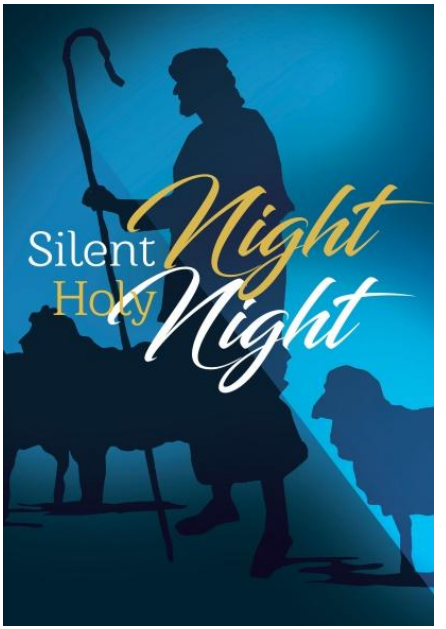
St. George on Yonge
Anglican

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. –Eucharist

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.
- 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.
- 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.

Christmas Eve – the Christ Candle

Reader One: Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope.
(First candle is lit.)
Reader Two: Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for peace.
(Second candle is lit.)
Reader Three: Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy.
(Third candle is lit.)
Reader Four*:* Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.
(Fourth candle is lit.)
Reader Five: God has come to us as a child. Christ is present in our world.
(Christ candle is lit.)

Officiant**:** May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing the God of hope and peace and joy and love from being born among us. Even now the light of Christ is overwhelming the world!
All: God of hope, peace, joy and love, we seek you. During this holy season when we celebrate your coming to us on earth, help us to see you in all whom we encounter.

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The Gathering of the Community

Solo: **The Little Road to Bethlehem** Words by Margaret Rose, Music by Michael Head

Welcome

Celebrant Let the heavens rejoice!
People **Let the earth rejoice in exaltation!**
Celebrant Let the seas roar and the trees shout for joy!
People **The Lord is coming to bring righteousness and truth.**
Celebrant God's light has overcome the darkness!
People **The light shines upon us, around us, and through us.**
Celebrant Sing to the Lord and bless God's name!
People **Salvation has come! Christ has come!**

Organ Fanfare

Processional 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

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.**
Celebrant Unto us a child is born.
People **Unto us a child is given.**
Celebrant Wonderful Counsellor,
People **Mighty God, Prince of Peace.**

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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **Eternal God, 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.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2–7

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

[2] 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. [3] 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. [4] 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] For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

[6] 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. [7] 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.**

Hymn #312 "Sing a New Song unto the Lord" Words and Music by Dan Schultz

Refrain:
Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
singing alleluia.

1 Yahweh's people dance for joy.
O come before the Lord
and play for him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound.
Refrain

2 Rise, O children, from your sleep;
your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song.
Refrain

3 Glad my soul, for I have seen
the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.
I know my Saviour lives.
Refrain

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.**

Hymn #153 "Good Christians All, Rejoice"

Text from German-Latin carol; translation by John Mason Neale

1 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Joyfully before him bow
and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!

2 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

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.**

[1] In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be
registered. [2] This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of
Syria. [3] All went to their own towns to be registered. [4] 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. [5] He went to be registered with Mary, to
whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. [6] While they were there, the time
came for her to deliver her child. [7] 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.
[8] In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by
night. [9] Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for
see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: [11] to you is born this day in
the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. [12] This will be a sign for you: you

will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." [13] And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
[14] "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"
[15] 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." [16] So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. [17] When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; [18] and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. [19] But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. [20] 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.**

Sermon

Solo: **"Salve Puerule"** (Welcome, Thou Holy Child)
English text by John Rutter, Music by Marc Antoine Charpentier.

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.

The Prayers of the People

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Hear our Prayer".
Gracious and loving God, on this holy day your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. God of new birth,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day your Son was born in a lowly stable. Protect with your love the poor, lonely and unhoused; protect with your love those who live in war-torn nations, especially remembering Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Myanmar, Rushia, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Sudan; protect with your love the refugees and displaced in our world. And, with your love, help us to bring healing to broken humanity. God of mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Uphold all who suffer in mind, body or spirit and bring solace to those who live in the despair of doubt and in the grief of death. God of light,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day the angels sang to God's people on earth. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. God of peace,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace and voice to preach the Gospel of Christ's redemption. God of faith,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: On this holy day strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. God of love,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day heaven comes down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Grant your peace to all who have died and bring them to your eternal kingdom. God of hope,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: On this holy day followers of Jesus the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. God of joy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Presider: Creator God, accept these prayers for the glory of our incarnated Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now, and forever.

All: **Amen**.

Confession and Absolution page 191

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to the 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 In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high has broken upon us, giving light to those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guiding our feet into the way of peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #43 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Words by John Wesley

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

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

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

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 through his mother Mary; 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.**

Michael Leach

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 [Michael Leach]

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread #6 page 213

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.**

The Communion page 213

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Lamb of God [Michael Leach]

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.

All are welcome to receive communion with us

As the ushers pass your pew, please line up in the centre aisle.

- ***To receive a blessing,*** *as you reach the priest with the bread, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat after receiving the blessing.*
- ***To receive the bread****, hold your hands in front of you, palms up.*
- ***To receive the wine from the cup****, take the bottom of the cup and the base and guide it to your mouth.*
- ***If you prefer to take only the bread,*** *you may indicate this to the cup bearer by crossing your arms over your chest, or simply walking past them.*

Communion Hymn #121 "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.

2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

Hymn #119 "Silent Night"

Text by Joseph Mohr; translation by John Freeman Young; Descant by Stephanie J. Martin

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.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Creator 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.**

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

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

Blessing

Celebrant May the news of the angels fill your life and your heart with great joy. May the star that guided the Wise Men lead you to the truth of understanding. May the witness of the shepherds affirm in you the message of the Gospel. May the sound of the incarnate Word bring you peace and hope. May the presence of the Holy Child remind you of your own holiness. And may God, the Holy Trinity, bless you, comfort you, and inspire you as you journey into another year. **Amen.**

Recessional 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

Dismissal

Subdeacon Go in peace to love and serve the newborn King.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the glory of God, and in celebration of Christmas.
From Anne and Lorraine Baillie
And to the glory of God, and with hope and prayers for peace in the world.
From Geraldine and Alan Sperling

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

Celebrant & Preacher	Rev. Ali McIntosh	Music	Michael Leach
Subdeacon	Margie Lyttle	Soloist	Sonya Harper Nyby
Chalice Bearers	Margie Lyttle	Ushers	Ann-Marie Waithe Powell
	Geraldine Sperling		Hazel Perkin
Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling		
Crucifer	Soroush Javaheri		

2025 Donations: A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2025 donations, they must be received by Sunday, December 28 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2025. Donations can be made by e-transfer up until December 30th and through CanadaHelps up to midnight on December 31st.

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.