



**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7th, 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 Three Preludes on “Lo, How a Rose”

Johannes Brahms; Robert Benson; Mary Beth Bennett

The Congregation stands for the hymn.

Hymn 106—There’s a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension

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.**

A Penitential Act

Presider 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.

All Lord, have mercy on your people.
 For we have sinned against you.

Presider Lord, show us your mercy.
All **And grant us your salvation.**

Presider Lord, let your love be upon us.
All **For we place all our trust in you.**

Presider 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.
All **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candle is 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
trav-el and the end. All thro' the fros-ty fields of win -
giv-ing and the gift. O - ver the fro-zen lakes of win -
ter, this danc - ing flame of Hope we'll tend.
ter, this whis - p'ring flame of Peace we'll lift.

Collect of the Day

Presider Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah: inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and 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

First Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

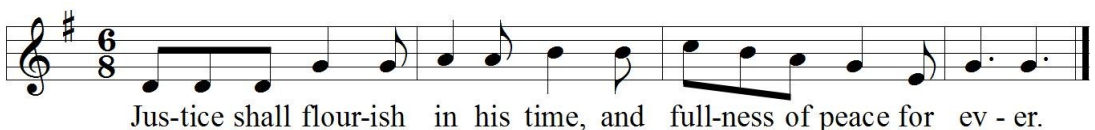
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

72:1-7,18-19

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



Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; **R**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. **R**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. **R**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does

wondrous deeds! And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! And may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 98—Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes

Bristol

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

Hymn 715



Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

People

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Sermon

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

Quartet

"A Cradle Waits"

Jean Anne Shafferman

See, amid the winter snow, in humble manger low, a cradle waiting for the tiny Child, tender, meek and mild, the Saviour. Soon He'll come, the Promised One, God's incarnate Son, Messiah. See, amid the winter snow, in humble manger low, a cradle waits. See, upon a lonely hill, a shepherd standing still is keeping watch o'er silent flock by night, in the starry light. But soon the angel host in heav'n will sing, (Gloria, Gloria) joyous news they bring: The Saviour! See, upon a lonely hill, in the twilight still, a shepherd waits. See, in distant Eastern land, a noble wise man stands and gazes far into the Eastern sky, looking for a sign: A blazing Star! It will be a sign. Soon its light will shine to guide him; Guide him to the tiny Child, tender, meek and mild, the Saviour. See, amid the winter snow, in humble manger low, a cradle waits.

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 105—Where Jordan Cuts the Wilderness

Morning Song

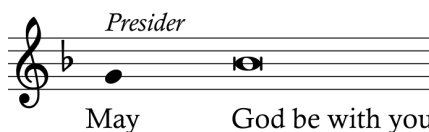
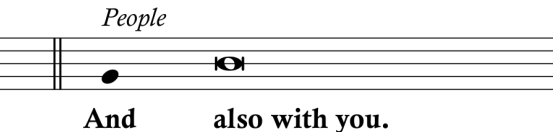
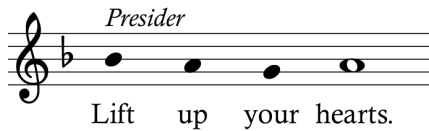
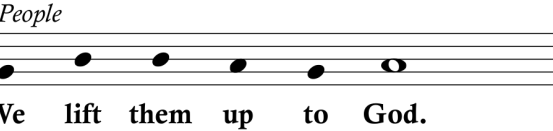

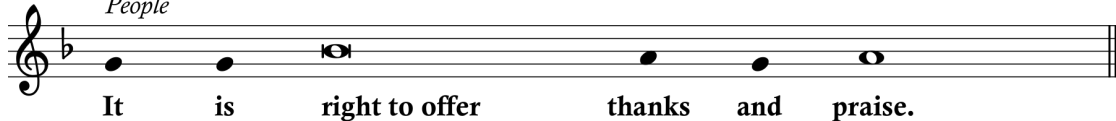
Prayer over the Gifts

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.

