*Celebrant* God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how they found the Christ in this poor place. Fill us with joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and help us to know your peace. This we pray through Christ our Lord, the baby born tonight in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

## We Listen to the Story

### The Birth of Jesus, an Event for Everyone! (Luke 2:1–20)

*Celebrant* Holy God, you sent your angels to tell shepherds the good news:

"To you is born this day a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord."

Help us hear with the shepherds this good news, that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. **Amen.**

### Assigning of parts for the "Spontaneous Christmas Pageant"

*Celebrant* God promised to save God's world.

*People* **And the people believed.**

*Celebrant* God sent the prophets to remind them of the covenant of trust and love.

*People* **And the people believed.**

*Celebrant* In the fullness of time, God's promise became incarnate in the life of Mary.

*People* **Mary and Joseph believed.**

*Celebrant* Those who were the least and the lost received good news.

*People* **And they believed.**

## 5

*Celebrant* We are called to open our hearts, spirits, and minds to God's Good News.

*People* **That, believing, we may be witnesses to God's great love. Amen.**

**Carol** #139 "The First Noël" v. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6

Video: "Son of God" (sung by Michael W. Smith)

### **Introduction to the Story** (Luke 2)

*Celebrant* Over two thousand years ago, a weary world awaited its promised saviour. At the appointed time, a governor's order sent the messiah's parents from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Imagine, a decree of the Roman Empire becomes the means to fulfill God's prophecies. Timeless stories, timeless truths, timeless love: our messiah has come! Christ is here!

**Carol** #119 "Silent Night"

### ***A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant***

#### ***Scene 1: "The Manger Scene"***

**Carol** #126 "Away in a Manger"

#### ***Scene 2: "The Shepherds and the Angels"***

*Congregation says together*

**"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"**

**Carol** #136 "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks"

#### ***Scene 3: "The Shepherds meet Jesus"***

**Carol** #120, verses 1 & 4 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Celebrant* God, we see your light shining in the darkness. We hear the Christmas Angels. We behold your promises fulfilled in the birth of this wondrous child. May this magical story become real in our lives. **Amen.**

## 6

### **Hymn "Mary's Boy Child"**

Text by Jester Hairston

Mary's boy child Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day.  
And man will live for evermore, because of Christmas Day.

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible says,  
Mary's Boy Child, Jesus Christ, was born on Christmas Day.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a King was born today,  
And man will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, they saw a bright new shining star,  
they heard a choir from heaven sing, the music came from afar.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a King was born today,  
and man will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem that night,  
they found no place to bear her Child, not a single room was in sight.

By and by they found a little nook, in a stable all forlorn,  
and in a manger cold and dark, Mary's little Boy Child was born.

Hark, now hear the angels sing, a King was born today,  
and man will live forevermore, because of Christmas Day.

*Celebrant* God, we see your light shining in the darkness. We hear the Christmas Angels. We behold your promises fulfilled in the birth of this wondrous child. May this mystery of this night become real in our lives.

### **We Respond to the Story**

#### **We Pray**

*Leader* Jesus, born in a stable because there was no room in the inn, we pray for the homeless.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, born away from your hometown, we pray for those away from their families this Christmas.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, hunted by Herod, we pray for those in danger, for those who live in war zones, and those who are treated unjustly.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

## 7

*Leader* Jesus, living as a refugee in Egypt, we pray for all refugees in the world and for the situations from which they flee.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, visited by shepherds and wise men, we pray that this Christmas everyone will be visited by someone bringing comfort.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, preacher and teacher, we pray for all those who search for a meaning in life; may you provide them with people to guide them.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, healer and deliverer, we pray for healing for all those who are sick this Christmas.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, born as one of us, we pray today that peace, hope, and love of you be known and felt around the world.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, we pray to you knowing that you hear us, that you intercede for us, and that you answer our prayers. **Amen.**

### **We Share the Peace of Christ**

*Celebrant* This night no one is a stranger. All are joined together as one family through the miracle of the birth of one small baby. Let us share our joy and excitement at being present when God reaches down to touch the earth. Let us reach out and touch each other in love incarnate. God's peace in the Christ child of Bethlehem be always with you.

*People* **And with you as well!**

### **We Share God's Meal Together**

*Celebrant* Tonight we come with our hopes and our dreams. We come as little children. We come because for some of us it is tradition for the whole family to go to church on Christmas Eve. Some have come out of curiosity. Some come because of loneliness. We are here in this place, waiting on tiptoes for something to happen. We come offering our lives and bringing our gifts. In the spirit of this night, let us receive our Christmas offering.

