



The 13th Sunday after Pentecost—Season of Creation September 7th, 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 “Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier”

J.S. Bach, Richard Purvis, Randall Thompson

The Congregation stands as the hymn begins.

Hymn 559—Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

Liebster Jesu

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.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider Let us take a moment in silence to reflect on and be grateful for the times this week that we, in thought, word, and action, encouraged or participated in the growth of God’s Kingdom of love, peace, and justice. *(silence)*

Let us take a moment in silence to reflect on and confess the times this week that we, in thought, word, and action, ignored, discouraged, or worked against the growth of God’s Kingdom of love, peace, and justice. *(silence)*

Presider Most merciful God,
All **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."

Collect of the Day

Presider Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our 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

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Reader A reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house,

and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

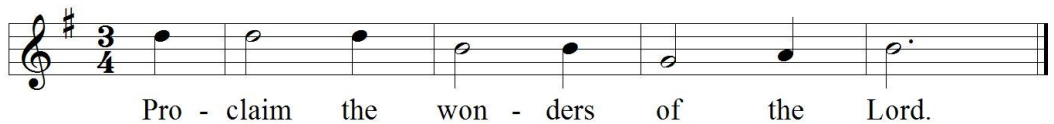
Thanks be to God.

People

Psalm

139:1-5,12-17

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



Lord, you have searched me out and know me; you know my sitting down and my rising up you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. **R**

You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it. **R**

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvellously made your works are wonderful, and I know it well. **R**

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them. **R**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life

span would need to be like yours. **R**

Second Reading

Philemon 1-21

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Philemon.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love - and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother - especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do more than I say.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 431—Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said

Breslau

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



Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

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

Now large crowds were travelling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

People

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

A silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Solo

"Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord"

David Evans, arr. by Richard Shephard

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here; Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear. In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground; Be still for the presence of the

Lord, the Holy One is here. Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around; He burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned. How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light! Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around. Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place; He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him; Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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

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 408—Wind Upon the Waters





Wind Upon the Waters

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

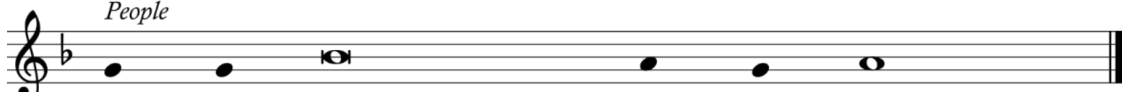
| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Presider</i> | <i>People</i> |
|  |  |
| May God be with you. | And also with you. |
| <i>Presider</i> | <i>People</i> |
|  |  |
| Lift up your hearts. | We lift them up to God. |

Presider



Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.

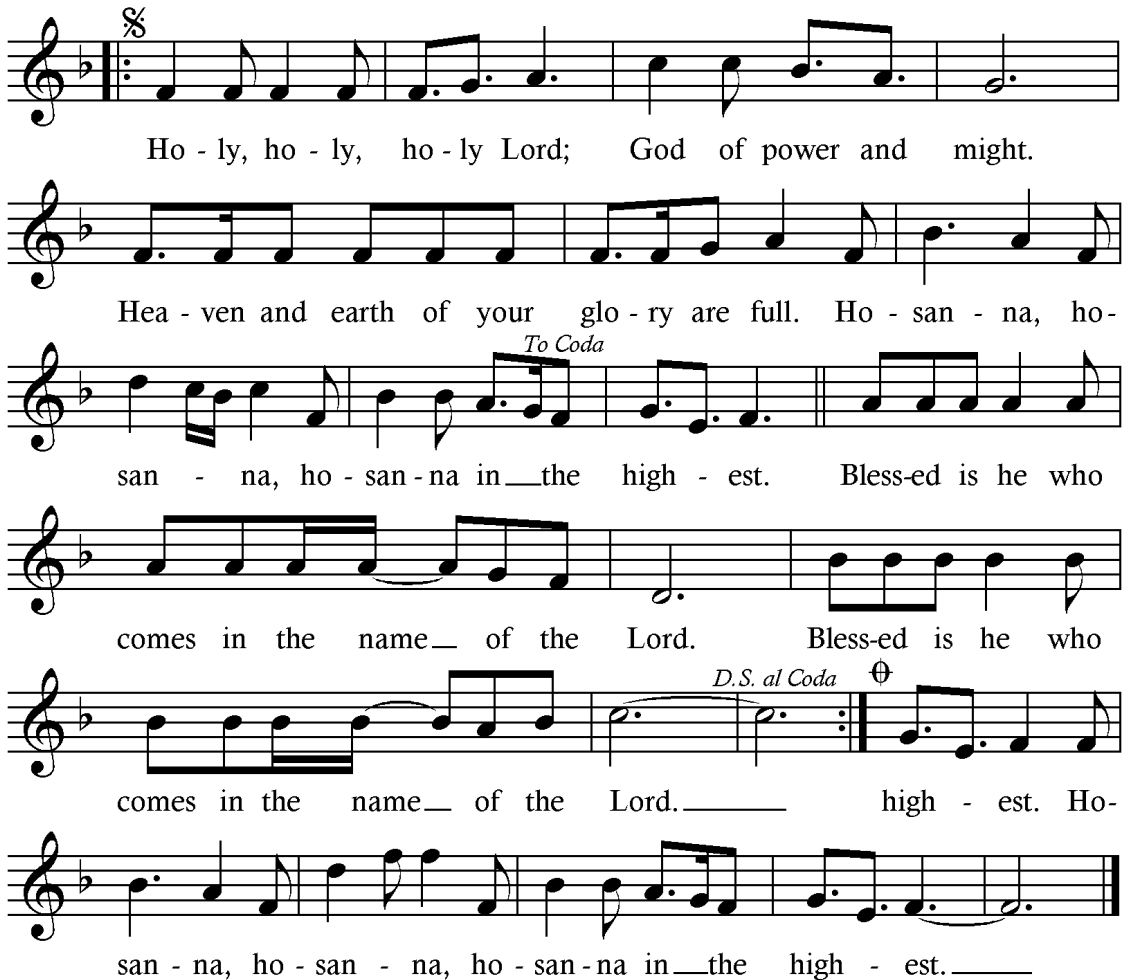
People



It is right to offer thanks and praise.

Presider

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.

Hea - ven and earth of your glo - ry are full. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

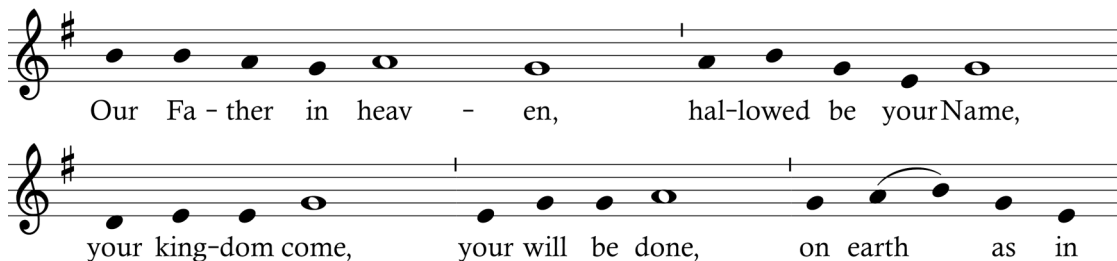
All **Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

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,



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 to share in the Body of Christ.

All **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

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

745

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the



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.

Hymn: 487—Where Charity and Love Prevail

Twenty-Fourth (Primrose)

Anthem “Take Up Your Cross”

Ronald Corp

“Take up your cross”, the Saviour said, “if you want to follow me.” (repeated)

I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me. (repeated)

“Take up your cross...”

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out my wicked transgressions. (repeated)

“Take up your cross...”

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Announcements

A Time for Celebration and Thanksgiving

On the first Sunday of each month, members of the Congregation are invited to name aloud significant dates in their lives at this time— anniversaries of birth, marriage, etc.—and other occasions for celebration.

Once all have been named, the Congregation stands as the Doxology is sung.

Doxology (CP 667)



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 502—You Are Salt for the Earth Bring Forth the Kingdom

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 Postlude on “The Ashgrove” Mark Sedio

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier" (literally: Dearest Jesus, we are here), today's Opening Hymn, is a 1663 Lutheran hymn with words by Tobias Clausnitzer, and a tune based on a 1664 melody by Johann Rudolph Ahle. A prayer for illumination, it is suitable for the opening of a church service and to be sung before a sermon. It is popular in English translations as "Blessed Jesus, at your word" by Catherine Winkworth. In Bach's BWV 731 setting, the melody is ornamented with extra notes, providing a beautiful and soothing arrangement. Richard Purvis (1913-1994) was an American organist, composer, conductor and teacher. He was best known for his expressive recordings of the organ classics and his own lighter compositions for the instrument. His expressive setting of the tune uses soft flutes and string stops. American composer and teacher Randall Thompson's setting of the tune began life on a blackboard in his Composition class. Thompson (1899-1984) taught composition to his students this way for over twelve years. The finished compositions were written down by an assistant and therefore preserved for church use. Apparently, the students would get into heated discussions while forming these compositions and would argue over even the dotting of a single note! This short piece features the tune in the middle voice surrounded by a flowing right-hand accompaniment and a walking bass line in the pedals.

SOLO: "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord" is a contemporary hymn written in 1986 by British songwriter David J. Evans (b. 1957). Evans was involved in the charismatic movement but felt that some of its worship risked treating God in a trivial fashion. Specifically, he was inspired by the phrase in the Old Testament – "then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said 'surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know it.'" Also inspirational was Exodus 3: 1–6, where Moses met Yahweh at the burning bush. Today's setting is by British composer Richard Shephard (1949-2021) who arranged it for unison voices or for a four-part choir.

ANTHEM: "Take Up Your Cross" by the British composer and conductor Ronald Corp (1951-2025) is a simple yet haunting song with a text adapted from Matthew and Psalm 51. This anthem also relates to part of today's Gospel reading from Luke. Verse 27 reads "And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

POSTLUDE: As we enter this relatively newly-named Season of Creation, the hymn "Let All Things Now Living" is one that focuses on thanking God the Creator. The second stanza, much like hymns on creation for over 200 years, reflects on the natural created order, "stars," "sun," "hills and mountains, the rivers and fountains," and "ocean." All creation joins with humanity to raise a song of "glad adoration" to God. American composer Mark Sedio (1954) set this tune in his Recessional on "Sent Forth by God's Blessing", a joyous dance-like treatment of this traditional Welsh tune. Sedio (b. 1954) is Cantor at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He also has held various teaching and conducting positions at Augsburg University (Minneapolis), Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN) and Luther Seminary (St. Paul). He is an active recitalist, clinician, conductor and composer. He has also presented hymn festivals, recitals and workshops throughout North America and Europe. He has over 100 compositions for organ, piano, choral and instrumental ensembles in print.

Liturgical Ministers

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Presider | The Rev. Canon Brad Smith |
| Preacher | The Rev. Canon Brad Smith |
| Tower Chimes | Keith Dobyns |
| Organist | Robert Grandy |
| Greeters | Matthew Harvey and Joelle Kovach |
| Readers | Julie Deck and Alex Meinhardt |
| Cantor | Robyn Hawthorne |
| Intercessor | Ian Storey |
| Soloist | Cole Hayward |
| Servers | Emily Coombs and Lucas Rumble |
| Crucifer | Jake Currier |
| Sacrist | Cole Hayward |
| Chalice Administrators | Cole Hayward and Leslie Sherman |
| Chancel | Ellen Seddon and Leslie Sherman |
| Refreshments Hosts | The Parish Leadership Team |
| A/V | Walter Howell |

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.