



**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 25th, 2026—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.*

**Prelude** Chorale and Variations on “Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier”  
Prelude and Fughetta on “Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier”

J. G. Walther  
Robert Grandy  
(Cantabile Ringers)

*Please stand as the hymn begins.*

**Hymn** 559—Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

Liebster Jesu

### **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.**

### **Collect for Purity**

*Presider* Almighty God,  
*All* **to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known  
and from you no secrets are hidden,  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Kyrie Eleison**



Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy, Christ, have mer-cy.

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer-cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer-cy.

## **Collect of the Day**

*Presider* Upon the darkness of this world, O God, the radiance of Christ has dawned, a light for those who walked in the shadow of death. Called by Christ, his first disciples arose and followed him without delay. Make us also ready witnesses to him, and by the power of the cross multiply among many nations the number of those who acknowledge you and celebrate your holy name. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

*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.**

*Please sit at the conclusion of the prayer.*

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

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### **First Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-4

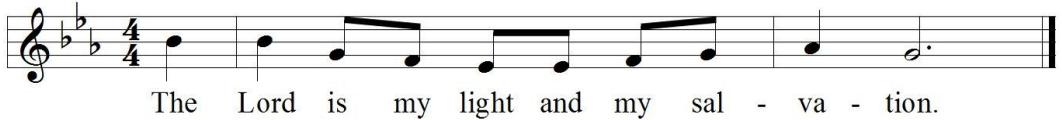
*Reader* A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

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



The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? **R**

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. **R**

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock. Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me. **R**

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord. **R**

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, Lord, will I seek. **R**

Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure. You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation. **R**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*Reader* A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Congregation stands.*

**Hymn** 508—I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Kingsfold

**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 4:12-23

*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 when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea - for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of Christ.

*People*

**Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.**

*The Congregation sits.*

## Sermon

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

### **Affirmation of Faith and the Baptismal Covenant**

*Presider* Let us affirm our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.**

**I will persevere in resisting evil and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.**

**I will proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.**

**I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbours as myself.**

**I will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.**

**I will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader* Direct us, Lord,

*All* **and we will follow.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Presider* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; welcoming sinners and inviting them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence*

*All* Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The Presider pronounces the absolution of sin, to which all answer, "Amen."*

## The Peace

*Presider* The peace of Christ 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

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*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).*

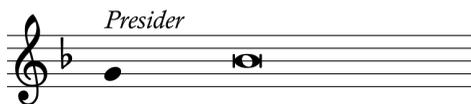
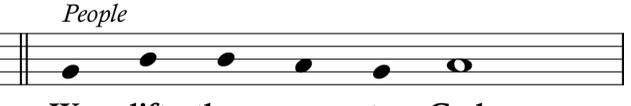
**Hymn** 487—Where Charity and Love Prevail

Twenty-Fourth (Primrose)

## Prayer over the Gifts

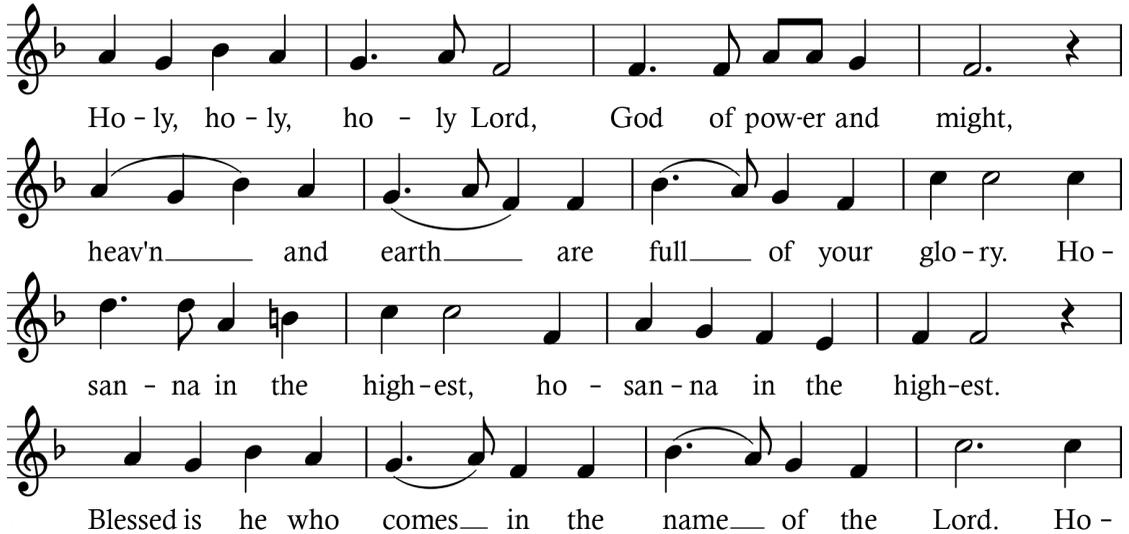
*Presider* God of life and freedom, we celebrate the revelation of Jesus as the Christ who makes all creation new. Accept all we offer you this day and make us new in him, who is Lord for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*Presider*

It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things, ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness, rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation, and your word endures for ever. Therefore with angels and archangels, with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven, we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and singing:



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 -



## 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* 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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

*The Congregation sits.*

### Communion

*For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward to the Chancel step via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. 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: 52—O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near  
56—I am the Bread, the Bread of Life

St. Flavian  
Picket Wood

### Anthem

“Hide Not Thou Thy Face”

*Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord, and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure; for we confess our sins unto thee and hide not our unrighteousness. For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.*

Richard Farrant

Psalm 27:10



## TODAY'S MUSIC

**PRELUDE:** One of the hymns associated to today's Gospel reading is the German chorale "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier" (sung in English as "Blessed Jesus, At Your Word"), today's opening hymn. The Baroque German composer Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) wrote a set of variations on this tune, starting with the chorale as harmonized by J.S. Bach—today played on light principal stops. Walther then added four variations:

- Variation 1: The tune is embellished, played on light flute stops, accompanied by a running bass line of sixteenth notes.
- Variation 2: The tune is slightly embellished this time in a sprightly dance-like setting on 8' and 2' flute stops.
- Variation 3: The cornet stop is featured in the right hand playing a running line of sixteenth notes, accompanied by a walking bass line.
- Variation 4: The principal and flute stops are featured, with the melody in the pedals on a reed stop, bringing the work to a strong conclusion.

My latest composition, Prelude and Fughetta on "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier" was written this month, especially for our Cantabile Ringers. After a short introduction, the hymn tune appears in the upper bells, as harmonized by George Palmer at CP559. The ringers turn to handchimes for a repeat of the opening, then return to bells to conclude the opening section. The Fughetta begins on chimes. You will hear the tune with embellishments first played on the chimes, then later on bells. The tune (or subject of this little Fugue) migrates to a new key, leading back to the music of the prelude, concluding with six strong chords. Watch for the ringers to perform a couple of tower swings with their bells, as well as a bell shake at the end.

**ANTHEM:** Richard Farrant (c. 1525 - 1580) was an English composer and play writer. Like many composers of his day, the early years of his life are not well documented. The first acknowledgment of him is in a 1552 list of the Gentleman of the Chapel Royal (clergy, singers and vestry officers appointed to serve the spiritual needs of the country's reigning sovereign wherever he or she was residing). During his life he was able to establish himself as a successful composer, develop the English drama considerably, and be the first to write verse-anthems. His anthem "Hide Not Thy Face" and the rather similar "Call to Remembrance" were among the most popular anthems of their day and have lost none of their appeal. Farrant's interest in acting is reflected in his word-setting, which is especially direct, declamatory and expressive; the composer seems to shake a fist at heaven. (with notes by Niels Brandt)

**POSTLUDE:** Composer Mary McDonald (b. 1956) has a professional career that now spans over forty years. Her works appear in the catalogs of every major publisher of choral music. More than 800 anthems, seasonal musicals and keyboard collections attest to her significant contribution to sacred literature. After a more than twenty-year position as Sacred Music Editor for the Lorenz Corporation in Ohio, she retired and became an independent artist, travelling across the United

States for Composer Weekends. Her 2020 publication “Declare His Glory – Organ Reflections on Favourite Psalms” contains “The Lord Is My Light”, her interpretation of Psalm 27, verse 1 and 14: “*The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Wait on the Lord; be of good courage and he shall strengthen your heart.*” The opening of this stately and majestic piece in three quarter time reminds one of the music of Handel. This opening chordal section gives way to a rhythmic section with the right hand playing broken chords over solid chords in the left. The opening music returns for a grand and glorious conclusion.

## Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Organist	Robert Grandy
Greeters	Mary Ann Hall and Dianne Meittinen
Cantor	Robyn Hawthorne
Readers	Angela Slater and Trish Murphy
Intercessor	Mickey Bongers
Crucifer/Server	Bobby Kelly
Sacrist	Lucas Paradis
Chalice Administrator	Ian Storey
Chancel Guild	Gerri Currier and Trish Murphy
A/V	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Coffee Hosts	

### 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*

*Vacant*  
*Deputy Churchwarden*

Mrs. Carolyn Porteous  
*Parish Administrator*

Ms. Jennifer Passmore  
*Custodian*

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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.

## 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.