



A Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas

December 21st, 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

Prelude Theme, Duo, Trio, Canon, Contrasts, Homage, Recit, Interlude and Chorale
(from Variations on the Huron Carol) Dr. Giles Bryant

Hymn Once in Royal David's City **Irby**

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that Mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.*

*Choir He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
 with the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

The Congregation stands.

All For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew,
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

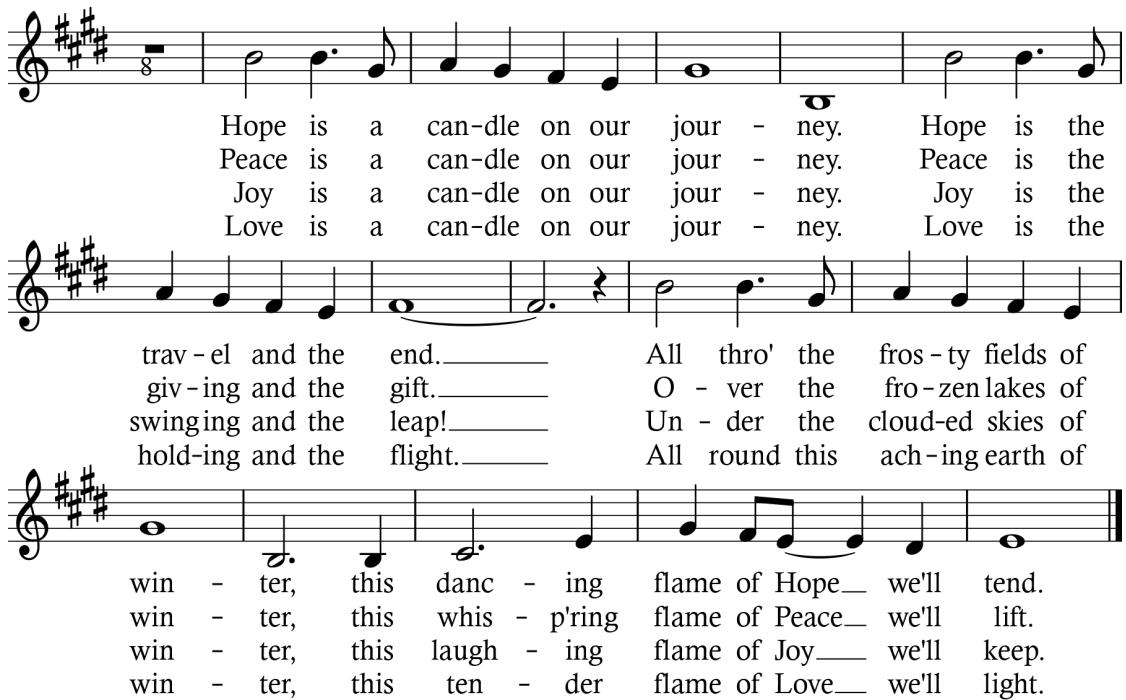
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him: but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
where like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.

The Greeting

Presider From the One who is and who was and who is to come, grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath



Hope is a candle on our jour - ney. Hope is the
Peace is a candle on our jour - ney. Peace is the
Joy is a candle on our jour - ney. Joy is the
Love is a candle on our jour - ney. Love 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
swing - ing and the leap! Un - der the cloud-ed skies of
hold - ing and the flight. All round this ach - ing earth 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.
win - ter, this ten - der flame of Love we'll light.

A Bidding Prayer

Officiant Beloved in Christ, in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us reflect on the time of our rebellion against the creator of the universe; rejoice that the glory of the Lord has been revealed; join with Mary, the favoured handmaid, and offer ourselves in service to God's holy and saving purpose for the world; magnify the God of mercy who breaks the power of tyrants and exalts the humble; raise our voices with the messenger who announces good news of great joy to all people; and, give thanks to the one whose power has made us the children of God.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church, that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

With joy in our hearts, let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ, and join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and Magi, and with all our forebears in faith in offering our worship.

The Congregation sits.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Reader They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Carol

Adam Lay Y'bounden

Boris Ord

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Reader The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Carol Nowell, Sing We, Now All and Some Robert Grandy
(Solos: Robyn Hawthorne, Dave Freeman, Mary McLaughlin, Alex Meinhardt, Lucas Paradis)

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader 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. 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. 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.

Carol An Advent Proclamation Olaf Malmin

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 121—O Little Town of Bethlehem Forest Green

The Congregation sits.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Reader A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol Lo, How a Rose arr. by Carl Johengen

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Reader In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

Carol The Angel Gabriel

arr. by Malcolm Archer

The Congregation stands

Hymn 269—Heavenly Message

Pied-De-Port

The Congregation sits.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Reader In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 room for them in the dwelling-place.

