



The First Sunday of Advent November 30th, 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 Advent Meditation
 “Sleepers, Wake!”

Robert Grandy, Cantabile Ringers
J.S. Bach

The Congregation stands for the hymn.

Hymn 97—Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring

Tantum Ergo (St. Thomas)

Introit “Now Is the Time”

Richard Shephard

Choir Now is the time to wake out of sleep: for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.
Romans 13:11

The Greeting

Presider From the One who is and who was and who is to come,
 grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Dear ones, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ. Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

A Penitential Act

Presider When the Lord comes,
 he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,
 and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
 Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

All Lord, have mercy on your people.
 For we have sinned against you.

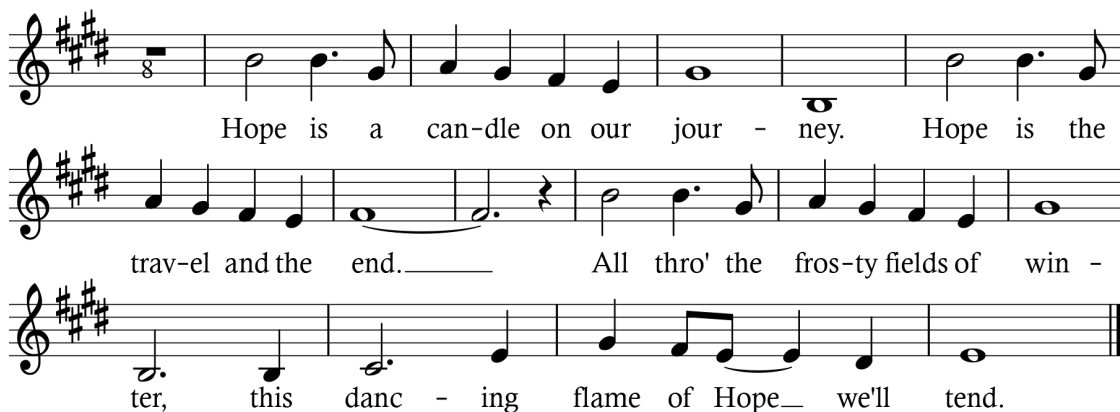
Presider Lord, show us your mercy.
All **And grant us your salvation.**

Presider Lord, let your love be upon us.
All **For we place all our trust in you.**

Presider May Christ who came among us forgive you your sins.
May Christ who is with us always heal what is broken in you.
May Christ who is to come in glory do justice for you and save you, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

As the candle is lit, the congregation sings:



Collect of the Day

Presider God of peace, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; so that on the last day, when your Son Jesus shall come again to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to eternal life; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
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

All

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Congregation sits.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

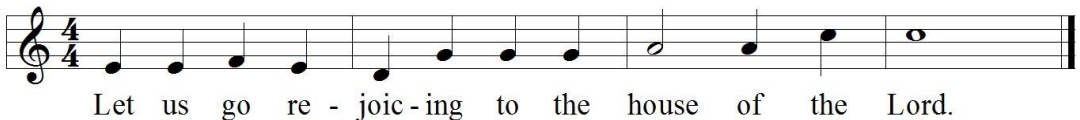
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

122

The cantor sings the verses. The congregation joins in the refrain (R).



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself. To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord. For there are the thrones of judgement, the thrones of the house of David. **R**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. **R**

For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good." **R**

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 113—Come, O Lord, and Set Us Free

Maranatha

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

Hymn 715



Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

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 Jesus said, 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But

understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

*The Congregations sits after the prayer.
A silence for reflection follows the Sermon.*

Affirmation of Faith

Presider We say together in faith:

All **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.**

Presider We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

All **for by his will they were created and have their being.**

Presider We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All **for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.**

Presider We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

All **the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Presider In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is shared with members of the assembly or household.

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

Hymn 112—Behold! The Mountain of the Lord

Bishopthorpe

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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

