



St. George on Yonge
Anglican

Holy Communion
The Eve of Christmas
December 24, 2023 @ 7:00pm
Welcome



The Birth of Jesus, Chinese print from painting

St. George on Yonge Anglican Church, 5350 Yonge St. Toronto, ON M2N 5R5 416 225-1922
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Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territory

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.

The Gathering of the Community

Hymn #118 “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

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

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

Greeting

page 185

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.**

Collect for Purity

page 185

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **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.**

Glory to God [Hymn #686]

page 186

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

People **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 upon 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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray,

Heavenly Father,

People **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. Amen

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

The First Reading:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from The Prophet, Isaiah

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96

Reader Psalm 96, responsively, beginning with the refrain.

Refrain. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

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

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

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

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

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

5

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

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

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from The Letter of Paul to Titus

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.**

Gradual Hymn Silent Night CP # 119

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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,
sleep in heavenly peace.</p> | <p>2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

THE HOLY GOSPEL**LUKE 2:1-20***Subdeacon* The Lord be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Subdeacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to LUKE*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 for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Subdeacon The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

- 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.
 Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Homily: Fr. Ian

The Nicene Creed

page 188

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

People **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation 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.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

page 191

Celebrant Dear Beloved 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,

People **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. **Amen.**

The Peace

page 192

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please safely share a sign of peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

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

Text from West Indian carol; adaption by Edric Connor

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|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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. | 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:

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!

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.

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 human 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,

10

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 heav'n, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And 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.ⁱ**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

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

People **God, here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

Lamb of God

People **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.ⁱⁱ**

The Communion

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Dear friends, if you are present or elsewhere and are unable to receive the sacrament at this time, I invite you to join me and the whole church in spiritual communion to receive Christ, who is present in this Sacrament of the Altar. Let us pray.

People **Lord Christ, present in the Sacrament of the altar and in your people, gathered in spirit, come and abide in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; transform my life and actions that they may reflect the image of your holiness; and, by the power of your liberating love, overthrow all that threatens or disrupts the justice and truth of the reign of God. In your name I pray. Amen.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn: What Child is this CP # 137

Hymn #137 "What Child Is This"

Text by William Chatterton Dix

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 lies 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

Hymn #122 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text by Christina Georgina Rossetti

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| <p>1 In the bleak midwinter, 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 midwinter, long ago.</p> <p>2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.</p> | <p>3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.</p> <p>4 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.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Hymn #125 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Text from Polish carol; translation by Edith M. G. Reed

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| <p>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,
noëls ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all,
Christ the babe is Lord of all!</p> | <p>2 Flocks were 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!</p> |
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Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.
Father of all,

People **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.**

13

Doxology

People **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more, infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen.ⁱⁱⁱ**

Blessing

Closing Hymn #154 "Joy to the World"

Text by Isaac Watts

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| 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,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing. | 3 No more let wrongs and sorrows
grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found,
far as our sin is found,
far as, far as our sin is found. |
| 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,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. | 4 He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. |

Dismissal

Subdeacon let us go in peace to love and to serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God!**



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;

in loving memory of Raj Sircar
from Roshni and Family;

and in loving memory of our parents Margaret & Constantine “Ted” Hanna, and Rose
& Samuel Sperling, from Geraldine and Alan Sperling.

Celebrant & Preacher

	Fr. Ian LaFleur
Subdeacon	Doug Heyes
Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling
Reader	Hazel Perkin
Organist	Michael Leach
Videographer	Egan Done

ⁱ Michael Leach

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid