



**The Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th, 2025—10:00 a.m.**

Welcome.

This church is a place of prayer and encounter with God. The stones of these walls have sheltered people seeking the presence of the Holy One for almost two centuries. This place of worship has been made hallowed by the prayers of generations and you are welcome to join your heart and voice to theirs.

St John's is an inclusive community of faith in the Anglican tradition: we welcome saints and sinners, people of faith and of no faith, people who are sure they know everything and those who are full of questions. All persons may share equally in the life and leadership of our church and we worship with and serve people of different ethnicities, politics, gender identities and sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and abilities. This church belongs to God, so all of God's children are welcome here.



Peterborough's Oldest Church—Established 1826
99 Brock Street, Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P2
705-745-7624 www.stjohnspeterborough.ca



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in this place in person and virtually and we acknowledge that we are in Nogojiwanong, the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, the Original inhabitants and stewards of this part of the Creation, on whose land and by whose waters we gather by the Williams Treaty to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

Prelude	Christmas Meditation “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and “The Angel Gabriel”	Jason W. Krug (Cantabile Ringers) arr. by Andy Blue Skies (The Whistling Saints)
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The Congregation stands for the hymn.

Hymn	109—When the King Shall Come Again	Tempus adest floridum
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The Greeting

<i>Presider</i>	From the One who is and who was and who is to come, grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

A Penitential Act

<i>Presider</i>	When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.
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<i>All</i>	Lord, have mercy on your people. For we have sinned against you.
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<i>Presider</i>	Lord, show us your mercy.
<i>All</i>	And grant us your salvation.

<i>Presider</i>	Lord, let your love be upon us.
<i>All</i>	For we place all our trust in you.

<i>Presider</i>	May Christ who came among us forgive you your sins. May Christ who is with us always heal what is broken in you. May Christ who is to come in glory do justice for you and save you, now and for ever.
<i>All</i>	Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candles are lit, the congregation sings:

Hope is a can-dle on our jour - ney. Hope is the
Peace is a can-dle on our jour - ney. Peace is the
Joy is a can-dle on our jour - ney. Joy is the

trav - el and the end. All thro' the fros - ty fields of
giv - ing and the gift. O - ver the fro - zen lakes of
swinging and the leap! Un - der the cloud-ed skies of

win - ter, this danc - ing flame of Hope we'll tend.
win - ter, this whis - p'ring flame of Peace we'll lift.
win - ter, this laugh - ing flame of Joy we'll keep.

Collect of the Day

Presider God of glory and compassion, at your touch the wilderness blossoms. Grant perseverance and patience to all who long for your Son's return, so that we may announce in word and deed the good news of the kingdom. We ask this through Christ, whose day draws near.

All **Amen.**

Collect for the Parish Bicentennial

Presider God of life and love, who put into the hearts of our ancestors in faith the building of a church in this place: we give you thanks and praise for your steadfast mercy through the generations; for the calling of this parish of St John the Evangelist to serve the needs of our neighbours and to proclaim the good news of your kingdom. In our bicentennial year, renew in us our zeal for your mission: let us be generous, compassionate, and faithful servants of the gospel and wise stewards of the heritage handed down to us, that this place and its people may be a light upon the hill, showing forth your love to all who see it. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

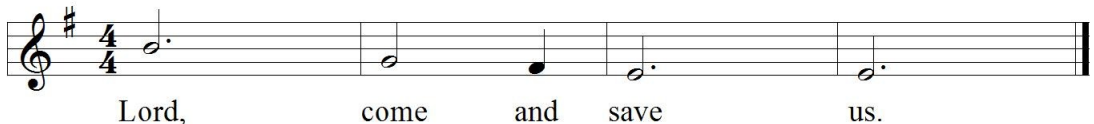
People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

146:4-9

The Cantor sings the verses. The Congregation joins in the refrain (R).



Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God; Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever; Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. **R**

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R**

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah! **R**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader A reading from the Letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 102—Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

Gospel Acclamation (*sung before and after the Gospel*)

Hymn 715



Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Gospeller May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Gospeller When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

Sermon

*The Congregation sits after the prayer.
A silence for reflection follows the Sermon.*

The Congregation stands.

Affirmation of Faith

Presider We say together in faith:

All **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.**

Presider We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All **for by his will they were created and have their being.**

Presider We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All **for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

Presider We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All **the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Presider In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is shared with members of the assembly or household.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

At the Offertory, gifts of bread and wine, signs of the fruit of human labour, are brought to the altar to be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, signs of God's love for the world. The money offering, a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives, collected before the liturgy, is blessed. If you are participating in worship online, please consider making your offering through one of the means available at www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate

Hymn These Are the Days of Elijah (music on page 14)

**These are the days of Elijah,
declaring the Word of the Lord;
and these are the days of your servant Moses,
righteousness being restored;
and though these are days of great trials;
of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”**

Chorus **Behold he comes, riding on the clouds
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
Lift your voice, it's the year of Jubilee,
and out of Zion's hill salvation comes**



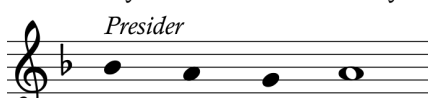

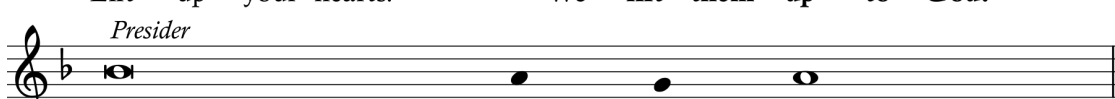
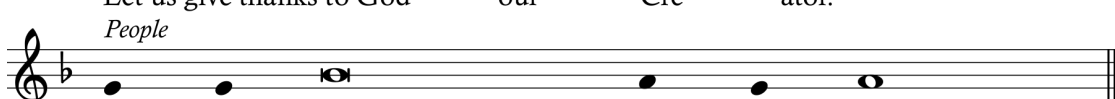
**And these are the days of Ezekiel,
the dry bones becoming as flesh;
and these are the days of your servant,
David, rebuilding a temple of praise;
and these are the days of the harvest,
the fields are as white in the world;
and we are the labourers in your vineyard,
declaring the Word of the Lord. *Chorus***

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

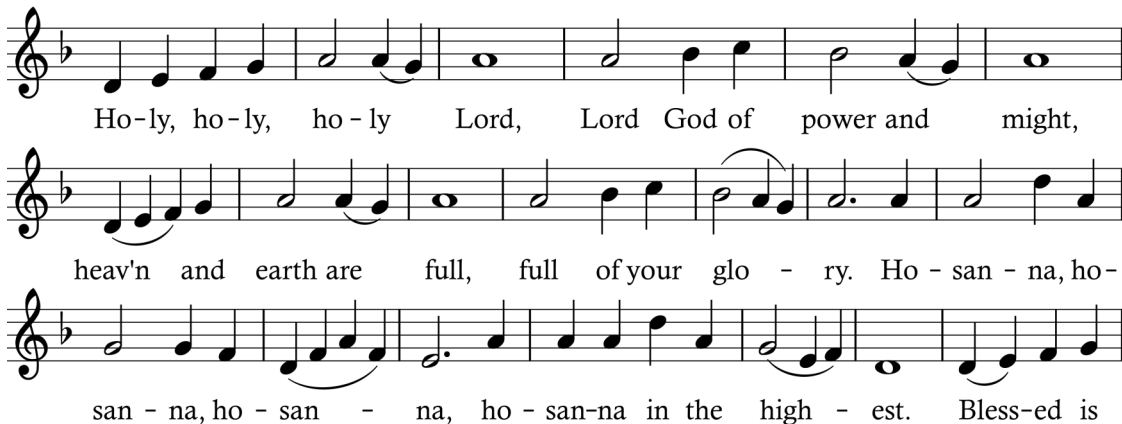
All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>May God be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And also with you.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them up to God.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to offer thanks and praise.</p>	

Presider Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is

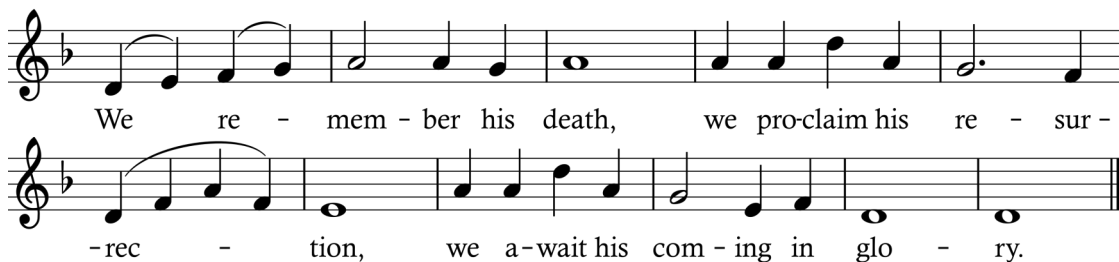


Presider

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.



Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our beloved ones living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.



The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal-lowed be yourName,
 your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
 heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin
 a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
 and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king-dom, the pow-er,
 and the glo-ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

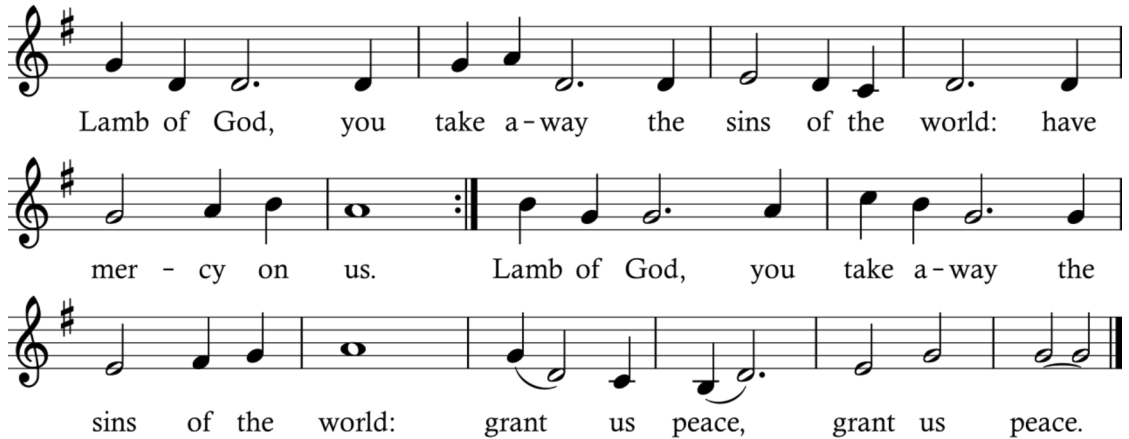
All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. In this Eucharist, many are made one.

Fraction Anthem



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Congregation sits.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward to the Nave altar in single file to receive the Bread from the Presider and then move to the first available Chalice Administrator to receive the Wine. Gluten free Hosts are available upon request. Those who find walking difficult may request that Communion be brought to them. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may indicate their desire by crossing their arms over their breast when they approach the Presider.

Hymn: 87—Strengthen for Service, Lord

Ach Gott und Herr

Meditation: “The Huron Carol”

arr. by Andy Blue Skies (The Whistling Saints)

Anthem “An Advent Proclamation” Olaf G. Malmin
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined on the nations who live in the shadow of death. Arise, be clothed in light, your light has come. Alleluia! Though darkness covers the earth, the Lord will shine upon you. Alleluia! Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Let your light scatter the darkness, and illumine your church. The people who walked in darkness... (Isaiah 9:2; 60:1-2; John 1:4-5)

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Presider Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

All With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

Presider With judgement and mercy,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider In power and glory,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

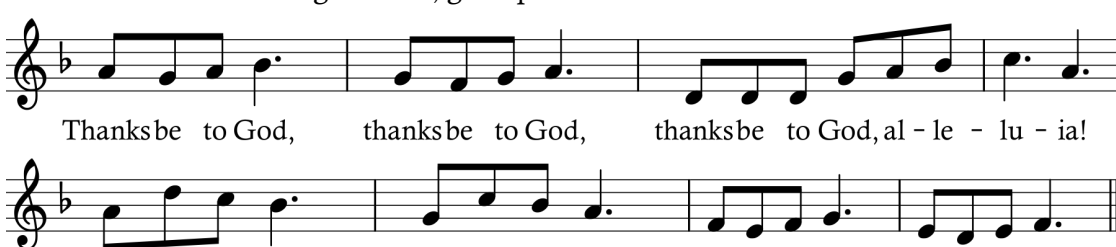
Presider In wisdom and truth,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Blessing

Hymn 114—Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending Helmsley

Presider As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All



Thanks be to God, thanks be to God, thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia!

Thanks be to God, thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Postlude Chorale Prelude on “Helmsley” Allanson G.Y. Brown

Today's Music

PRELUDE: Our Cantabile Ringers, who last Saturday and Sunday rang a set of six Christmas pieces throughout the “Candlelight Christmas” event at Lang Pioneer Village, offer a setting of two carols in **Jason W. Krug’s “Christmas Meditation”**. Krug (b. 1978) is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana. He holds a degree in music from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a full-time freelance composer, arranger, clinician, and teacher. Since his first publication in 2006, he's had over 300 compositions and arrangements published for handbells, piano, strings, organ, and choir. This piece features the German carol “Lo, How a Rose” along with “In Dulci Jubilo”.

Several of our parishioners have recently joined to form “The Whistling Saints”. Julie Deck (soprano recorder), Kris Dobyns (alto recorder), John Bird (bass recorder) and Lorraine Land (melodica) will play arrangements of “**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**” and “**The Angel Gabriel**” as part of today’s prelude. The first is a metrical paraphrase of the O Antiphons, a series of plainchant antiphons attached to the Magnificat at Vespers over the final days before Christmas. The hymn has its origins over 1,200 years ago in monastic life in the 8th or 9th century. Seven days before Christmas Eve monasteries would sing the “O antiphons” in anticipation of Christmas Eve when the eighth antiphon, “O Virgo virginum” (“O Virgin of virgins”) would be sung before and after Mary’s canticle, the Magnificat. “The Angel Gabriel” is a Basque Christmas folk carol about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the archangel Gabriel that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

COMMUNION MEDITATION: The Whistling Saints offer an arrangement of “**The Huron Carol**” during Communion. The Huron Carol, Canada's oldest Christmas song, began as "Jesous Ahatonhia" in the Huron (Wendat) language around 1642, written by Jesuit missionary Jean de Brébeuf using Indigenous imagery like hunters and animal furs for the Nativity story, set to a French folk tune. English lyrics by Jesse Edgar Middleton (1926) adapted these themes (“’Twas in the moon of wintertime”), portraying Jesus born in a bark lodge, and the carol continues to be sung, connecting to both Indigenous heritage and Canadian tradition

ANTHEM: “An Advent Proclamation” by **Olaf G. Malmin** (1939-2021) joins lines from Isaiah and John, and features beautiful descending cascades of alleluias, unison passages, and a supportive piano accompaniment. Malmin was a Minnesota-based composer, having a long career as a teacher, violinist and vocal recitalist.

POSTLUDE: The service concludes with a strong setting of today’s concluding hymn “**Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending**” by the late Canadian composer and organist **Allanson G. Y. Brown** (1902-1982). Brown was an organist in England and Ireland before coming to Canada and taking up positions at Dominion United Church and later at St. Matthew’s Anglican Church, both in Ottawa. His setting of the hymn opens majestically, then takes off, with the tune in the top voice, interspersed with his own original music based on the tune. His harmonies stayed closer to the 19th century than to our own time, much like the music of Healey Willan.



These are the days of E - li-jah, de - clar-ing the Word of the Lord;
these are the days of E - ze-kiel, the dry bones be-com - ing as



and these are the days of your ser - vant, Mo - ses,
flesh; and these are the days of your ser - vant, Da - vid,



right-eous - ness be-ing re - stored; and though these are days of great
building a tem-ple of praise; and these are the days of the



tri-als, of fam - ine and dark - ness and sword; still
har-vest, the fields are as white in the world; and



we are the voice in the des - ert cry - ing, "Pre -
we are the la - bour - ers in your vine - yard, de -



pare ye the way of the Lord." Be-hold He
clar - ing the Word of the Lord.



comes, rid-ing on the clouds shining like the sun at the trum - pet



call; Lift your voice, it's the year of Ju - bi-lee, and out of Zion's



hill sal - va-tion comes.

1. 2. And

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Greeters	Dianne Meittinen and Mickey Bongers
Tower Chimes	Glen Caradus
Organist	Robert Grandy
Cantor	Robyn Hawthorne
Readers	Brenda Whiteman and Angela Slater
Intercessor	Ian Storey
Crucifer	Jacob Coombes
Sacrist	Lucas Paradis
Server	Lucas Rumble
Chalice Administrator	Brenda Whiteman and Ian Storey
Chancel Guild	Peggy Kruger and Pat Passmore
A/V	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Coffee Hosts	Mary Ann Hall and Marian Olson

Acknowledgements

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To the right are some commonly-asked questions by visitors. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters or clergy for assistance.



The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Rector

The Rev. Ruth Adams
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

Mr. Robert Grandy
Director of Music

Mr. Colin Walsh
Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Churchwardens

Deputy Churchwarden

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Welcome!

Children's Ministry

We welcome children and youth, who may remain with you to worship and do not have to remain perfectly still and quiet! Please feel free to allow them to roam if they wish. Families are most welcome to use the activities in the children's area in the church and to bring colouring sheets, toys, and snacks for their children.

On Posture in Worship

It is customary that we stand to pray and sing and sit to hear God's Word proclaimed and interpreted. Some people prefer to kneel to pray. Please adopt the posture that helps you to worship.

Visitor's Cards

If you're visiting, please do take the time to complete a visitor's card, which can be found in the rack on the bookcase in the Chapel. We would love the opportunity to stay in touch with you.

Making an Offering (Donation)

To support the ministry of the parish, an offering may be made by placing cash or a cheque in an envelope available where you picked up this order of service. Please write your name and address on the envelope, then place it on the brass offering plate. Tax receipts are issued for gifts of \$20 or more. We also have a convenient pre-authorised giving program for monthly donations that are debited from your bank account or we accept e-transfers to office@stjohnspeterborough.ca. Please visit www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate for more information.

Accessibility

The facility is entirely accessible through the Brock St entrance, from where all levels of the facility are accessible via elevator.

Washrooms/Change Table

Accessible washrooms are located down the hall from the narthex (lobby). A change table is in the nursery at the end of the hall.

Fragrances

We ask that you refrain from wearing strong fragrances in order to accommodate those with breathing sensitivities.

Fellowship & Refreshments

All are welcome to stay after the liturgy for fellowship and refreshments in the Guild Hall.