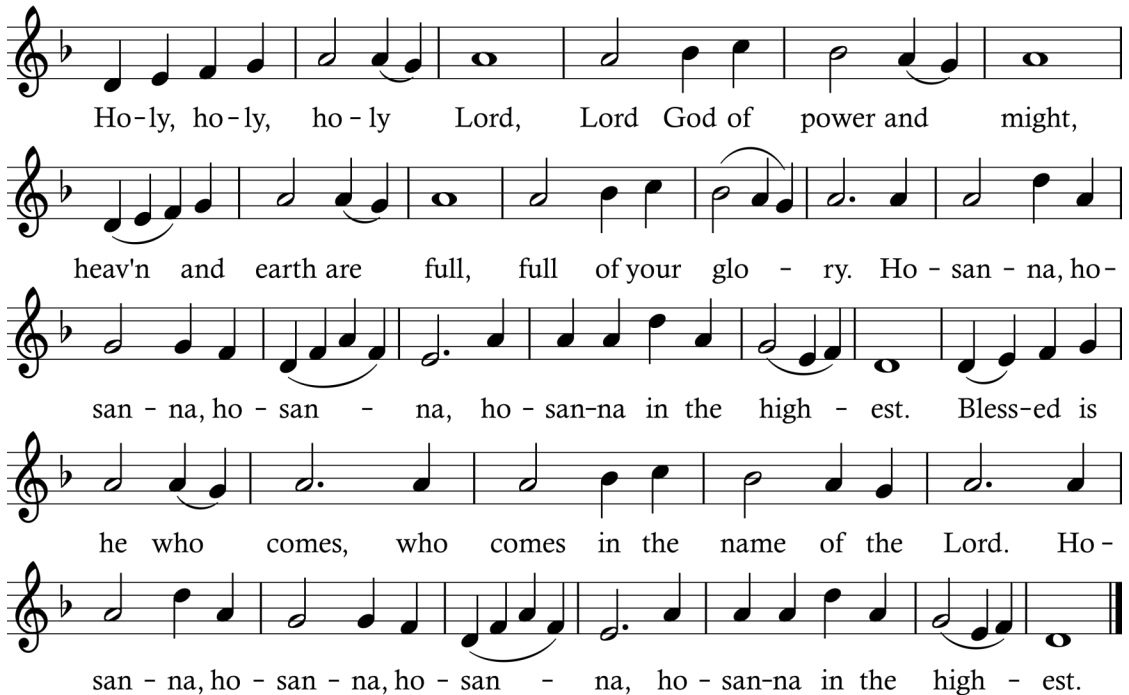
Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them up to God.

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

People It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more. In Christ your Son the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come. Taught by your Spirit, we who bear your threefold likeness look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming of your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:



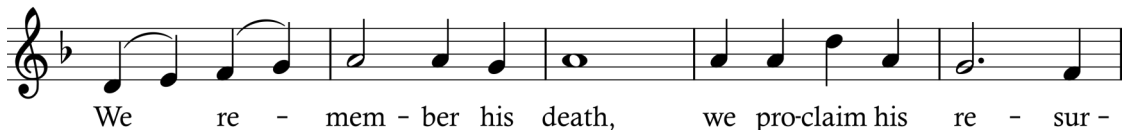
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of power and might,
 heav'n and earth are full, full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na, ho-
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is
 he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
 san-na, ho-san-na, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Presider

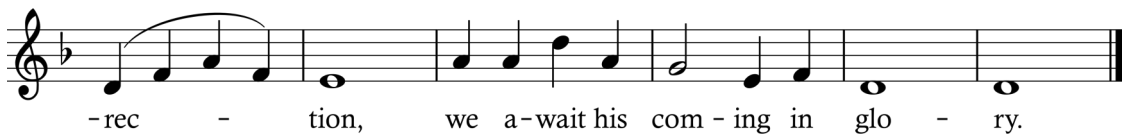
Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. In Jesus you showed us yourself. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, he opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, alight with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, 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."

We now obey your Son's command.



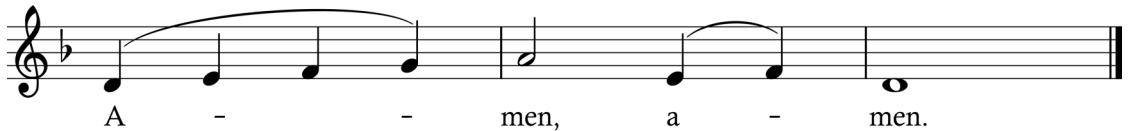
We re-mem-ber his death, we pro-claim his re-sur-



Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them 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.

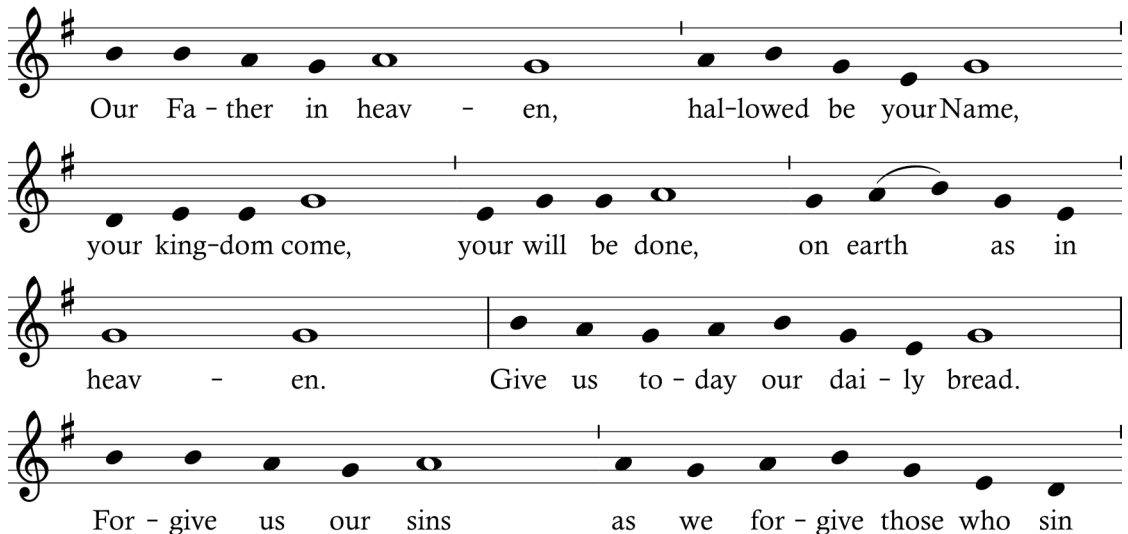
Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our beloved ones living and departed. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

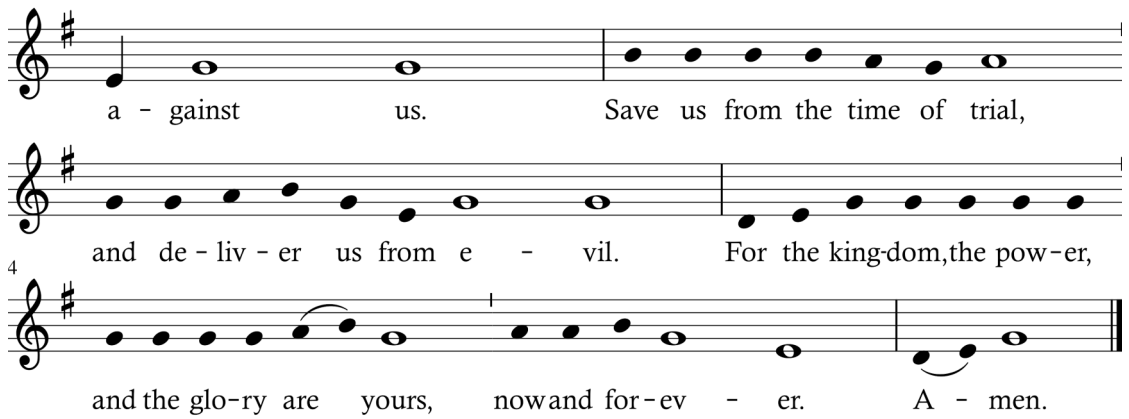
All



The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,





Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

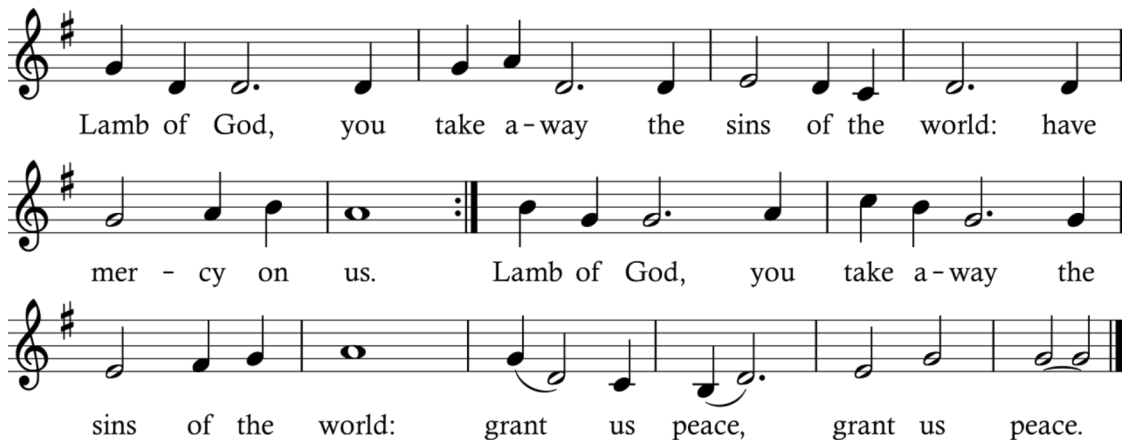
All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

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



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.

