



Harvest Thanksgiving October 12th, 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 Harvest Festival Robert Powell
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come
We Gather Together
God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
Now Thank We All Our God

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn 262—Come, Ye Thankful People, Come St. George's, Windsor

Introit A Thanksgiving Introit Robert Grandy
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and enter his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name, for the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. (Psalm 100:4-5)

The Greeting

Presider Blessed be the One who creates all things.
People **The Holy One's love is new every morning.**

Presider This is the day the Creator has made.
People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Acclamation

Presider Come to God, giver of life and love.
People **Amen—we are here.**

Presider Give to God all that has been given to you.
People **Amen—we give as we have received.**

Presider Raise your voices to sing of God's goodness.
People **Amen—we sing praise for all God has done.**

Summary of the Law

Presider Our Lord Jesus Christ said: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.” And, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” These words sum up all the law and the prophets.

All **Make this love our seal and sign.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider We confess the times when we fail to recognise you, the times when we seek to limit you, the times when we do not acknowledge you:

All **Lord, forgive us.**

Presider We confess that we take you for granted; we do not see you in the harvest, we do not see you in our work, we do not see you in our productivity:

All **Lord, forgive us.**

Presider Because we do not see you, because we limit you, we fail you. We fail you in our relationships with each other, with creation, with yourself; in our stewardship of time, money, creation, the Gospel; in our response to all that you are and all that you do:

All **Lord, forgive us.**

Presider Refresh our souls, O God, that we may have a new heart for you, a new heart for each other, a new heart for your created order:

All **Lord, empower us.**

Presider Teach us anew who you are, that we may respond to you in generosity, in caring for each other, in caring for your world, in caring for you:

All **Lord, empower us.**

Presider May harvest be a sign for us not only that you covenant with us, but that we covenant with you to be good, generous, and faithful stewards of all that you entrust to us:

All **Lord, empower us.**

Presider Through God’s Holy Spirit the face of the earth is renewed, your sins are forgiven, and we are raised to new life.

All **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Presider Creator of the fruitful earth, with all your creatures great and small we sing your bounty and your goodness, for in the harvest of land and ocean, in the cycles of the seasons, and the wonders of each creature, you reveal your generosity. Teach us the gratitude that dispels envy, that we may honour each gift as you cherish your creation, and praise you in all times and places, through Jesus Christ the Lord.

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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Reader

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

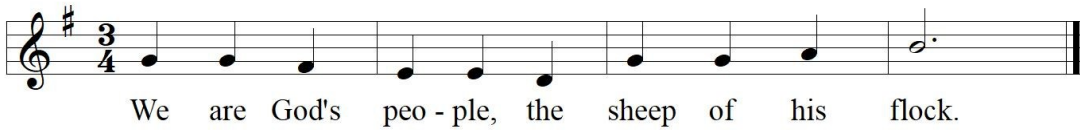
When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

Thanks be to God.

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



Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. **R**

Know this: The Lord himself is God: he himself has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. **R**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; Give thanks to him and call upon his Name. **R**

For the Lord is good his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age. **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

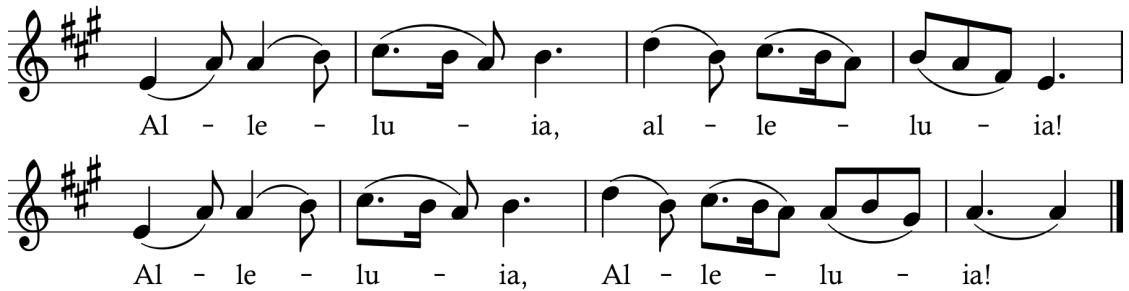
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 259—For the Fruit of All Creation

Ar hyd y nos

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



Gospel

John 6:25-35

Gospeller

May God be with you.

