



Holy Cross Day
September 14th, 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 Crux Fidelis Vidas Pinkevicius
Two Preludes on “Rockingham” Franklin Ashdown; Peter Pindar Stearns

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn O Cross of Christ, Immortal Tree St. Flavian

**O Cross of Christ, immortal tree
on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms
that bore the Crucified.**

**From bitter death and barren wood
the tree of life is made;
its branches bear unfailing fruit
and leaves that never fade.**

**O faithful Cross, you stand unmoved
while ages run their course;
foundation of the universe,
Creation’s minding force.**

**Give glory to the risen Christ
and to his Cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfailing love,
the hope of all our days.**

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.

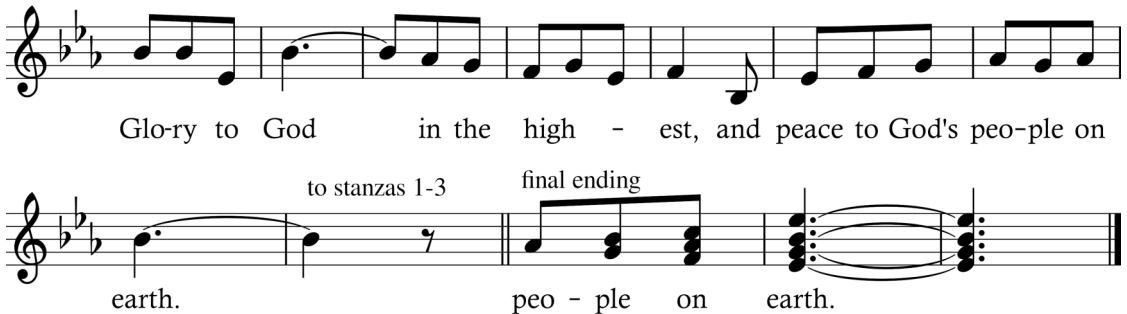
People **And also with you.**

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

Refrain



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 God of compassion, whose Son Jesus was lifted up on the cross, a sign of your steadfast love and a pledge of your will to save: grant healing of soul and life eternal to those who look upon the cross in faith; through Jesus Christ, our peace and our salvation.
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

Numbers 21:4b-9

Reader A reading from the Book of Numbers.

The people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

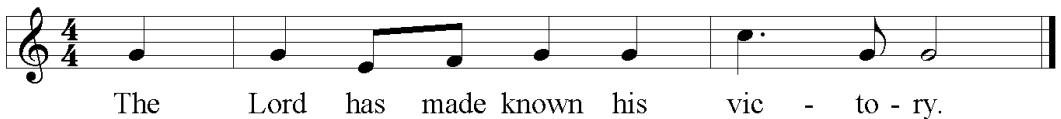
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

98:1-6

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



Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory. **R**

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations. He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **R**

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. **R**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

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

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 386—When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Rockingham

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



Gospel

John 3:13-17

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 Jesus said, "No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in

him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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 at the invitation of 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

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 602—Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Merciful God, through the death of your beloved Son you transformed an instrument of shame into a sign of hope and glory. Receive all we offer you this day, and renew in us the mystery of his love; through the same Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is divided into four parts, each with a label above it: *Presider*, *People*, *Presider*, and *People*. The first part shows the Presider saying "May God be with you." and the People responding "And also with you." The second part shows the Presider saying "Lift up your hearts." and the People responding "We lift them up to God." The third part shows the Presider saying "Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator." and the People responding "It is right to offer thanks and praise." The fourth part shows the Presider saying "True and living God, the source of life for all creation, you have made us in your own image. Always and everywhere we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord." and the People responding "In your love for us and in the fullness of time you sent your Son to be the Saviour; the Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we have seen his glory. For our sins and the sins of all the world he suffered death on the cross. You raised him to life in triumph and exalted him in glory. Through him you send your Holy Spirit upon your Church and make us your people. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise your glorious name:"

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.

