



St. George on Yonge
Anglican

Holy Communion
The Birth of the Lord Christmas Day
December 25, 2023 @ 10:00am
Welcome



The Birth of Jesus, Chinese print from painting

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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

Opening 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 let us pray,
Almighty God,

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.**

The Summary of the Law

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

People **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

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 on 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,

O God our Father,

People **whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen**

*Please be seated.***The Proclamation of the Word****First Reading**

Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader A reading from The Prophet, Isaiah

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken." 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 97***Reader* Psalm 97, responsively, beginning with the refrain.**REFRAIN: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God**

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him, righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory.

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before him, all you gods.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Light has sprung up for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name. Amen.

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

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

Reader A reading from The Letter of Paul To Titus

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn #148 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

Text by Edward Caswall

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

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

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

6

4 “As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing ‘Peace on earth’
told us of the Saviour’s birth.”

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

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 John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

Sub Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

5 Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!

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

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***Celebrant* Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him. Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.*Matthew 1.28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3.16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith. This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1.15*

Hear also what Saint John saith. If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2.1,2*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*Silence is kept.**Celebrant* Almighty God,*People* **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things and judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from**

8

time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

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 #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

The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Let us pray.

Generous Creator,

People **in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

People **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.**

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty

10

resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

People **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God;**

Celebrant And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **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

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his blood, That we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

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.**

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymns**Hymn #122 “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

Text by Christina Georgina Rossetti

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Hymn #125 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

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

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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! | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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! |
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Prayer after Communion*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Source of truth and joy,

People **may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.****This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.****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:** Go tell it on the Mountain**Refrain**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.**Refrain**The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.**Refrain**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**Refrain****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.

Celebrant & Preacher	Fr. Ian LaFleur
Subdeacon & Intercessor	Doug Heyes
Organist	Michael Leach

ⁱ Michael Leach

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid