





Christmas Eve Family Celebration of the Birth of Jesus December 24th, 2017—4:00 p.m.

Welcome.

On this holy night, we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. May you find peace and joy in our worship and in the Christmas story; and going forth from this place, may God give you every blessing.

If you are visiting St John's as part of your Christmas celebrations, don't worry if you're not sure what to do. Instructions for various parts of the liturgy are found in italics in the order of service or in the margin notes. If you still have questions, please do not be afraid to ask a parishioner wearing a name tag. Above all, know that God is glad you are here on this night when we celebrate Jesus' birth.

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. Men and women may share equally in the life and leadership of our church and we worship with and serve people of different ethnicities, politics, gender expressions, economic circumstances, and abilities. This church belongs to God, so all of God's children are welcome here.

***A very happy, peaceful, and
merry Christmas to you and yours!***

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude Dulci Jubilo—JS Bach

Please stand as the hymn begins.

Hymn 118—O Come, All Ye Faithful Adeste Fideles

Introit

Presider 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.

The Greeting

Presider The grace of Jesus,
the love of God,
and the power of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Please sit at the conclusion of the prayer.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, adjacent to the territory of the Haudenosaunee, 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.

The hymns are found in the blue hymn book Common Praise in the pew racks.

righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

The children of the parish have prepared a dramatic presentation of the Christmas story. Visiting children are invited to come forward to participate in the singing of the carols in the presentation.

Children's Presentation of the Christmas Story

Hymn 135—Shepherds in the Field Abiding

Iris

Homily

A silence for reflection follows the homily. Please stand when the Presider stands.

Affirmation of Faith

Presider Let us confess our faith as we say,

All **Christ Jesus, by nature divine,
did not grasp for himself
a rank as equal with God.
He chose to empty himself,
becoming a humble slave,
and living the life of a man.
And human in every way,
he humbled himself still more,
obedient to death on a cross.
So God has exalted him on high,
and given to him the name,
the greatest of all the names;**

so that at Jesus' name
every knee should bend low
in heaven, on earth, in the depths,
and every tongue proclaim:
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please turn to the people around you and exchange a sign of God's peace.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn 139—The First Nowell

The First Nowell

During the singing of the hymn, children are invited to gather around the altar.

Prayer over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider God is here.

People **We praise God together.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God

People **who has done so much for us.**

Presider God, you made us, and the world...

...and so with thanks we praise you, singing:

The Prayers of the People are offered by members of the congregation. They reflect the needs and concerns of the local church and community, and of people in various kinds of need, sickness, or adversity throughout the world.

The Peace is exchanged with a handshake or similar greeting with those immediately around us as a symbol of our reconciliation with our neighbour before approaching the altar. It is not necessary to move from one's place.

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 offering plate is passed for the money offering, a sign of our gratitude for God's blessing of our lives. Money may be offered as cash or cheque—if placed in an envelope (visitors' envelopes are in the pews), tax receipts are issued for donations of twenty dollars or more.

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

Presider We are here because, on the night before he died...
 ...we worship you in songs of everlasting praise:
All **We give you blessing, honour, and glory
 here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer
 ICET

Setting by David Haas

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your
 name, 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'r and the glo - ry are yours,
 now and for ev - er.

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Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break the bread of life,
 and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
 light in the midst of us,
 bring us to light and life.**

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Fraction Anthem

Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of Lords in hu - man ves - ture,

for, with bless - ing in his hand, Christ our God to us ap -
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the

proach - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.

Jesus is the Host who invites us to share his Table. All those who are baptized in any tradition are welcome to receive

Communion in both bread and wine. Please come forward to receive Communion as invited by the Sidespeople.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please cross your arms in front of your chest. If you require gluten-free bread, please ask the

Communion minister. Please do not dip the bread into the wine.

After making your Communion, please return to your seat to pray in silence.

Communion

Hymns: 126—Away in a Manger	Cradle Song
120—O Little Town of Bethlehem	St Louis
137—What Child is This	Greensleeves
119—Silent Night	Stille Nacht

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Please stand when the Presider returns to the altar.

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord,

All and your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

May we, who share his body, live his risen life;

we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;

we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so that we and all your children shall be free,

and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Having been fed with the spiritual food of our Lord, we now prepare to be sent into the world to share the light and life of God.

Blessing

The Presider offers the blessing; the congregation responds, "Amen."

Hymn

138—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

Dismissal

Presider Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



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

Noel Suisse—L. Daquin



CHRIST IS BORN!

