



CHURCH OF
ST JOHN
THE EVANGELIST
PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 31, 2021—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, 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

Prelude

Magnificat, 5th Tone, J. Pachelbel

Land Acknowledgement

Presider 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.

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.**

Hymn 585—Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Beach Spring

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

As we worship, grant us vision till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

The Penitential Rite

Presider The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the oppressed.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour. *Silence.*

All God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, so that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Opening Responses

Presider Blessed are you, David's heir, born to rule,
All **you received gifts from the magi.**

Presider Blessed are you, Son of Man, baptized by John,
All **you saved us from ourselves.**

Presider Blessed are you, Servant Lord, teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
All **you proclaimed God's gracious reign.**

Presider With all the voices of heaven and earth, we celebrate your epiphany.
All **Let heaven and earth shout their praise.**

Collect of the Day

Presider God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of the darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Reader A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my

God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 111

The Leader and Congregation read the Psalm responsively by verse.

Leader Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

People **Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.**

Leader His work is full of majesty and splendour, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.

People **He makes his marvellous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.**

Leader He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

People **He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

Leader The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.

People **They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.**

Leader He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.

People **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

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

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as in fact there are many gods and many lords - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.****Hymn** 458—Seek Ye First

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu-, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Allelu-, alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu-, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Allelu-, alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Gospeller May God be with you.*People* **And also with you.***Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Mark.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospeller They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

A silence for reflection follows the sermon. If you missed part of the sermon or would like to listen to it again, it will be posted on our website in the Worship section.

Anthem

"Silence, Frenzied, Unclean Spirit", Caron Doran
Sung by Emma Meinhardt

"Silence, frenzied, unclean spirit!" cried God's healing Holy One. "Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it; flee as night before the sun." At Christ's words the demon trembled, from its victim madly rushed, while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder, stunned and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving in the grey cells of my mind: tyrant voices, shrill and driving, twisted thoughts that grip and bind, doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason's sight, guilt that makes our loving frantic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit in our mind and in our heart; speak your word that when we hear it all our demons shall depart. Clear our thoughts and calm our feeling: still the fractured warring soul. By the power of your healing make us faithful, true, and whole.

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

The Intercessions

Presider As the people gathered in Capernaum to hear Jesus' words, so too have we come together to hear God's word. Let us boldly offer our prayers to God, who is gracious and full of compassion.

We lift up the Church: praying that God will raise up prophets for us from among God's people, to recall God's people to our vocation and to heed the word of the Lord. We for our bishops: for Andrew, Riscylla, Kevin, and Jenny; for all clergy and laity, working together to proclaim the gospel and herald the reign of God. Great are the deeds of the Lord,

All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider We lift up our parish of St John the Evangelist, and those parishes from which come those worshipping with us today; we give thanks for our ministry to one another and in the wider community, and pray that we may be agents of healing for all suffer. Great are the deeds of the Lord,

All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider We lift up our neighbours all over the world, and especially the leaders of the nations, praying that authority may be exercised with integrity and that peace and justice might prevail. Great are the deeds of the Lord,

All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider We lift up all those who suffer. We pray for those who battle their own inner demons and those who are victims of systemic injustice; for all in danger and need, the hungry and homeless, the sick and afflicted, the imprisoned and housebound. We remember all those who have asked us to pray for them. *Silence.* Great are the deeds of the Lord,
All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider We lift up the dying and the dead, praying that, having steadfastly proclaimed the praise of the Lord here on earth, they may find their rest and peace in eternal life. Great are the deeds of the Lord,

All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider We lift up ourselves, our families, and those we love; praying that we may recognise the Holy One of God among us and obey his teaching. Great are the deeds of the Lord,

All **I will give thanks to God with my whole heart.**

Presider Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Saviour. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Son; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

All **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 deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

Closing Prayers

Presider O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

All **let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Presider Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is sovereign.

All **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.**

Presider Tell out the salvation of God from day to day.
All **Let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Presider Declare the glory of the Holy One among the nations
and the wonders of God among the peoples.
All **O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before God.**

Blessing

Hymn 560—God, Whose Almighty Word

Moscow

God, whose almighty Word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight: hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Saviour, who came to bring on your redeeming wing
healing and sight, health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind: Now to all humankind
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove,
speed on your flight! Move on the water's face
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light!

Gracious and holy Three, glorious Trinity,
wisdom, love, might, boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride: through the world far and wide
let there be light!

Dismissal

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, loving and serving others.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Toccatà in A Minor, Jan Sweelinck

The Coffee Hour meets online at www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/coffee between 11:00 and noon.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider
Preacher
Organist
Chimes
Server
Reader
Intercessor
Greeters & Sidespeople

The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Julie Deck

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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. Terry Noble
Associate Priest

The Rev. Ruth Adams
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Christian Harvey
The Rev. Bev Thompson
Deacons

Ms. Julie Deck
Director of Music

Director of Family Ministries

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Mr. Jim Weldon
Churchwardens

Mrs. Mickey Bongers
Deputy Churchwarden

stjohnspeterborough.ca

www.facebook.com/
StJohnsPtbo

Welcome!

COVID-19 Protocols

Please see the Pandemic Protocols for the Amber Stage poster highlighting precautions to be taken for in-person worship.

Children's Ministry

We welcome children and youth. They are welcome to remain with you to worship and do not have to remain perfectly still and quiet! Please feel free to allow them to roam if they wish. At this time, due to restrictions around COVID-19, we are unable to offer nursery services or the Sunday School. Families are most welcome to bring colouring sheets, toys, and snacks for their children if they wish.

On Posture in Worship

It is customary that we stand to pray and sing and sit to hear God's Word proclaimed and interpreted. Some people prefer to kneel to pray. Please adopt the posture that helps you to worship.

Visitor's Cards

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

Assistive Hearing Devices

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

Accessibility

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

Washrooms/Change Table

Fully accessible washrooms are located down the hall to the right as you enter the lobby from Brock St. A change table is in the nursery at the end of the hall.

Fragrances

We ask that you refrain from wearing strong fragrances in order to accommodate those with breathing sensitivities.