

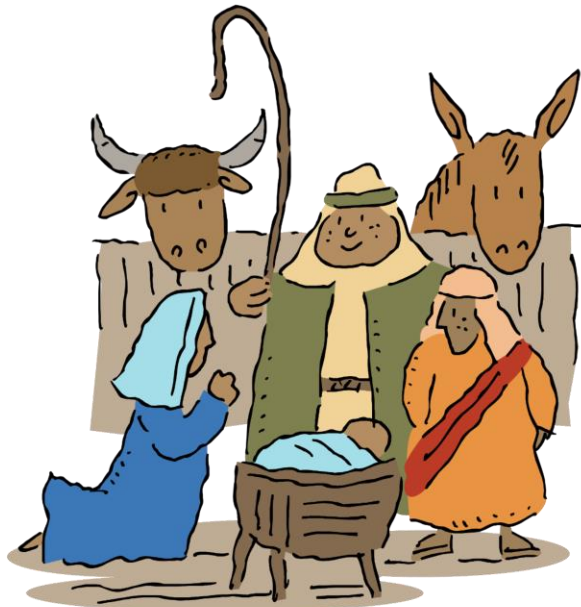


St. George on Yonge

Anglican

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Eve



Spontaneous Pageant & Family Eucharist

4:00 p.m.

Welcome

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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.
- ❖ 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.**

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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

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

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.

Candle Lighting The Christ Candle

Reader 1 Christmas is come!

Reader 2 Christ has come!

Reader 1 No more waiting!

Reader 2 No more sorrow! We light the Christ candle because the light banishes our distress.

All the candles are lighted.

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

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

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.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.**

Song

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11–14

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
|--|---|

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

- 2 They looked 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

Refrain

6

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

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.

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.

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.

A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant

Scene 1: "The Manger Scene"

Carol #126 "Away in a Manger"

Text from American (19th century)

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

Scene 2: "The Shepherds and the Angels"

Congregation says together

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

Carol #136 "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks"

Luke 2:8–14; paraphrase by Nahum Tate

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 While shepherds watched their flocks
by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around. 2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign: 4 the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling
bands,
and in a manger laid. |
|---|--|

- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to
earth
begin, and never cease."

Scene 3: "The Shepherds meet Jesus"

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

Text by Phillips Brooks

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

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.

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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.**

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.

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.

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:

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!

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

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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!**

Carol during Communion

Hymn #138 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Text by Charles Wesley

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King,
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King."

- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
 Christ, the everlasting Lord;
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail, the incarnate deity,
 pleased as one of us to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

- 3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of
 Peace!
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise each child of earth,
 born to give us second birth.

Refrain**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.

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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, 3 Down in a lonely manger
 over the hills and everywhere. the humble Christ was born,
 Go, tell it on the mountain and God sent our salvation
 that Jesus Christ is born. that blessed Christmas morn.

1 While shepherds kept their watching **Refrain**
 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

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 everyone helping and participating in our Spontaneous Christmas Pageant.

The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Christmas.

From Anne, Kathy, and Lorraine Baillie

And to the glory of God, and with hope and prayers for peace in the world.

From Geraldine and Alan Sperling

2024 Donations: A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2024 donations, they must be received by Sunday, December 29 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2024.

Celebrant	Rev. Ali McIntosh
Subdeacon & Chalice Bearer	Margie Lyttle
Narrator	Christian Crawford
Music	Michael Leach

All music and texts for hymns and songs is covered under OneLicense A-718829

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.