



**The Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 10th, 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



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

As we gather for worship 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.

Preludes Three Preludes on “O Filli et Filiae” Frank Speller; Camil van Hulse; Denis Bédard

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn 425—Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee Hymn to Joy

The Greeting

Presider Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Presider May his grace and peace be with you.

People **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

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.**

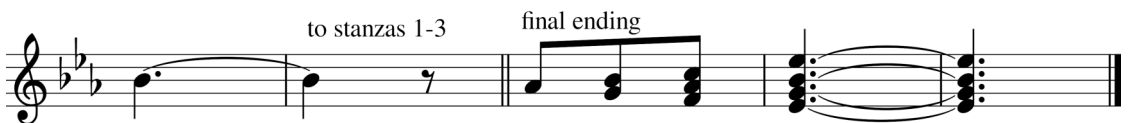
Gloria in Excelsis

Hymn 702

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth. peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Final Refrain*

Collect of the Day

Presider Three-fold God of love, you invite us to abide in you. May we follow the Spirit of truth, so that through us your commanding love may speak to the heart of the world and we may dwell in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Collect for the Parish Bicentenary

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

Acts 17:22-31

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown God.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all

things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

66:7-18

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

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of his praise to be heard; who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip. **R**

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried. You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs. **R**

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment. **R**

I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble. I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats. **R**

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he has done for me. I called out to him with my mouth, and his praise was on my tongue. **R**

If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me; But in truth God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me. **R**

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 474—Jesus, Where'er Thy People Meet

Warrington

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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Gospel

Gospeller May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.**

Gospeller Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

*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

The Sharing of the Peace

Presider **The peace of the risen 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

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.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God our strength and our salvation, receive all that we offer you this day, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

- Staff 1:** *Presider* May God be with you. *People* And also with you.
- Staff 2:** *Presider* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up to God.
- Staff 3:** *Presider* Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.
- Staff 4:** *People* It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God creator of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of power and might.
 Hea - ven and earth of your glo - ry are full. Ho - san - na, ho -
To Coda
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is he who
D.S. al Coda ⊕
 comes in the name of the Lord. high - est. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, Author of all being. Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world. You are unceasingly at work, from chaos bringing order and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. He lives in us that we may walk in light. Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by him who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, for by the Cross eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever. Making himself known in the breaking of the bread, speaking peace to the fearful disciples, welcoming weary fishermen on the shore, he renewed the promise of his presence and of new birth in the Spirit who sets the seal of freedom on your beloved children.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which slaves walked free, 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."

Therefore, Father, according to his command:

All **We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory,**

Presider and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and with it 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.

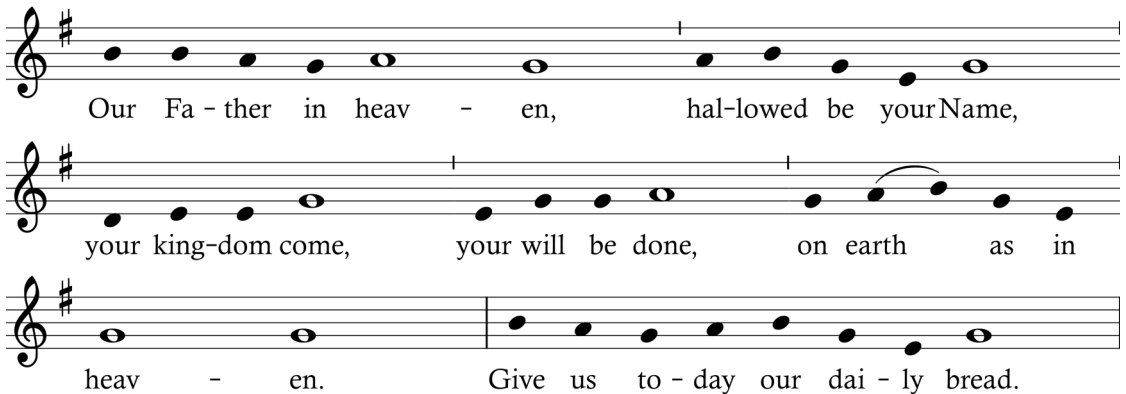
Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, St John the Evangelist, St Barnabas the Apostle, the apostles and prophets, and of all our beloved ones living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

All

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 Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All **Now we are raised to new life.**

Presider We were buried in your tomb.

All **Now we share in your resurrection.**

Presider Live in us that we may live in you.

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.

Draw near and take the body of your Lord,
 Saved by his body, hal - lowed by his blood,
 and drink with faith the blood for you out - poured.
 with souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.

The Congregation sits.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward in single file to the High Altar rail and return to your seat via the Sacristy. Those who find steps difficult may receive Communion in the Lady Chapel and those who find walking difficult may request that Communion be brought to them. Gluten free Hosts are available upon request. 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.

Hymns: 494—Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels

Comfort

Anthem “If Ye Love Me”

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may ‘bide with you forever, ev’n the sp’rit of truth. John 15-17a

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Presider All your works praise you, O Lord,

All and your faithful servants bless you.

