



**The First Sunday of Christmas  
December 28th, 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](http://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.*

## Carol Sing

*Before the service begins, we will sing Christmas hymns and carols from the hymn book.*

## Hymn Unto Us a Boy Is Born Puer Nobis Nascitur

Unto us a boy is born!  
King of all creation,  
came he to a world forlorn,  
the Lord of every nation,  
the Lord of every nation.

Christ from heaven descending low  
comes, on earth a stranger;  
ox and ass their owner know;  
beccradled in the manger,  
beccradled in the manger.

Herod then with fear was filled:  
"A prince," he said, "in Jewry!"  
All the little boys he killed  
at Bethlem in his fury,  
at Bethlem in his fury.

Now may Mary's son, who came  
so long ago to love us,  
lead us all with hearts aflame  
unto the joys above us,  
unto the joys above us.

Omega and Alpha he!  
Let the organ thunder,  
while the choir with peals of glee  
doth rend the air asunder,  
doth rend the air asunder.

## The Greeting

*Presider* 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.**

## Prayer of Approach

*Presider* Christmas Child, as we wait now for you, steal softly into our lives:  
*All* Still our clamorous busyness with the quiet of your coming.

*Presider* Christmas Child, as we look now for you, steal softly into our minds:  
*All* Transfigure our dull thinking with the colours of your seeing.

*Presider* Christmas Child, as we long now for you, steal softly into our hearts:  
*All* Enrich our meagre loving with the warmth of your being.

*Presider* Christmas Child, as at Bethlehem's stable,  
*All* Steal softly in among us now and heal and hallow us with your Presence.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Hymn 366



Glo - ry, in the high - est glo - ry, peace to all, in all their days.  
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re deem - er, Lamb of God, for sin - ners given,



Wor - ship, thanks, and praise unceas - ing to the Source of all we raise:  
Word e - ter - nal, born of Ma - ry, Word made flesh, the face of heaven:



reign - ing in the sap - phire height, hid - den from our mor - tal sight,  
ho - ly One, to you we pray, hear us in the realms of day,



now re - ceive our a - dor-a - tion, as we make our sup - pli-ca - tion.  
with the Spir - it there u - nit - ed, and the God - head high ex - alt - ed.

## Confession and Absolution

*Presider*    Christmas Child—

*All*            **becoming flesh, you showed what it was to serve and share,  
to live and love, as God intended.**

**As we stand at the stable door we confess that all too often  
our serving and sharing, our living and loving,  
have concealed or mocked your generosity,  
rather than making it present and plain.**

**Christmas Child,  
as we kneel again at your manger restore, renew and reshape us  
so that our serving and sharing, living and loving  
may, now and always, incarnate you in the world.**

*Presider*    In the name of the Most High God, who came to earth a Child,  
I declare that your sins are forgiven  
and that, through the life, death, and rising of the Saviour,  
you are reconciled to God.

*All*            **Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

*Presider*    Almighty God, you have shone upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May  
this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
for ever.

*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

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## First Reading

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

148

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



Heav-en and earth, praise the Lord! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host. **R**

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. **R**

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will; **R**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds; kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; **R**

young men and maidens, old and young together. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. **R**

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! **R**

## Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10-18

*Reader* A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, ‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’ And again, ‘I will put my trust in him.’ And again, ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given me.’ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Congregation stands.*

**Hymn** 153—Good Christians All, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

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

Hymn 715



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

**Gospel**

Matthew 2:13-23

*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* Now after the Magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.' When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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 with the Presider.*

## The Nicene Creed

*Presider* Let us confess our faith as we say,  
**All** **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,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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

### Sharing of the Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*All* And also with you.

*A sign of peace is exchanged with those around us.*

## 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](http://www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate)*

**Hymn** 580—In Bethlehem a Newborn Boy

Deus Tuorum Militum

### Prayer over the Gifts

*Presider* Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever.

*All* Amen.