Advent Prose The cantor will sing the verses; the Congregation joins in the refrain.

(1st time: Cantor)

Pour down, O hea - vens, from a - bove, _____

(Full)

and let the skies rain down right - eous - ness.

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins for ever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you. **R**

We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your Face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities. **R**

You are my witnesses, says the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know me and believe me. I myself am the Lord, and none but I can deliver; what my hand holds, none can snatch away. **R**

Comfort my people, comfort them; my salvation shall not be delayed. I have swept your offences away like a cloud; fear not, for I will save you. I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your redeemer. **R**

Hymn: 96—Creator of the Stars of Night

Anthem

“O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”

Sir John Goss

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will wish thee prosperity. Yea because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do thee good. Peace be within thy walls and plenteousness within thy palaces.

(Psalm 122:6-8)

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

Prayer after Communion

Presider Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’

All With love and compassion,
come, Lord Jesus.

Presider With judgement and mercy,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider In power and glory,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider In wisdom and truth,
All **come, Lord Jesus.**

Blessing

Hymn 108—Hark! a Herald Voice Is Sounding

Merton

Dismissal

Presider As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All



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 “Saviour of the Nations, Come”

BWV 661 J.S. Bach

Today's Music

PRELUDE: Our Cantabile Ringers open the service this morning with my “Advent Meditation”, a piece based on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”. I’ve always loved this ancient tune, so I used it frequently in this piece, supported by a little recurring bass theme, or sometimes by solid chords. Later in the piece you’ll hear the tune in echo fashion. A bright shift to a major key signals the conclusion of the piece. For me, no Advent is musically complete without J.S. Bach’s “Wachet Auf!”, from his collection of Six Schubler Chorales. Bach took the central movement of his Cantata, “Sleepers, Wake”, and luckily for us, transcribed it for organ. It remains one of his most popular organ pieces to this day. It has been further transcribed for a variety of instruments over the years. The familiar dancing right-hand figures accompany the hymn-tune in the left hand over a steady walking pedal line. Originally scored for tenor soloist, two violins and viola, it was premiered on November 25th, 1711, just over 314 years ago.

INTROIT: Today’s Introit picks up on the “wake up” theme of Bach. British composer Richard Shephard (1949-2021), wrote a series of short Introits for the church year. “Now Is the Time” is based on a brief text from Romans 13:11. The rousing music and the little opening and closing trumpet call help to illustrate the idea.

SERVICE MUSIC: Today we are using some Service music based on the French carol tune “Picardy”, as arranged by the late Canadian composer and organist Patrick Wedd (1948-2019). Wedd was a church organist from the age of 12. Throughout his career, he held positions in the Niagara Region, Toronto, Vancouver and most notably in Montreal at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul (commonly known as the A&P Church!)

ADVENT PROSE: The Advent Prose is a series of texts adapted from the book of the prophet Isaiah, and said, or more usually sung, in churches during the season of Advent. In its Latin form, it is attributed to Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, who lived in the fourth century. The English translation is traditional. It is most common in high church Anglican or Roman Catholic churches, but no doubt known elsewhere as well. There are several ways of

ANTHEM: Sir John Goss (1800-1880) was an English organist, composer and teacher who composed this morning's anthem. Born to a musical family, Goss was a boy chorister, a pupil of Thomas Attwood, and finally organist at St Paul's Cathedral. Confining himself almost entirely to ecclesiastical music, he is best known for his hymn tunes, including "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven". For his anthem “O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem”, (a section of his longer anthem “Praise the Lord, O My Soul”), Goss chose timeless lines from the 122nd Psalm.

POSTLUDE: This of “Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland” (Saviour of the Nations, Come), is from his “Great 18 Chorale Preludes”, written for organo pleno (or full organ of the time). It is a rhythmic three-part fugue in G minor. The tune finally arrives in the pedals while the fugue continues on in the manuals. This pattern continues until the entry of the last line of the tune. A sustained G in the pedals then signifies the eventual conclusion of this short but majestic work.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Greeters	Mary Ann Hall and Marian Olson
Tower Chimes	The Rev. Keith Dobyns
Organist	Robert Grandy
Cantor	Alex Meinhardt
Readers	Lorraine Land and Walter Howell
Intercessor	Karen Turner
Crucifer	
Sacrist	
Server	Lucas Rumble
Chalice Administrator	The Rev. Keith Dobyns and Ian Storey
Chancel Guild	Gerri Currier and Trish Murphy
A/V	Walter Howell
Coffee Hosts	

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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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Instagram
[@stjohnspeterborough](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnspeterborough)

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.