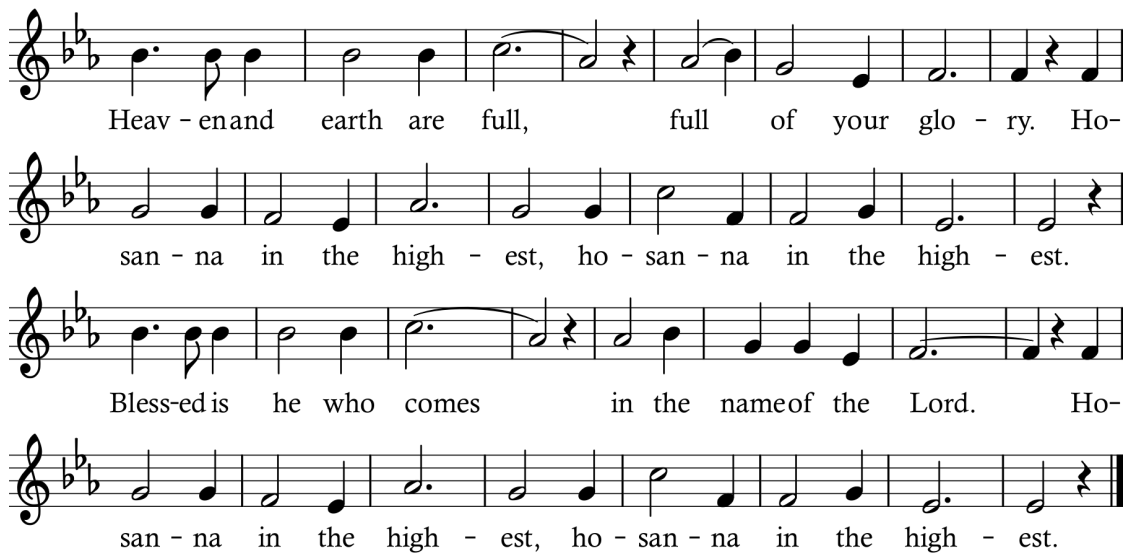
Presider True and living God, the source of life for all creation, you have made us in your own image. Always and everywhere we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In your love for us and in the fullness of time you sent your Son to be the Saviour; the Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we have seen his glory. For our sins and the sins of all the world he suffered death on the cross. You raised him to life in triumph and exalted him in glory. Through him you send your Holy Spirit upon your Church and make us your people. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise your glorious name:

The musical notation is written on two staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is divided into two parts, each with a label above it: *Presider* and *People*. The first part shows the Presider saying "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might." and the People responding "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might." The second part shows the Presider saying "In your love for us and in the fullness of time you sent your Son to be the Saviour; the Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we have seen his glory. For our sins and the sins of all the world he suffered death on the cross. You raised him to life in triumph and exalted him in glory. Through him you send your Holy Spirit upon your Church and make us your people. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise your glorious name:"

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

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



Presider

Blessed are you, almighty God, because on the night he was betrayed the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks he gave it to them and said, Drink this, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins: do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

Let us declare the mystery of faith:

All

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Presider

Therefore, loving God, recalling now the sacrifice of Christ your Son once for all upon the cross and the triumph of his resurrection, we ask you to accept this our sacrifice of praise. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with your life and goodness. Unite us in Christ and give us your peace that we may do your work and be his body in the world. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

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 We break this bread,
All **Communion in Christ's body, once broken.**

Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.
All **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

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 to the Nave altar in single file to receive the Bread from the Presider and then move to the first available Chalice Administrator to receive the Wine. 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.

Song: You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek.

You are my all in all.

Seeking you as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool.

You are my all in all.

Chorus **Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!**

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

**Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, rising again I bless your name;
you are my all in all.**

**When I fall down, you pick me up; when I am dry, you fill my cup;
you are my all in all. *Chorus***

Anthem "God So Loved the World"

Sir John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

The Congregation stands at the invitation of the Presider.