## 8

### **Offertory Carol #128 "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"**

#### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **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. Amen.**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer #3**

Proper Preface Christmas

*The children gather around the Altar.*

*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* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

*People* **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* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*People* **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

*People* **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 Breaking of the Bread #6

*Celebrant* We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

*People* **God is here with us; God's light is shining all around us and in us too!**

#### The Communion

*Celebrant* God invites each of us to this holy meal.

*People* **Thank you God on this most holy night!**

#### Carols during Communion

#137 "What Child Is This"

#127 "O Come, Little Children"

#### Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **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. Amen.**

#### Happy Birthday, Jesus!

#### Blessing

*People* **A child has been born for us.**

*Celebrant* God's grace has been given to us.

*People* **From a stable in Bethlehem our saviour has come. We have seen the glory of the Lord,**

*Celebrant* revealed in the face of the Christ child. **We can hardly contain our amazement.**

*People* **Tell the world. Treasure the story. Ponder it in your heart.**

*Celebrant* We will glorify and praise God, for all we have heard and seen!

*People* **Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ has come!**

*Celebrant* The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you, those you love and those you serve, this holy Christmas night and always! **Amen!**

#### We Return Home

**Recessional Carol** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Traditional Spiritual

**Refrain:** Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

**Refrain**

2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

**Refrain**

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

**Refrain**

**Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Do not be afraid.

*People* **We go forth with courage!**

*Celebrant* Share the good news.

*People* **We go into the world to proclaim tidings of great joy!**

*Celebrant* A saviour has been born to you.

*People* **Glory to God in the highest heaven! Thanks be to God!!**

*We express our thanks to Kathy, Hazel, Nancy, Collene, Laura, Ruby, and Felicity  
for their leadership this evening.*

*Following the service, we will share in Jesus' birthday cake.  
Thanks to Kathy Baillie for making it for us.*

*Following our time of fellowship and cake, we will be going to visit the emergency  
workers at the Fire Hall, the Ambulance, and the Police Department. You are invited  
to come along. We will be sharing sandwiches and cookies as a gesture of our thanks  
for all they do each day of the year, but especially on this night which might be  
keeping them from their families.*

## Christmas Services

**Yearly Christmas Eve Visit to Area Emergency Workers**

Sunday, December 24 8:00 p.m.  
with trays of sandwiches, cookies, and other treats!

**Almost Midnight Christmas Eve**

Sunday, December 24  
10:00 p.m. Singing Christmas Carols  
10:30 p.m. Festive Christmas Communion

**Christmas Day Communion**

Monday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

**First Sunday after Christmas Eucharist**

Sunday, December 31 10:30 a.m. (one service only)  
Singing favourite Christmas Carols



**The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of**  
a dear husband and father, Arthur Beecham, and grandparents, Betty & Bill Woodruff,  
from Ann & Family  
  
Margaret Handley from Arnold & Family  
our parents, John & Helen Hunter and Stan & Gladys Pummell,  
from John & Laura Pummell  
  
**Thank you to everyone who made donations to decorate the church.**

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Intercessor	Laura Pummell
Server	J-C Lewis-Pompey
Chalice	Aili Maki, Sangeeta Randive
Slides	Egan Done
Altar Guild	Team 1: Doug Heyes , Elvine Jin , Nancy Dodsworth

**The Christmas Banner hung in the Church** was designed by Rod McAvoy. Rod was our multi-talented organist here at St. George’s from January 1999 to November 2008. Rod was assisted by members of the congregation in buying the fabrics (Kathy Lindsey) and in cutting and stitching the design (Alan Sperling, Karen Done, and Betty Clennett). It is believed that the work was completed in about 2005 – a great accomplishment and a wonderful gift.

**2017 Donations:** A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2017 donations, they must be received by Monday, December 25 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2017.

Services		
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)
		3rd Sunday of the month (AAawe)
<p>BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)</p> <p>Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a “harbour for love,” where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.</p> <p>衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。</p> <p>盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上帝的同在，一起领受上帝的恩典。</p> <p>BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language</p> <p>AAawe (Amazing, Awesome, Alternate Worship Experience) is a Communion service that is more informal with alternative music and prayers</p>		

Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Associate, Mandarin Ministry	Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria