



## **The Feast of St. Nicholas December 7th, 2025—4:00 p.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)



**Preludes** Légende de Saint Nicolas  
Knecht Ruprecht, Op. 15, #12  
Song for St. Nicholas Past

Jean Langlais  
Robert Schumann  
Betty Roe

*The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.*

**Hymn** O Blessed Saint, We Honour You  
**O blessed Saint, we honour you,  
on this great festal day.  
Hail Nicholas the faithful say,  
Apostle of the Way.**

Dundee; text J.M. Rosenthal

**As you helped those who round you came,  
may we your presence feel,  
as our commitment is the same,  
answering Love's appeal.**

**The father poor, the three young girls,  
young men to life restored.  
Sailors can rest, the sea is blessed,  
your miracles record.**

**In prison dark, your faith was strong;  
help those who suffer wrong,  
we heed your words, the gospel call,  
to hail Christ, Lord of all.**

**Lead us dear saint, in joy and peace,  
your prayers we now implore,  
as we praise God, the Father, Son,  
and Spirit blest adored.**

### **The Sentence**

*Officiant* Behold, I will both search my sheep, and seek them out, and will deliver them out of all  
the places where they have been scattered. *Ezekiel 34:11-12*

### **Preces and Responses**

Ferial

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips;  
*People* **And our mouth shall forth thy praise.**

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us;  
*People* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

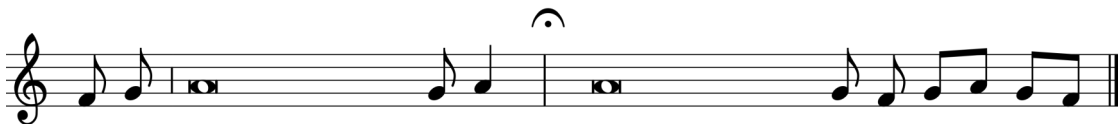
*Officiant* Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
*People* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Officiant* Praise ye the Lord;  
*People* **The Lord's name be praised.**

*The Congregation sits; the Choir remains standing to sing the Psalm.*

**Psalm** 107:33-43

*A pause is observed at the : in each line; each verse carries on into the next one without pause.*



*Cantor* THE LORD turneth the floods into a wil-**der**-ness :  
*All* and water-springs in-**to** a thir-sty gröund.  
*All* A fruitful land maketh he **bar**-ren : for the wickedness of **them** that dwëll there-<sup>in</sup>.  
*Cantor* Again, he maketh the wilderness a pool of **wa**-ter : and water-springs **of** a dry gröund.  
*All* And there he setteth the **hun**-gry : that they may build them a ci-ty to dwëll in;  
*Cantor* That they may sow their land and plant **vine**-yards : to yield them **fruits** of in-crëase.  
*All* He blesseth them, so that they multiply exceed-**ing**-ly :  
and suffereth not their **cat**-tle tö de-<sup>crease</sup>.  
*Cantor* And again, when they are minished and **brought** low :  
through oppression, through any **plague** or tröublë;  
*All* Though he poureth contempt upon **prin**-ces :  
and maketh them to wander out of the way **in** the wil-der-<sup>nëss</sup>;  
*Cantor* Yet helpeth he the poor out of mi-**se**-ry :  
and maketh him households **like** a flöck of <sup>sheep</sup>.  
*All* The righteous shall see this and **re**-joice :  
and the mouth of all wickedness **shall** be stöp-pëd.  
*Cantor* Whoso is wise will ponder **these** things :  
*All* and they shall understand the loving-**kind**-ness öf the <sup>Lörd</sup>.  
*Cantor* Glory be to the Father, and to **the** Son : and **to** the Höly <sup>Ghöst</sup>;  
*All* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be : world with-**out** end. Ä-mën.

## First Lesson

1 John 4:7-14

*Reader*

The First Lesson is written in the First Epistle of John, in the fourth chapter, beginning at the seventh verse.

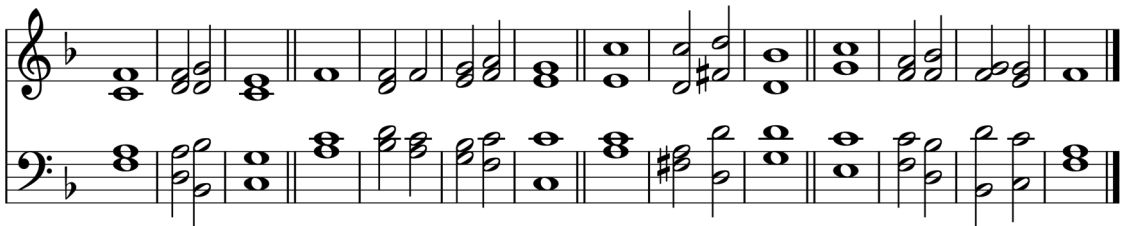
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

*The Congregation stands.*

## Magnificat

J. Turle in F



My soul doth ' magnify the ' Lord,  
and my spirit hath re ' joiced in ' God my ' Saviour.

For ' he hath • re ' garded  
the ' lowli-ness ' of his ' handmaiden.

For be ' hold from ' henceforth  
all gene ' rations shall ' call me ' blessed.

For he that is mighty hath ' magni-fied ' me;  
and ' holy ' is his ' Name.

And his mercy is on ' them that ' fear him  
throughout ' all ' gene ' rations.

He hath showed ' strength • with his ' arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagin ' ation ' of their ' hearts.

He hath put down the mighty ' from their ' seat,  
and hath ex ' alted the ' humble and ' meek.

He hath filled the ' hungry with ' good things;

and the rich he ' hath sent ' empty a ' way.  
 He re ' membering his ' mercy  
 hath ' holpen his ' servant ' Israel;  
 As he promised ' to our ' forefathers,  
 Abraham ' and his ' seed for ' ever.  
 Glory be to the Father, and ' to the ' Son,  
 and ' to the ' Holy ' Ghost;  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ' ever ' shall be,  
 world without ' end. ' A- ' men.

*The Congregation sits.*

## Second Lesson

St Mark 10:13-16

*Reader* The Second Lesson is written in the Gospel of St Mark, in the tenth chapter, beginning at the thirteenth verse.

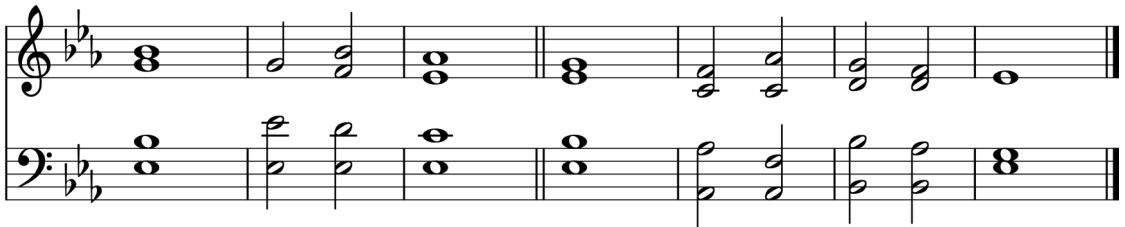
People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

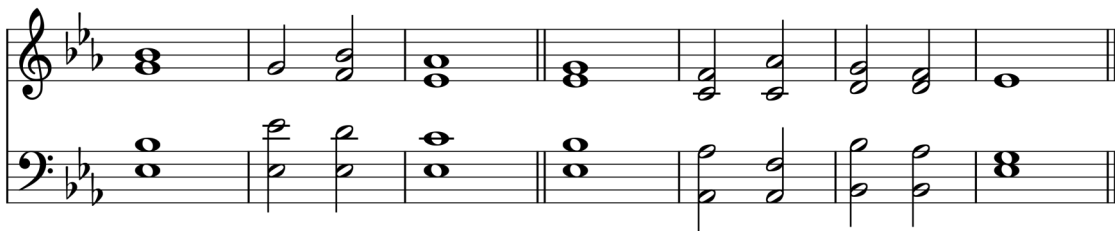
*The Congregation stands.*

## Nunc Dimittis

Joseph Barnby in E ♭



Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de ' part in ' peace,  
 ac ' cording ' to thy ' word.  
 For mine eyes have ' seen thy • sal ' vation,  
 which thou hast prepared be ' fore the ' face of • all ' people;



to be a light to ' lighten the ' Gentiles,  
and to be the ' glory of • thy ' people ' Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and ' to the ' Son,  
and ' to the ' Holy ' Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ' ever ' shall be :  
world without ' end. ' A- ' men.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Presider*

I believe in God,

*All*

**the Father Almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried.**

**He descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;**

**the holy Catholic Church;**

**the Communion of Saints;**

**the Forgiveness of sins;**

**the Resurrection of the body,**

**and the Life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers**

*Officiant*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

**And with thy spirit.**

*Officiant*

Let us pray.

*The Congregation sits.*

*Officiant* Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*People* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
*Officiant* Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
*People* **And grant us thy salvation.**

*Officiant* O Lord, save the King;  
*People* **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
*People* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

*Officiant* O Lord, save thy people;  
*People* **And bless thine inheritance.**

*Officiant* Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
*People* **And evermore mightily defend us.**

*Officiant* O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
*People* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

### **The Advent Collect**

*Officiant* Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Officiant* Eternal God, in thy great love thou gavest to thy servant Nicholas a perpetual name for deeds of kindness on land and sea. Grant that thy Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those who are tossed by tempests of doubt or grief; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Collect for the Parish Bicentennial**

*Officiant* God of life and love, who didst put into the hearts of our ancestors in faith the building of a church in this place: we give thee thanks and praise for thy 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 thy kingdom. In our bicentennial year, renew in us our zeal for thy 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 thy love to all who see it. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Second Collect, for Peace**

*Officiant* O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils**

*Officiant* Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

### **Anthems** “Ave Maria”

Trad., arr. Jacob Arcadelt

*Ave Maria, gratia plena; Dominus tecum: Ave Maria; benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui Jesus. Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis. Amen.*

(Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. Amen.)