Carol A Boy Was Born in Bethlehem

Bert Van Der Hoek, Solo: Karen Bisschop

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Reader In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ 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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. by Sir David Wilcocks

The Congregation stands

Hymn 135—Shepherds in the Field Abiding Iris

The Congregation sits

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

Reader In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol One Star David Isele

The Congregation stands

Hymn 160—As With Gladness Men of Old Dix

The Congregation sits

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Reader In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

arr. by Donna Butler

The Congregation stands

Hymn 118—O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

The Congregation sits.

The Litany

Officiant In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

All By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Officiant By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Officiant By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Officiant By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Officiant By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Officiant By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.
All **Lord, grant us peace.**

Officiant Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.
All **Lord, grant us peace.**

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant With joy in our hearts,
let us gather our prayers in the words our Saviour taught us.

All **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.

Blessing

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 138—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Mendelssohn

Postlude Postlude on “Adeste Fidelis” Eric H. Thiman

All are welcome for a time of fellowship and hot apple cider with Christmas goodies in the Guild Hall.

TODAY'S MUSIC

This Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is modelled after the King's College, Cambridge service, instituted by the Rev Eric Milner-White in 1918. The words for the choir's carols and anthems today originate from around the world and from various time periods.

PRELUDE: The late great organist and choirmaster Dr. Giles Bryant penned a set of variations on the Huron Carol "Jesous Ahatonhia" and had it published by the Royal Canadian College of Organists in 2009. Dedicated to his organist friend Tom Millar, it consists of a theme and nine variations - the ninth being omitted this morning as it is a loud "Carillon", more suited as a postlude. The opening "Theme", with Giles' own harmonization, is followed by a quiet "Duo"; a gentle "Trio"; a simple two-part "Canon"; a short, bold movement titled "Contrasts"; an "Homage" in the style of Bach; a beautiful slow-moving "Recit"; a short improvisatory-like "Interlude", and a stately "Chorale" – the last three movements having changed to A major from the previous key of A minor.

CHOIR CAROLS:

"Adam Lay Y'bounden": Boris Ord's 1957 setting is probably the best-known version as a result of its traditional performance following the First Lesson at the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, where Ord was organist from 1929 to 1957. The anonymously penned words come from the 15th century.

"Nowell Sing We Now, All and Some": My newest composition receives its premiere today. With a text from two 15th Century carols, and music reminiscent of medieval times, this rollicking carol features a repeated refrain, with verses for soloists and choir.

"An Advent Proclamation": Minnesota composer **Olaf G. Malmin** uses several familiar Advent texts from Isaiah and John, set to beautiful music. Listen for the cascading alleluias halfway through the piece.

"Lo, How a Rose": This old German carol by **Michael Praetorius** has been arranged by **Carl Johengen** into a four-part polyphonic setting, followed by the more traditional carol. The expanded theme is sung as a round, before the voices come together and sing the traditional harmony of the carol.

"The Angel Gabriel": The tune is a Basque carol, with words paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould. British composer **Malcolm Archer's** setting gives the tune to both the upper and lower voices.

"A Boy Was Born in Bethlehem": With a 16th Century German text translated by Percy Dearmer, this original carol is a rhythmic setting by the late London, Ontario composer **Bert Van der Hoek**, who wrote it for his choir at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church in London.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly": This traditional Polish carol was first published in 1908, although the tune may date back for centuries before. **Sir David Willcocks'** arrangement is surely the most famous. The short, rhymed phrases lead to a crescendo in each stanza's final lines: "Christ the babe is lord of all" and "Christ the babe was born for you!"

"One Star": American composer **David Clark Isele** penned a beautiful melody for words by his father John Isele, crafting a lovely carol about the star that led the three wise men.

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence": This traditional French carol, with a text from the Liturgy of St.

James, translated by Gerard Moultrie, is given a warm two-part setting by **Donna J. Butler**. The optional handbell part will be played on the organ.

POSTLUDE: The **Postlude on Adeste Fideles** (O Come, All Ye Faithful) is one of the best of **Eric Thiman's** organ works. It was composed for the Festal Voluntaries series, a set of organ volumes containing organ works for various seasons of the church year. Written in a brisk 4/4 time, his setting is harmonically fairly tonal. However there are some interesting modulations. It gives the overall impression of being a lively, powerful piece that may be very much of its time, but that is hugely impressive.
(with notes by John France)

Liturgical Ministers

Officiant	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Organist and Director of Music	Bob Grandy
Tower Chimes	Erica Jaarsma
Greeters	Joelle Kovach and Matthew Harvey
Crucifer	Ashley Tucker
Readers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Colin Walsh3. Andrew Vreugdenhil5. The Rev. Keith Dobyns7. John Hebert9. The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Refreshments Hosts	Carolyn Porteous and Jennifer Passmore
A/V	Walter Howell

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

Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Mr. Colin Walsh
Churchwardens

Mrs. Carolyn Porteous
Parish Administrator

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Custodian

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@stjohnspeterborough

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.