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 378—Crown Him with Many Crowns

Diademata

Dismissal

Deacon 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 Toccata sopra Crux Fidelis

Carlotta Ferrari

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: On this Holy Cross Day, the plainsong tune “Crux Fidelis” (Faithful Cross) came to mind. It is often sung on Good Friday during the Adoration of the Cross. The text comes from the pen of St. Venantius Fortunatus from the 6th century. The text extols the cross using various “wood” images. I have recently come across the organ music of the Lithuanian organist and composer Vidas Pinkevicius (b. 1976). In March of 2024, he wrote a setting of the Crux Fidelis plainsong tune. You will hear the melody on a reed and flute stop combination, accompanied by soft flutes on the manuals and in the pedals. The accompaniment is actually a three-bar repeated passage over a five-bar repeated passage in the pedals.

Today's Gradual Hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” will be featured in preludes by two American composers. Dr. Franklin Ashdown was born in 1942. He was connected to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints all his life. His passion for medicine led him to studies at the University of Texas in Dallas. He was in Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas when President John F. Kennedy was shot and brought into the emergency room, where Ashdown was recruited to be a liaison between reporters and doctors. Over his career he had more than 250 pieces for solo organ published, at least 30 collections of organ music, 15 works for organ with other instruments, and 50 choral works. Ashdown passed away at the age of 80 in January 2023. His Pastoral on “Rockingham” is a quiet, introspective work with the melody first appearing plainly on a flute and soft mixture combination, accompanied by soft flutes and strings. Later the melody is enhanced by additional notes.

Organist Peter Pindar Stearns (1931-2016) who traced his New England roots back to 1630, studied at the Mannes Music School in New York, and later taught there from 1957 to 1989. His Prelude on “Rockingham” is scored for flutes and strings and like the Ashdown piece, is a quiet contemplation on this favourite familiar hymn.

ANTHEM: “God So Loved the World” is an excerpt from the oratorio *The Crucifixion: A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer*, written by the British composer, organist, choirmaster and educator Sir John Stainer (1840-1901) in 1887. A professor of music at Oxford University, Stainer composed some 230 services, anthems, hymns and cantatas, establishing him as a notable, if perhaps minor, figure in English music. Stainer's anthem is based on the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 16-17: “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.”

POSTLUDE: The plainsong tune “Crux Fidelis” receives one final setting today in the “Toccata sopra Crux Fidelis” by the Italian organist, composer and professor Carlotta Ferrari (b. 1975). She has composed in many genres, developing a personal language that is concerned with the blend of past and present. This is evidenced in her Toccata. However, this is not the typical fast virtuosic

keyboard work from the likes of Bach or Widor. Rather, hers has elements of a toccata, such as in the scale passages and in the freedom left to the performer in certain passages. The past is represented in the relatively straightforward harmonic progressions, and in the use of repetition. The present is represented by the use of a few modern-sounding chords near the end of this short piece.

Liturgical Ministers

Presider	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Preacher	The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Organist	Robert Grandy
Tower Chimes	Erica Jaarsma
Greeters	John Perkins and Marian Olson
Readers	Trish Murphy and Colin Walsh
Cantor	
Intercessor	Karen Turner
Crucifer/Server	Sam Harvey
Sacrist	Fin Dinesen
Chalice Administrators	Ian Storey and Leslie Sherman
Chancel	Ellen Seddon and Leslie Sherman
Refreshments Hosts	Alice Marhsall and Pat Passmore
A/V	Matt Grandy

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

The Rev. Deb Wilson
Deacon

Mr. Robert Grandy
Director of Music

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Churchwardens

Colin Walsh
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.

Assistive Hearing Devices

Headsets to assist you to hear the service are available. Please ask a Greeter or Sidesperson (usher) to bring you one.

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.