“St. Nicholas”

St. Godric, arr. by Michael McGlynn

*Sancta Nicholas, Godes druth timbray us faire scone hus. At thee burthe, at thee bare Sancta Nicholas, bring us well thare.*

(Saint Nicholas, God’s beloved, build us a wondrous place to dwell. At the time of birth, and at the time of death, St. Nicholas bring us safely there.)

## **The Intercessions**

### **A Prayer of St John Chrysostom**

*Officiant* Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Grace**

*All* **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

*The Congregation stands.*

### **Hymn**

Almighty God of Boundless Love  
**Almighty God of boundless love,  
we plead before thy throne above,  
thy heavenly purpose we may know,  
and truly serve thy Church below.**

Wareham; text P.A. Sutherland, alt.

**With Mary, Virgin Mother blest,  
we bow to thee, our faith professed;  
purge thou our hearts from fear and sin,  
and let thy grace shine clear within.**

**Confessor of thy Son who died  
is Nicholas, our saintly guide,  
whose feast with double joy is filled,  
as birthday of an ancient guild.**

**His golden gifts bring to the fore  
in each of us a wondrous awe,  
that yet new mercies we believe  
his supplication shall achieve.**

**Then grant, O Lord, that e'er may we,  
who filled with love and trust for thee,  
show for each other love combined  
with right concern for all mankind!**

**To God the Father, God the Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
all honour, praise and glory be  
from age to age eternally.**

**Postlude** Hymn Invocation on "Wareham"

Richard C. Baker

## Today's Music

**PRELUDE:** Several of the musical selections today were chosen in celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas.

**Légende de Saint Nicolas** by **Jean Langlais** (1907-1991) comes from his “Folkloric Suite”, Op. 77, a classic work from this French master of the organ. Published in 1954, the Suite’s second movement is a nod to St. Nicholas. Langlais composed a little tune which you will hear throughout the work, in various forms and guises, using flute, string and reed stops.

The piano collection “Album for the Young” (Album für die Jugend), Op. 68, was composed by the famous German Romantic composer **Robert Schumann** (1810-1856) for his three daughters in 1848. The album consists of a collection of 43 short works, suitable to be played by children or beginners. The second part is marked Für Erwachsene (For adults; For more grown-up ones) and contains more demanding pieces. The twelfth piece in this volume is entitled **Knecht Ruprecht** (Knight Rupert). There is no exact English equivalent for this legendary German character. Clad in a rough Santa Claus costume, he makes his rounds before Christmas and catechizes the children concerning their behaviour.

**Song for St. Nicholas Past** was written by the contemporary English composer, singer and conductor Betty Roe (b. 1930). Roe has composed over 300 solo songs, as well as choral and sacred music, musicals, operas, instrumental pieces, and music for schools. This piece comes from a volume entitled “The Sunday Organist – Easy Fillers and Voluntaries”. It is a short and beautiful little piece, having a four-bar theme which she takes through several keys, and expands upon it.

**ANTHEMS:** The Scripture readings during the last days of Advent present the Virgin Mary as a central figure for our meditation and an example in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord. The ancient “Ave Maria” is Latin for “Hail Mary” and refers to a traditional Catholic prayer that addresses the Virgin Mary. The Flemish composer **Jacob Arcadelt** (c. 1505-1568) was long thought to have written this beautiful little **Ave Maria**. However, scholars now believe that this Ave Maria is an adaptation by the French composer Pierre-Louis-Phillippe Dietsch (1808-1865) of Arcadelt’s secular madrigal “Nous voyons que les hommes” originally for female voices. The bass line in particular is entirely Dietsch’s work. Regardless, it is a beautiful little anthem, suitable for any Marian festival.

**POSTLUDE:** Today’s concluding hymn is being sung to the tune “Wareham”, written by William Knapp, and named after his birthplace. A glover by trade, Knapp served as the parish clerk at St. James’s Church in Poole (1729-1768) and was organist in both Wareham and Poole. Known in his time as the “country psalm-singer,” Knapp published A Set of New Psalm Tunes and Anthems (1738) and New Church Melody (1753). WAREHAM was published in his 1738 collection with the melody in the tenor as a setting for Psalm 36. Canadian composer **Richard C. Baker** included a prelude on this tune in his “Three Hymn Invocations” from 1991. The first line of the familiar tune is plainly heard at the outset. He then builds short little imitative sections on each of the successive phrases of the hymn, finishing with a long pedal note under a strong eighth-note passages on the manuals.

*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*

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

## Assistive Hearing Devices

Headsets to assist you to hear the service are available. Please ask a Greeter or Sidesperson (usher) to bring you one.

## 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.