



The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 16th, 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 “Von Gott Will Ich Nicht Lassen”

J.G. Walther; F.W. Marpurg; J.S. Bach

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn 318—Rejoice Today with One Accord

Ein’ Feste Burg

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 O God, in Christ you give us hope for a new heaven and a new earth. Grant us wisdom to interpret the signs of our times, courage to stand in the time of trial, and faith to witness to your truth and love; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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 65:17-25

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

People

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm

12

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



Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. **R**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Reader

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

People

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

The Congregation stands.

Hymn

361—Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

Ecce, Deus

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



Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

Gospeller

May God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Gospeller

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

People

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

*A silence for reflection follows the sermon.
The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Presider.*

Affirmation of Faith

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

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 is kept.

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, 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.

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 370—Songs of Praise the Angels Sang

Culbach

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Beloved God, you spread before us a table of plenty, and give us the cup of new life to drink. Receive all we offer this day with our grateful thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider May God be with you. *People* And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



Presider

We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table, remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory. Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

All

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Presider

Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

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 Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat,
 whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

All **So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

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

747



The Congregation sits.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward via the centre aisle in line across the Chancel step to receive the Bread from the Presider and the Wine from the Chalice Administrator. 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: 63—Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

Anthem When the Stars Fall

Stephen Hatfield; soloist Robyn Hawthorne

When the sea shakes, then I trust my saviour. When the sea breaks, then I trust my saviour. And if the sea crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my saviour. When the stars call, then I trust my saviour. When the stars fall, still I trust my saviour. And if the stars crumble into rust, tumble into dust, yet will I trust my saviour. When my heart sighs, then I trust my saviour. When my heart cries, then I trust my saviour. And if my heart crumbles into rust, tumbles into dust, yet will I trust my saviour. When the stars fall, then I trust my saviour.

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 River of Glory

Refrain

Ri-ver of glo-ry, springs of our birth, flood of God's rich-es

poured on the earth. We are born from the dark-ness and clothed in the

light, we are bathed in the glo-ry of God._____ God._____

1-3 *Final ending*

Fine *Verses*

Bathed in the glo-ry of God._____ Foun-tain of mer-cy,
Here there is ha-ven,
Bread for our jour-ney
Dark-ness is ban-ished,

grace flow - ing free, streams of sal - va - tion
 heal - ing and health, joy for the ask - ing,
 God will pro - vide. Hope for all a - ges,
 night turned a - way, Christ is our sun - light

spill - ing with love from a tree.
 love in a - bun - dance of wealth.
 Je - sus, com - pan - ion and guide.
 lift - ing and lead - ing our way.

Dismissal

Presider
All

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

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
 in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the appointment of the
 The Rev. Canon Bradley Smith as Rector

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: Keeping faithful to God and trusting our Saviour is highlighted in today's Gospel reading, and illustrated musically in the preludes and anthem this morning. One German chorale that has this theme is "Von Gott Will Ich Nicht Lassen" (From God Shall Naught Divide Me). I've chosen three varied preludes by three German composers. Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748) was a German music theorist, organist, composer and lexicographer of the Baroque era. As an organ composer, Walther became famous for his organ transcriptions of orchestral concertos by contemporary Italian and German masters. He made 14 transcriptions of concertos by Albinoni, Gentili, Taglietti, Torelli, Vivaldi and Telemann. These works were the models for Bach to write his famous transcriptions of concertos by Vivaldi and others. Walther as the city organist of Weimar also wrote exactly 132 organ preludes based on Lutheran chorale melodies. His setting is for manuals alone and is in two brief sections. Friedrich Wilhelm Marpurg (1718-1795) spent most of his life in Berlin in government posts, but was also able to have a forty-year career as a composer and music theorist. His setting places the tune on soft flutes and a mixture stop, accompanied by soft flute stops and pedal. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) wrote several settings of this tune. His BWV 658 setting comes from his "18 Leipzig Chorales", a collection amassed near the end of his life from previous chorale preludes he had written. Critic Ian Carson writes, "The melody of this chorale probably came from a secular song, and the words of the first verse have some parallels with Psalm 23. There are suggestions of joy in the figurations of the three manual voices, and the pedals place the chorale melody in the tenor. The ending of the prelude tintinnabulates..." (rings like bells)..."in what appears to be a curious piece of sound-painting."

ANTHEM: As stated above, in today's Gospel reading, we are reminded that we need to keep our trust in God, even when facing the most challenging of circumstances. This brought to mind Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield's evocative anthem "When the Stars Fall". Hatfield (b. 1956) wrote an original text to a folk tune he came across in Jutland (northern Denmark). He writes, "The mood and texture is simple, limpid and serene: the peace that passes understanding." The text tells us that whatever might happen, we need to put our trust in the Lord. This anthem was commissioned for the 15th anniversary of the Arkansas-based choir "One Voice: An Outreach Choir". This anthem was recently purchased in memory of Paul Burke, a former bass in the choir.

POSTLUDE: The tune for today's Opening Hymn gets a strong and rhythmic treatment in Marpurg's prelude on "Ein' Feste Burg". This is one of the best known hymns by the Protestant Reformer Martin Luther, a prolific hymnwriter. Luther wrote the words and composed the hymn tune between 1527 and 1529. It has been translated into English at least seventy times and also into many other languages. Marpurg places the tune in the pedals on strong principal and reed stops, while the hands dance around, playing a jagged dotted rhythm.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Tower Chimes	Steve Hunter
Organist	Robert Grandy
Greeters	Joelle Kovach and Matthew Harvey
Server	Ian Storey
Sacrist	Caelan McMurray
Readers	Annette Skujins
Cantor	Dave Freeman
Intercessor	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Chalice Administrators	Caelan McMurray and Andrew Vreugdenhil
Chancel Guild	Betty Hinton and Sandy Hoult
Refreshments Hosts	St. Margaret's Guild
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

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.