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
 May we, who share his body, live his risen life;
 we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;
 we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
 Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
 so that we and all your children shall be free,**

and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

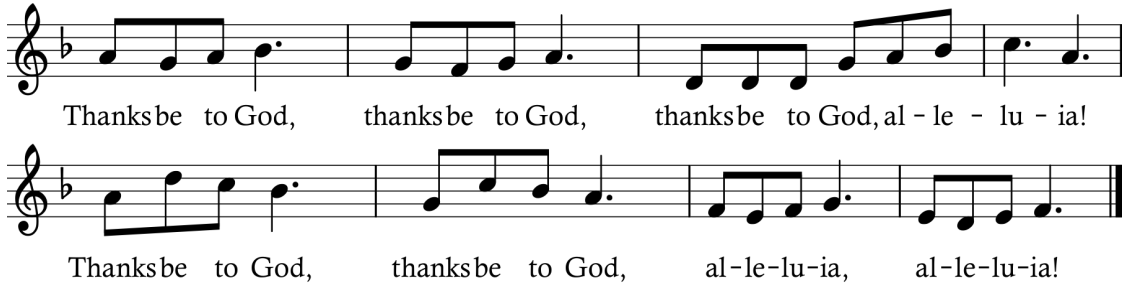
Blessing

Hymn 329—Maker, in Whom We Live

Diademata

Dismissal

Presider Alleluia! Followers of Jesus,
inspired by the Holy Spirit,
serve the world God loves!



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 Fugue on a Trumpet Fanfare

William T. Best

Today's Music

PRELUDES: "O Sons and Daughters" is a beloved Easter hymn of triumph and resurrection, originally written in Latin (**O Filii et Filiae**) by Franciscan monk Jean Tisserand (d. 1494) and translated into English by John Mason Neale in 1851. Set to a joyful 15th-century French melody, this classic Alleluia hymn has been sung in Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and other churches for centuries. Today's Offertory Hymn "Alleluia! Glory to God" uses this ancient tune. Three varied preludes on this tune open today's service. The first is by American composer **Frank Speller** (1938-2017), who was also a Professor Organ at the University of Texas in Austin, and a noted recitalist. His 1987 composition places the melody in the left hand under rapid staccatos notes in the right hand. Later the melody appears in the pedals.

The second prelude is by the Belgian-born American composer **Camil van Hulse** (1897-1988). After studying in his native land, he moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1923 for health reasons and resided there for the remainder of his life. He became heavily involved in the musical life of Tucson, being involved with the Symphony Orchestra there and being a concert pianist. His Improvisation on the tune comes from his "Easter Suite" of 1966. The first phrase of the tune is heard throughout in various guises and keys.

We return to Canada for a "Meditation" on the tune by organist **Denis Bédard** (b. 1950). He studied in Montreal and in Paris and has been the organist at several churches in Quebec and Vancouver. In his setting of the tune, the first phrase is once again used as his musical starting point. But it is rather disguised by Bédard who puts it into a different time signature.

ANTHEM: "If Ye Love Me" is one of Elizabethan composer **Thomas Tallis'** most often performed little masterpieces. Tallis (1505-1585) was one of the first composers to set music to English texts after the Reformation. He is considered one of England's greatest composers, noted especially for his 40-part choral work "Spem in Alium", written for eight choirs of five voices each. The text for "If Ye Love Me" comes from John 14:15-17, and the piece was first published in 1565. It is a standard piece in the Anglican choral repertoire and was sung at the 2018 wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

POSTLUDE: The postlude today honours the memory of **William T. Best** (1826-1897), one of the world's most prominent organ recitalists of the 19th century. He studied organ in his home town of Pembroke, England where he was assistant organist at the local cathedral. While still in his twenties he occupied a number of prestigious positions in London, moving to Liverpool at the age of 29 to preside at the organ in St. George's Hall. Following several appointments elsewhere he returned to Liverpool where he remained until his resignation in 1895. He performed extensively beyond England, including the inaugural recital on the new Town Hall organ in Sydney, Australia, in 1890 (both the Hall and the Hill & Son's organ were the largest in the world at the time). He died on May 10th, 1897. Best's orchestral use of the organ included many of his own transcriptions along with other original organ works and he edited editions of the works of Bach, Handel, and Mendelssohn. During his own time he was described as the "Prince of Organists." This "**Fugue on a Trumpet Fanfare**" opens with exactly that – a trumpet fanfare as the theme for the work – played on the strong reed stops of the organ. Throughout the remainder of the piece there are intermittent lighter sections played on the other manuals.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider and Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Organist	Robert Grandy
Greeters	Marian Olson and Alice Marshall
Cantor	Alex Meinhardt
Crucifer	Sam Harvey
Sacrist	Ian Storey
Server	Lucas Rumble
Readers	AJ Trossman and Gillian Trowbridge
Intercessor	
High Altar Chalice Administrators	Ian Storey and Pat Passmore
Lady Chapel Bread Administrator	The Rev. Steve Smith
Lady Chapel Chalice Administrators	Barb Smith
Chancel Guild	Betty Hinton, Sandy Hoult and Trisha Black
Refreshment Hosts	Pat Passmore
A/V	Andrew Vreugdenhil

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

Mrs. Tammy Delaheff
Deputy Churchwarden

Mrs. Carolyn Porteous
Parish Administrator

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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 \$25 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.