## Eucharistic Prayer

*Presider* May God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

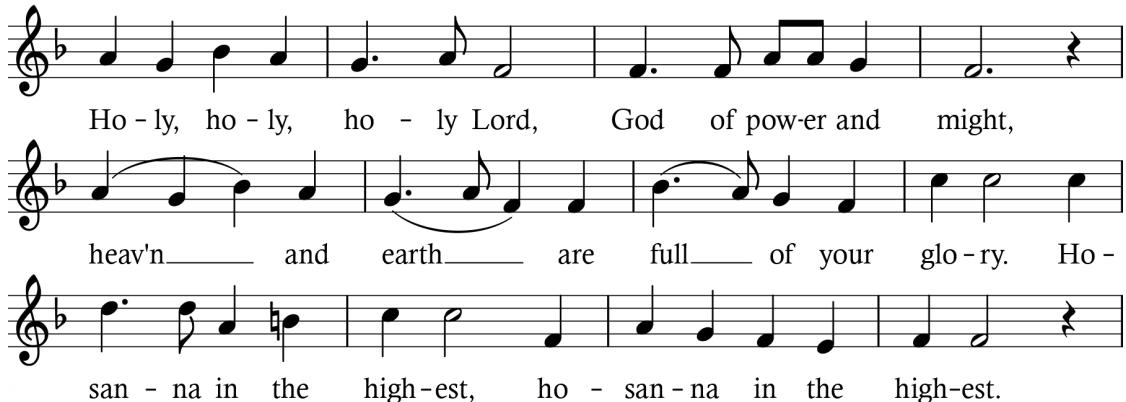
*Presider* Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* This is the feast of the Christmas Child—a place where heaven and earth coincide, and eternity once more condenses into time as God is seen and known in the simple and the small, in story and song, and in bread and wine. So come—whether you are drawn by joy or driven by need, whether you walk with confident step, or stumble on faltering feet, whether you understand the meaning, or can only wonder at the mystery—come and gaze on the face of God for all are welcome in the stable.

The story of the Christmas Child is the story of Jesus—joyfully accepting the restriction of flesh and entering the constraint of time to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered transcend their limitations. It is the story of Jesus—seated at a table with his friends breaking bread and pouring wine to show how life and love fully lived and freely offered change the world. It is the story of Jesus—accepting a kiss and carrying a cross to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared count no cost. It is the story of Jesus—confined in a tomb but rising with the dawn to show how life and love fully lived and freely shared defy and defeat even death. It is the story of Emmanuel—God, now and always with us and for us.

So, as we take this bread and wine—in remembrance of that life and love—we give thanks for the healing and hope which spring from the coming, living, dying and rising of the Christmas Child. And, with those who gather round his crib, with the angel choirs, and the singing planets, we join in creation's song of joy:



The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Presider

And as we follow the example of Jesus, send down your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that the story of the Christmas Child—of life fully lived and freely shared—may continue on in us and through us, until the world is transformed.

May the peace of the Christmas Child—the soft peace of a starlit night, the noisy peace of a crowded stable, the challenging peace of life and love fully lived and freely shared—enfold, enrich and energise you. Emmanuel, who came to us in the Christmas Child, and who comes to us still through the living, loving, and sharing of others, offers these signs of his Presence and invites us to join our story with theirs.

All

Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

Presider

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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 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* 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.**

*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

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.

*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: 122—In the Bleak Midwinter

**Solo**      “Minuit, Chretiens”      Adolphe Adam; soloist Lucas Paradis

## COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

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### Announcements

### Prayer after Communion

*Presider*      The starlight and song, story and supper,  
which called us home, now compel us to go out.

*All*      **May we who have knelt at the manger**  
**always have room to hold within ourselves the Christmas Child.**  
**May we who have gazed on the face of God**  
**learn to live fully, and to share freely**  
**all that we have and are.**  
**So may Emmanuel—God with us and for us—**  
**be once again incarnated in the world. Amen.**

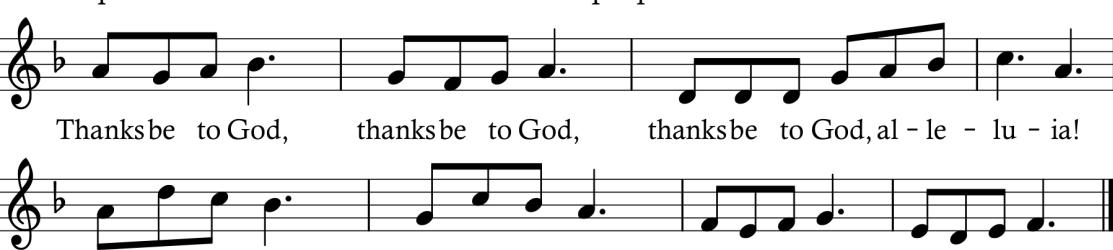
### Blessing

**Hymn**      154—Joy to the World      Antioch

### Dismissal

*Presider*      Go in peace to love and serve God and God’s people!

*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!





## Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Greeters	Alan Brunger and John Perkins
Organist	Robert Grandy
Cantor	Lucas Paradis
Readers	Walter Howell and Jennifer Passmore
Intercessor	Mickey Bongers
Crucifer	
Sacrist	
Server	
Chalice Administrator	
Chancel Guild	Ellen Seddon and Leslie Sherman
A/V	Walter Howell

### Acknowledgements

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# Welcome!

*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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@stjohnspeterborough

## **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](mailto:office@stjohnspeterborough.ca). Please visit [www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate](http://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.