



St. George on Yonge

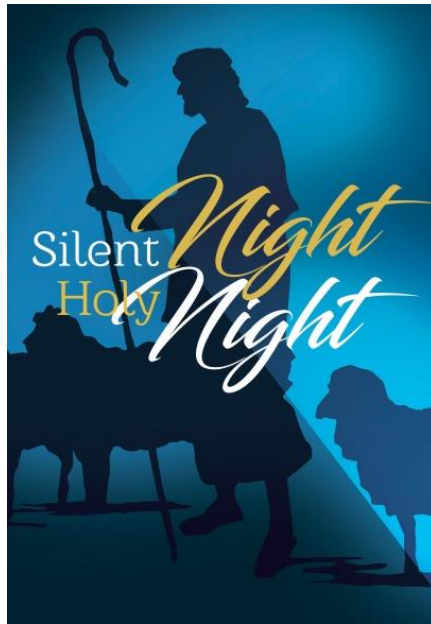
Anglican

Friday, December 24, 2021

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Eve

8:00 p.m. – Carol Singing & 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.

COVID instructions from the Diocese to keep you safe

IN CHURCH EVERYONE MUST:

1. **Be MASKED** all the time
2. **MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING** (2 Metres)
3. Have **NO CONVERSATIONS** or **SOCIAL GATHERINGS**
4. **FOLLOW THE ARROWS ON THE FLOOR**
5. **FOLLOW THE PRIEST'S INSTRUCTIONS** for the Service

When the ORGANIST has finished the POSTLUDE, and the CAMERA is turned off, please leave the church.

Thank you for joining us
Stay Safe

May your presence in our midst be a blessing to us, even as we hope our time together is a blessing to you.

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The Gathering of the Community

Prayer

Hymn #120, verses 1 & 4 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn #135, verses 1 & 4 “Shepherds in the Field Abiding”

Hymn #139, verses 1 & 2 “The First Noël”

Hymn #119 “Silent Night”

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!**

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.**

Candle Lighting

The Christ Candle

Reader Christmas is come!

People **Christ has come!**

Reader No more waiting!

People **No more darkness! We light the Christ candle because the light banishes the dark.**

All the candles are lighted.

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

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.**

Glory to God

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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.

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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.

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.
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.**

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
 sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
 proclaim the good news of his
 salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations
 and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be
 praised;
 he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are
 but idols;
 but it is the Lord who made the
 heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his
 presence!
 Oh, the power and the splendour of his
 sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the
 peoples;
 ascribe to the Lord honour and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his
 name;
 bring offerings and come into his
 courts.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of
 holiness;
 let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **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."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth
 be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
 let the field be joyful and all that is
 therein.

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

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

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

Second Reading:

Titus 2:11–14

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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.**

Celebrant Alleluia

People **Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Celebrant I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

People **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

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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

A time for silent reflection is kept.

The Nicene Creed

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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 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 contacted 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.**

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Leader Jesus, we pray to you knowing that you hear us, that you intercede for us, and that you answer our prayers. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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Celebrant Dear friends 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

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Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #136 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

Luke 2:8–14;
paraphrase by Nahum Tate

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | While shepherds watched their flocks
by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around. | 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: |
| 2 | "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind. | 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."

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 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 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

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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 And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

People **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

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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.**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

People **I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the holy sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment, I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the**

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altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

The Communion

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Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All baptised Christians are invited to share in Communion.

Communion Hymn #146 "’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime"

Text by Jean de Brébeuf; translation by Jesse Edgar Middleton

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|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | ’Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wondering hunters heard the
hymn:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria. | 3 | The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria. |
| 2 | Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria. | 4 | O children of the forest free,
beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria. |

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.**

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* Do not be afraid. Go into the world now with courage. Share the good news. Proclaim tidings of great joy! A saviour has been born.And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you, those you love and all whom you serve, this joyous Christmas night and always. **Amen.****Dismissal***Subdeacon* Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, mystery to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.*People* **Thanks be to God.****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

***The Christmas Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, John and Celestine Horsford, and Charles and Julia
Leader by Rev. Leonard and Felicity Leader.
Thank you to everyone who made donations for the flowers.***

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Subdeacon	Doug Heyes
Reader	Ravi Andrews
Organist	Michael Leach
Intercessor	Geraldine Sperling
Videographer	Egan Done
Duty Warden	Ravi Andrews
Ushers	Hazel Perkin
Altar Guild	Roshni Sircar

2021 Donations: A reminder that in order to receive income tax receipts for 2021 donations, they must be received by Wednesday, December 30 so that they can be included in the deposit for 2021.

The Christmas Banner hung in the Church was designed by Rod McAvoy. Rod was our multi-talented organist here at St. George's from January 1999 to November 2008. Rod was assisted by members of the congregation in buying the fabrics (Kathy Lindsey) and in cutting and stitching the design (Alan Sperling, Karen Done, and Betty Clennett). It is believed that the work was completed in about 2005 – a great accomplishment and a wonderful gift.

Christmas Services

Christmas Day Communion

Saturday, December 25 10:00 a.m. – in person only

First Sunday after Christmas Eucharist

Sunday, December 26 10:00 a.m. – in person and online



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.