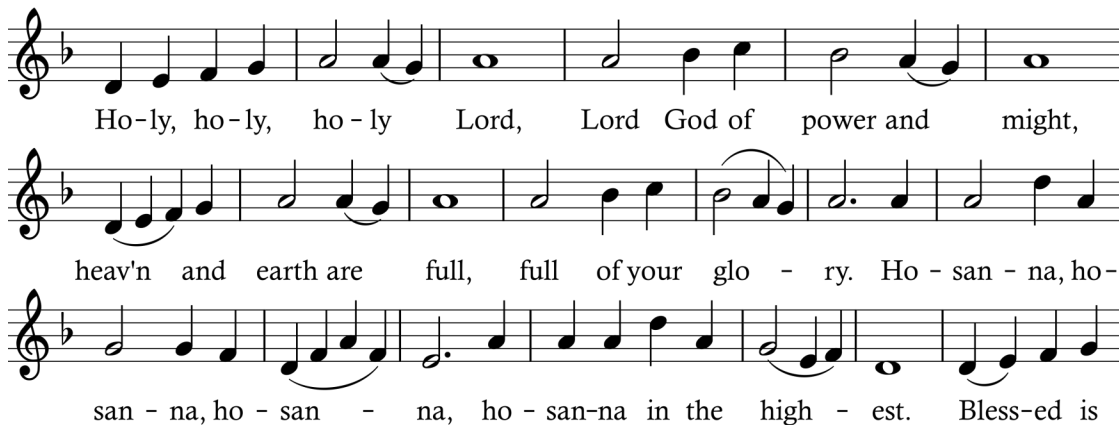
All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

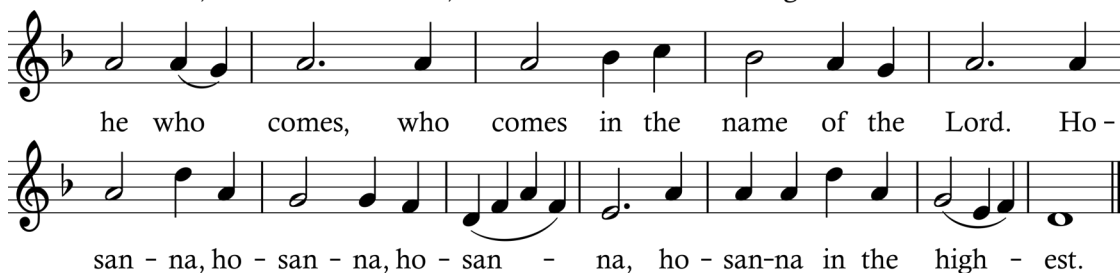
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>May God be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And also with you.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them up to God.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p> 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

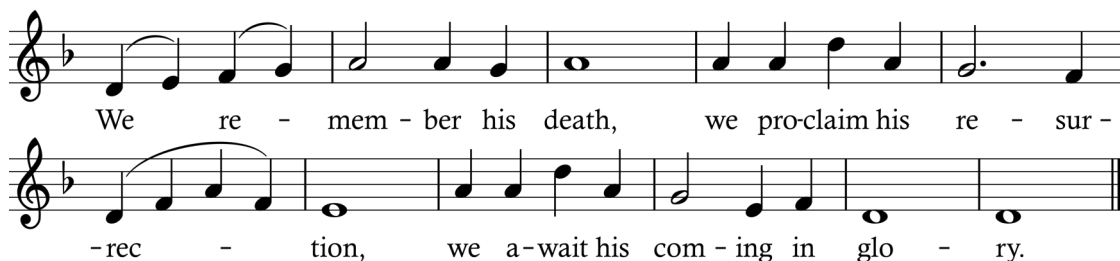


Presider

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 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 - 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.

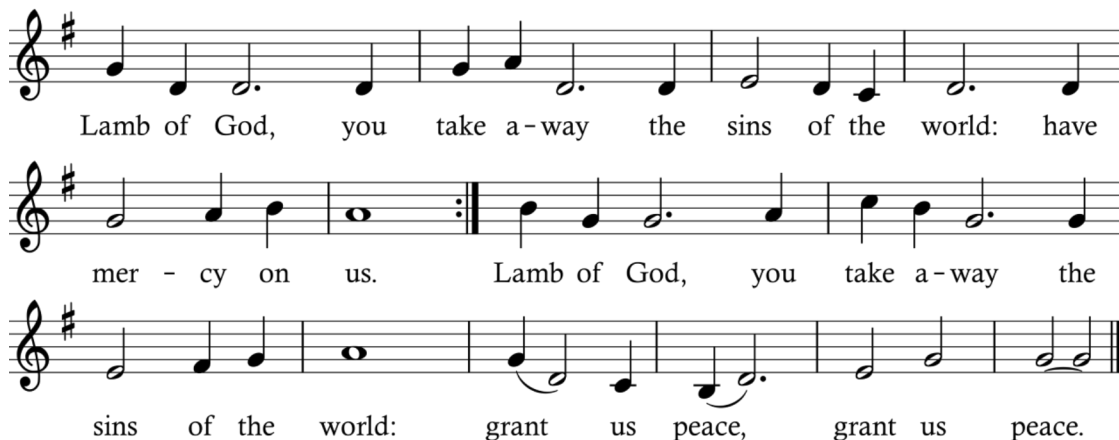
All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

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



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: 100—Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Psalm 42

Anthem “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. by Carl Johengen; words trad. German carol
Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a flow’ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Saviour, when half-spent was the night. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendour the darkness ev’rywhere. True man, yet very god, from sin and death now save us, and share our ev’ry load.

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

A Time for Celebration and Thanksgiving

On the first Sunday of each month, members of the Congregation are invited to name aloud significant date in their lives at this time— anniversaries of birth, marriage, etc.—and other occasions for celebration.

Once all have been named, the Doxology is sung.

Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known: Cre - a-tor, Word, and Spi - rit, one.

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 103—On Jordan’s Bank, the Baptist’s Cry

Winchester New

Presider
All

As we await our coming Saviour, 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 Postlude on “Winchester New”

Christopher Tambling

Today's Music

PRELUDE: The German carol “Lo, How a Rose” is featured in the musical selections this morning. **Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) set the carol for organ manuals in his “Eleven Chorale Preludes”, Op. 122. His organ works stand out as noteworthy exceptions in the otherwise rather unimpressive list of organ compositions of the 19th century. In this colourful little prelude, the tune is highly ornamented with additional notes. American composer **Robert Benson** wrote a set of preludes entitled “A Lovely Rose”. His setting of “Lo, How a Rose” is subtitled “Romanza”. The tune is plainly heard in the pedals but sounding an octave higher. The hands play a soft flute and string accompaniment.

QUARTET: Our Choral Scholars, plus Trish Murphy join to offer a peaceful setting of “A Cradle Waits” by Jean Anne Shafferman, Director of Church Choral Publications for Alfred Publishing Company. The simple yet dramatic text vividly conveys the images of the manger, a shepherd and a wise man, waiting for the birth of the Saviour.

ANTHEM: “Lo, How a Rose” 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.

POSTLUDE: To conclude, a short piece based on the familiar tune “Winchester New” (On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry), by the late British composer, organist and choirmaster **Christopher Tambling** (1964-2015). From 1997 until his untimely passing, he was Director of Music at Downside School and organist and Choirmaster of the Schola Cantorum at Downside Abbey, leading the choir to international success. His compositions are often characterized by a romantic, expressive and an “easy to get” style. This majestic piece is for the principal and reed stops of the organ. See if the first four or five bars remind you of the regal music of Sir Edward Elgar, as they do me.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Greeters	Alice Marshall and Pat Passmore
Tower Chimes	Christopher McDonald
Organist	Robert Grandy
Cantor	Alex Meinhardt
Readers	Chris Freeman and Gillian Trowbridge
Intercessor	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Crucifer	Fin Dinesen
Sacrist	Fin Dinesen
Server	Ian Storey
Chalice Administrator	Andrew Vreugdenhil and Fin Dinesen
Chancel Guild	Betty Hinton and Sandy Hoult
A/V	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Coffee Hosts	Alice Marshall and John Hebert

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.