The Decorations in the Church are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of

Bill Baker from wife Isabel Baker and Family

Bruce and Mary Baker from Bob & Marlene & family

Gwen, Bill, Jim and Rob Brown from daughter and sister Ginger

Bill Currier and daughter June from Gerri and family

Robert and Patricia Cyr and Beatrice Smith from Brad

Wilf Doust from his wife Joyce

Fred Doré from Esther, Cindy, Shane and families

Florrie & Fred Ford, Gertrude & Claude Pearson, Harry & Ella Lemmings, Richard & Matilda Ford, Kay & Alan Warren & their daughters, Ruthanne Kerr, Mary Beth Kirkwood & Vern Passmore from Diane & Family

Marjorie Fowley and son Wm Jack Fowley, Lawrence T Legris, Mr and Mrs B.A. Budd, Mr and Mrs R.G. Long and son Harry and his wife Monica and son Doug, Herbert F. Long, Kenneth Long, Frank Hayes from Jean Legris, Marjorie Hayes and Families

Bill and Marj Gates, parents of Darlene Davis

George and Lucy Groombridge, Husband Les and sons William, Doug & Jack from wife and mother Laura

Ruth & Earl Stevens, Lyman Harding, Min and Nate Harding and their daughter Dee Church from Margaret

Walter & Bink Howell and Aunt Thelma, from their son Walter and his family

Joyce & Harold Hubbell from daughter Carolyn and family

Hugh Jones from his wife Doreen and son John

Husband Doug and Daughter Joanne from Doreen Landry

Victor Lietz, Barb and Don Taylor; love Debbie, Heather, Shannon and Piper

Kay & Bill Martin, Eleanor and Archie Ferguson from Linda & Marilyn

Jack & Evelyn Pond from their family

Karen Renwick, great friend of Esther Dore.

Ernie Ruttler and Bert Sullivan from Helen

Thorndykes, Nixons and Andrea Thorndyke-Dickie from Ted and Eleanor

Marshall Trossman from Anna Jean

Nora Park, Marnie McCulloch Edison, Barbara Matthews, Nancy Martin, Alicia Perry, Mary Rogers and Elizabeth Clarkson



Liturgical Ministers

Presider
Preacher
Organist
Sacrist
Crucifer
Server
Readers
Intercessor
Chalice Administrators
Chapel
Brad Administrators
Elements
Greeters
Sidespeople

The Rev. Brad Smith
The Rev. Christian Harvey
Julie Deck
Emily Coombes
John Noble
Kaleigh Coombes
Lisa Noble and the Rev. Terry Noble
Emily Coombes
Sharon Watkins and Sue Lumley
Shirley Clarke and Matthew Harvey
The Rev. Christian Harvey
Lilli and Abbagale Anderson
Martha, Lilli and Abbagale Anderson
Team 5, captain Bob Hinton

*The liturgy is adapted
from the Book of
Alternative Services
(1985) of the Anglican
Church of Canada*

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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. Brad Smith
Rector

The Rev. Christian Harvey
Deacon

The Rev. Terry Noble
The Rev. John Runza
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

Ms Julie Deck
Interim Director of Music

Mr Walter Howell
Ms Brenda Whiteman
Churchwardens

Mr Matthew Harvey
Ms Bonnie Williams
Deputy Churchwardens

stjohnspeterborough.ca

[www.facebook.com/
StJohnsPtbo](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsPtbo)

Welcome!

Children's Ministry

St John's welcomes children and youth. They are welcome to 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. For children who are not yet of school age, there is a professional child care provider staffing our Nursery, which is at the end of the hallway past the washrooms. For school age children, we offer a weekly Sunday School from September to June where kids hear the same Bible readings as in the worship service and engage in activities that are designed to teach the faith.

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

Please do take the time to complete a visitor's card, which can be found in the pocket at the aisle end of your pew. We would love the opportunity to stay in touch with you.

Assistive Hearing Devices

If you are hard of hearing, headsets to assist you to hear the service are available. Please ask a Greeter or Sidesperson (usher) to assist you in finding and operating a headset.

Accessibility

St John's is entirely accessible through the Brock St entrance. There are three accessible parking spots in the upper lot off Brock St. The church is level with the Brock St entrance and all other levels of the facilities are accessible via elevator.

Washrooms/Change Table

Fully accessible washrooms are located down the hall to the right as you enter the lobby from Brock St. 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.