



# St. George on Yonge Anglican

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Saturday, December 24, 2022

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Eve



**7:00 p.m. – Spontaneous Pageant & Family Service**

## ***Welcome***

## 2

### 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.
- ❖ 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.*

# 3

## 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"**

Text by John Francis Wade & Étienne-Jean-François;  
translation by Frederick Oakley & William T. Brooke

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;

**Refrain:** O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
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:

**Refrain**

*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.

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:

**Refrain**

4 See how the shepherds, summoned to  
his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly  
fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful  
footsteps;

**Refrain**

**Candle Lighting      The Christ Candle**

*Reader*      Christmas is come!  
                   Christ has come!  
                   No more waiting!  
                   No more darkness! We light the Christ candle because the light banishes the dark.

*All the candles are lit.*

*People*      **Lord of never-ending light, we welcome you into this world. Amen.**

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

*For Christmas*

5    Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
       Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
       Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

**Refrain:**    O come let us adore him,  
                   O come let us adore him,  
                   O come let us adore him,  
                   Christ the Lord.

**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.**

**The Proclamation of the Word**

First Reading:

Isaiah 9:2–7

*Reader*      A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

# 5

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.**

Psalm 96

1 Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his  
salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

**4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be  
praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth  
be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout  
for joy**

**before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.**

13 He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

**We worship you, God of glory, in the beauty of holiness, and we joyfully proclaim your  
just and righteous rule, established for all, through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11–14

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> 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.**

# 6

## 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*”

**Carol #139** “The First Noël” v. 1, 2, & 6

Text from English tradition

1 The first Noël the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields  
as they lay.  
in fields where they lay keeping their  
sheep  
on a cold winter’s night that was so  
deep.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of  
nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought.

#### **Refrain**

**Refrain:** Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël,  
born is the King of Israel.

2 They lookèd up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

#### **Refrain**

*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.**

*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.**

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

*Narrator* 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"**

Text by Joseph Mohr; translation by John Freeman Young

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| <p>1 Silent night! Holy night!<br/>All is calm, all is bright<br/>round yon virgin mother and child.<br/>Holy infant so tender and mild,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace,<br/>sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2 Silent night! Holy night!<br/>Shepherds quake at the sight:<br/>glories stream from heaven afar,<br/>heavenly hosts sing alleluia,<br/>Christ the Saviour is born,<br/>Christ the Saviour is born.</p> | <p>3 Silent night! Holy night!<br/>Son of God, love's pure light<br/>radiant beams from thy holy face,<br/>with the dawn of redeeming grace,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,<br/>Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> |
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***A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant******Scene 1: "The Manger Scene"*****Carol #126 "Away in a Manger"**

Text from American (19th century)

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,<br/>the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet<br/>head.<br/>The stars in the bright sky looked down<br/>where he lay,<br/>the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.</p> <p>2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,<br/>but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.<br/>I love you, Lord Jesus—look down from on<br/>high<br/>and stay by my side until morning is nigh.</p> | <p>3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to<br/>stay<br/>close by me forever and love me, I<br/>pray.<br/>Bless all the dear children in your<br/>tender care,<br/>and fit us for heaven to live with you<br/>there.</p> |
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**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"** Luke 2:8–14; paraphrase by Nahum Tate

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|--|---|
| <p>1 While shepherds watched their flocks<br/>by night<br/>all seated on the ground,<br/>the angel of the Lord came down<br/>and glory shone around.</p> <p>2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread<br/>had seized their troubled mind.<br/>"Glad tidings of great joy I bring<br/>to you and humankind.</p> <p>3 To you in David's town this day<br/>is born of David's line<br/>a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;<br/>and this shall be the sign:</p> | <p>4 the heavenly babe you there shall find<br/>to human view displayed,<br/>all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,<br/>and in a manger laid."</p> <p>5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith<br/>appeared a shining throng<br/>of angels praising God, who thus<br/>addressed their joyful song:</p> <p>6 "All glory be to God on high,<br/>and to the world be peace;<br/>good will henceforth from heaven to<br/>earth<br/>begin, and never cease."</p> |
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**Scene 3: "The Shepherds meet Jesus"****Carol #120 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

Text by Phillips Brooks

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| <p>1 O little town of Bethlehem,<br/>how still we see thee lie!<br/>Above thy deep and dreamless sleep<br/>the silent stars go by;<br/>yet in thy dark streets shineth<br/>the everlasting light;<br/>the hopes and fears of all the years<br/>are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>4 O holy child of Bethlehem,<br/>descend to us, we pray;<br/>cast out our sin and enter in;<br/>be born in us today.<br/>We hear the Christmas angels<br/>the great glad tidings tell;<br/>O come to us, abide with us,<br/>our Lord Emmanuel.</p> |
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*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.**



**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.

**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.**

*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.**

# 10

*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.**

## **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 forever. 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!**

# 11

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

Text from West Indian carol; adaption by Edric Connor

1 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.

### **Refrain:**

He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious kingdom.  
O yes, believer! O yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
he come from the glorious kingdom!

2 The angels sang when the baby was born,  
the angels sang when the baby was born,  
the angels sang when the baby was born,  
and proclaim him Saviour Jesus.

### **Refrain**

3 The wise men went where the baby was born,  
the wise men went where the baby was born,  
the wise men went where the baby was born,  
and they say that his name was Jesus.

### **Refrain**

## 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.**

## Prayer

*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.**

## Blessing

*Celebrant* A child has been born for us. 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!**

# 12

## We Return Home

### 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!!**

### 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.

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

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

### **Refrain**

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

### **Refrain**

### **Refrain**

***We express our thanks to everyone who helped prepare and run the spontaneous Christmas pageant as well as to all of you who participated.***

***The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and***

in loving memory of our parents, John & Helen Hunter and Stan & Gladys Pummell,  
from Laura & John  
and in celebration of Christmas from Lorraine Baillie

***Thank you to everyone who made donations to decorate the church.***

Celebrant	Doug Heyes
Reader/Leader	Geraldine Sperling
Narrator	Hazel Perkin
Organist	Michael Leach
Videographer	Egan Done
The Cast	The faithful

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee) and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase. Today, Toronto is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

### **COVID instructions**

For the time being, the parish leadership has decided to continue contact tracing, and ask that we continue wearing masks for the safety of others.

Please follow the Priest's and Usher's instructions for the service; and be respectful of everyone's comfort level with physical distancing and contact.

Thank you for joining us. Stay Safe

**2022 Donations:** A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2022 donations, they must be received by Sunday, December 25 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2022.