People

And also with you.

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to John

People

Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Gospeller

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

People

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

Trio

Give Thanks to the Lord

Daniel Burton

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth for ever. To Him that made the heaven and earth, His mercy endureth for ever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord who does great things; His mercy endureth for ever. To Him that made the sun and seas, His mercy

endureth for ever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord who lights the night; His mercy endureth for ever; To Him who made the moon and stars, His mercy endureth for ever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord who gives us love; His mercy endureth for ever; To Him who leads us in the way, His mercy endureth for ever. Alleluia! Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good...

Based on Psalm 136

The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Presider.

Affirmation of Faith and the Baptismal Covenant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

Presider Those who sow in peace shall reap a harvest of joy and love.
We are met in Christ's name.

All **Let us share his peace.**

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 258—We Plough the Fields and Scatter

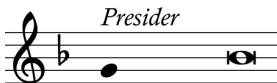
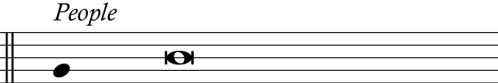
Wir pflügen

Prayer over the Gifts

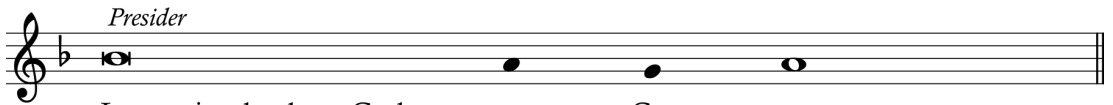
Presider Beloved God, you spread before us a table of plenty, and give us the cup of new life to drink. Receive all we offer this day with our grateful thanks and praise, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

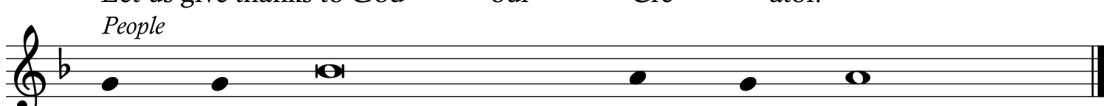
<i>Presider</i>	<i>People</i>
	
May God be with you.	And also with you.
<i>Presider</i>	<i>People</i>
	
Lift up your hearts.	We lift them up to God.

Presider



Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.

People



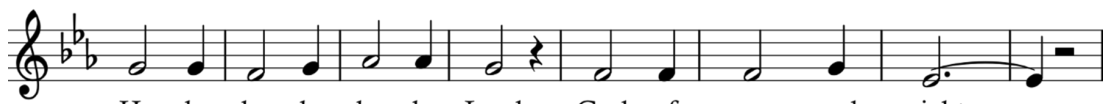
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider

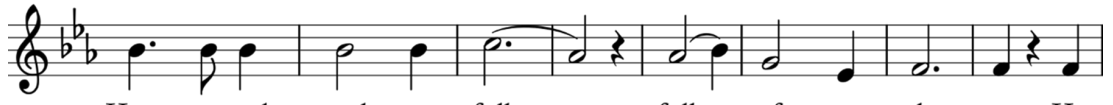
Indeed it is right to give you thanks and praise, O God: out of chaos and darkness you have created light and an abundance of life. From the depths of winter, the new life of spring, and the warmth of summer, you have brought forth a harvest of bounty. Your world is indeed good. Through your Son, who lived and toiled, wept and laughed among us, you were one with us in human flesh. You sent your Spirit to bring new life to tired bones and souls, causing living water to spring from dry, thirsty places and putting a new song on our lips. So, together with all your saints and angels, with prophets and martyrs, the living and the departed, we sing to you a hymn of unending praise:



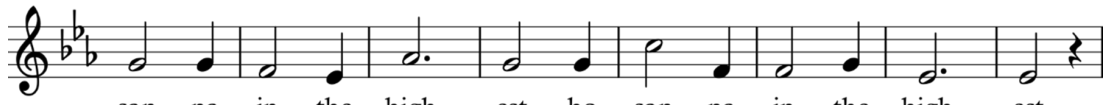
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.



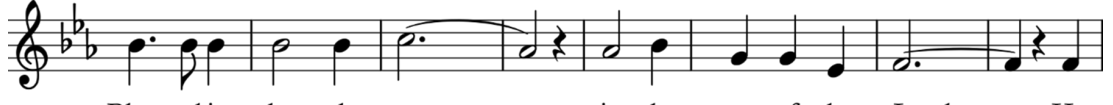
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.



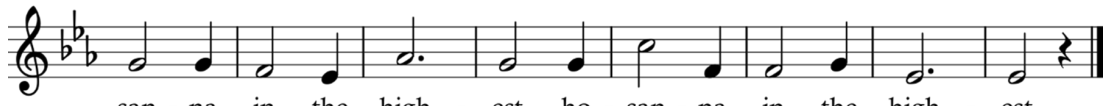
Heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presider

Glory and honour to you, God our life, for the gift of Jesus our Lord. Christ is the first fruit of your creation, with you before time, bringing all to completion through his death on a cross. By your power you raised him: evil can never overcome your love. You set us free to be your body, serving you in the world.

On the night before he died, knowing that his time had come, while at supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body, broken for you." After supper he took the cup, gave 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, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me."

All

We do now what Christ taught us:

we remember his death and resurrection and look forward to that day when all will be complete in him. We offer ourselves and all that we are: our gifts and talents, our strengths and weaknesses, to the glory and honour of your name.

Presider

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, most loving God, and upon this bread and wine, so that they may become for us Christ's body and blood, a sharing of your life in the world. With all people and your whole creation we give you thanks and praise, through the Son and in the Spirit, now and forever.

All

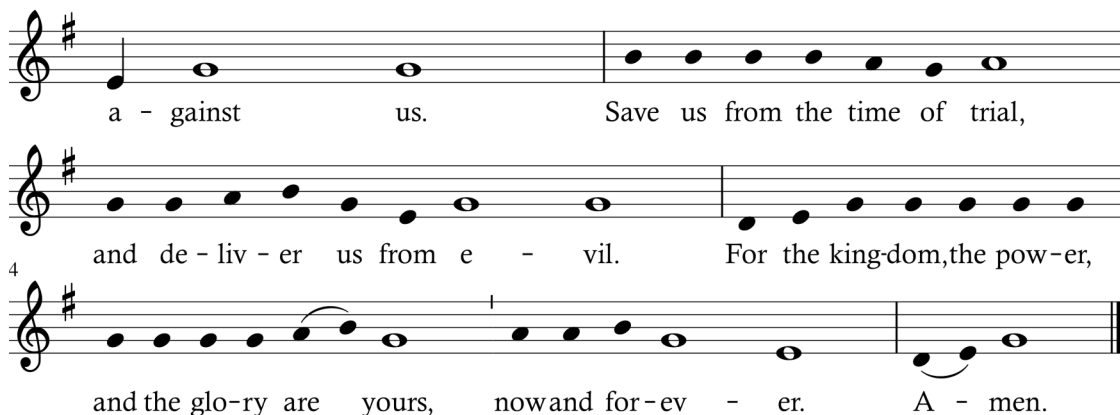
Amen.

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



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: 73—One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All

One Bread, One Body

Anthem Thanks Be to God Forever

F. J. Haydn, arr. by Hal Hopson

Thanks be to God forever; for God is the Lord of all. Sing, be joyful all the earth. See the beauty, see creation's beauty. God is the One Creator; sing for joy. Mountain peaks and flowing rivers join to give praise. Each morning's sunrise, moon and the stars of night, all tell forth the glory of God. Thanks be to God for ever. Rejoice all the earth. Rejoice and sing, for God is Lord of all.

Paraphrase of Psalm 65

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 399—Now Thank We All Our God

Nun danket

Dismissal

Presider

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

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

Chorale Prelude on “Marche Triomphale” - “Now Thank We All Our God”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

**The flowers at the High Altar are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of his parents,
Barton and Patricia Smith, by the Rev. Canon Brad Smith**

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: “Harvest Festival” is a collection of four chorale preludes on familiar Thanksgiving tunes, arranged by the American organist and composer Robert J. Powell (1932-2025). He composed in nearly all genres common to church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music, music for handbell choir, and large-scale oratorios – all in a conservative, neo-Romantic style. He wrote for the average church choir and organist, stating he writes for “choirs of twenty-five because that's what most choirs are. When you come right down to it, most choirs are not of cathedral ability or size. My pieces are all practical things and useful for specific occasions.” The four movements of his “Harvest Festival” are:

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” – where he intersperses his own music with phrases of the hymn.

“We Gather Together” – here the lines of the hymn seem to appear out of the texture before he concludes with a straightforward version of the hymn.

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” – not a familiar text to us, but the tune will be, as Powell introduces it at the outset. He then places it in a minor key, after which he returns to the original key, ending with a nice little surprise.

“Now Thank We All Our God” – a strong ending to this set, where he embellishes the melody with extra notes. After a quieter middle section, the piece finishes on principal and reed stops, bringing “Harvest Festival” to a majestic conclusion. Of

INTROIT: Over the summer, when I was planning the choral music schedule for the fall term, I couldn't seem to find a short rhythmic Thanksgiving Introit, so I wrote one myself. This little Thanksgiving Introit is lively and syncopated and has a text from today's appointed Psalm 100.

TRIO: Our three Choral Scholars will offer their rendition of American composers Daniel Burton's “Give Thanks to the Lord”, the fourth in his set of “Five Unison Psalms”. The words are nestled in a cheerful bell-like accompaniment. The strong repetitive melody, divided up between the singers today, stresses the folk quality of Psalm 136. Burton (b. 1944) wrote much of his music while he was Organist and Composer-in-Residence at the 4000-member First United Methodist Church of San Diego from 1973-2003,

ANTHEM: Today's anthem, “Thanks Be to God Forever”, is an arrangement by American composer Hal Hopson (1933-2025) of the Credo movement from Franz Josef Haydn's “Missa Cellensis” from 1782 – the eighth Mass setting Haydn composed. Hopson made a paraphrase of Psalm 65, matched it with Haydn's splendid music, and created this useful Thanksgiving anthem, full of joyful vigour.

POSTLUDE: Many organists today will be playing German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert's “Marche Triomphale”, based on the hymn “Now Thank We All, Our God”. It was written in 1909 as one of his 66 Chorale Improvisations. Even now, 92 years after his premature death from diabetes in 1933 at the age of 55, he is probably best-known for this one work. The tune is hidden among large solid chords and colourful romantic turn-of-the-century harmonies. A couple of quieter sections contrast the bold and dramatic writing throughout.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Tower Chimes	Keith Dobyns
Organist	Robert Grandy
Greeters	Joelle Kovach and Matthew Harvey
Server/Cruciger	Sam Harvey
Sacrist	Emily/Jacob Coombes
Cantor	Lucas Paradis
Readers	Colin Walsh and Julie Deck
Intercessor	Andrew Vreugdenhil
Trio	Choral Scholars; Robyn Hawthorne, Lucas Paradis and Alex Meinhardt
Chalice Administrators	Andrew Vreugdenhil and Emily Coombes
Chancel Guild	Gerri Currier and Trish Murphy
Refreshments Host	Alice Marshall
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

stjohnspeterborough.ca

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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.