



LOVE

Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

*December 18, 2022
11:00 am*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Welcome to St. John's Elora.

Hymn books, prayer books and hearing assist devices are available at the back of the church.

Face masks are recommended when indoors at St. John's.

This liturgy is live-streamed on St. John's Elora You Tube.

St. John's church sits on the traditional unceded territories of the Attawandaron, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. These lands are covered by the Between the Lakes Treaty and the Haldimand land grant. These lands are also part of The Dish With One Spoon Treaty; all subsequent newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. Today this land is home to many diverse Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples.

Mass Setting Communion Service in A

Harold Darke

Hymn 88 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

(Advent candle LOVE will be lit during the Processional Hymn)

*1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.*

*3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever:
now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*4. By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: **ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(congregation may be seated or kneel)

TEN COMMANDMENTS

Sung response after each commandment: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Sung response after tenth commandment: **Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Kyrie (choir)

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT

Celebrant: Raise up, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

Reading Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19 (*plainchant*)

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock;
show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubim.
Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up thy strength, and come and help us.
Turn us again, O God; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?
Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears, and hast given them plenteousness of tears to drink.
Thou makest us a very strife unto our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.
Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,
and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.
And so shall we not go back from thee: O let us live, and we will call upon thy Name.
Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts; show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

(please stand)

GOSPEL

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of the gospel according to Matthew beginning at the 18th verse.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Celebrant: I BELIEVE in one God

People: the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; light, of light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANTHEM Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler

Mary said to the Angel:

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord,

let it be done to me, according to your word.

HOMILY Rev'd Canon Paul Walker

OFFERTORY HYMN 51 O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near

St. Flavian

An offertory plate will be passed during this hymn to receive donations to support the ministry of St. John's.

1. O God, unseen yet ever near,
your presence may we feel;
and thus, inspired with holy fear,
around your table kneel.

2. Here may your faithful people
know the blessings of your love,
the streams that through the desert flow,
the manna from above.

3. We come, obedient to your word,
to feast on heavenly food,
to eat the body of the Lord,
and drink his precious blood.

4. O living Bread, enduring Vine,
your words we shall obey,
and go, renewed with strength divine,
rejoicing on our way.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

During the Offertory the Celebrant prepares the elements for Communion.

"A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us."

- Matthew 1:23

PRAYERS

Almighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all people: We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to lead all nations in the way of righteousness; and so to guide and direct their governors and rulers, that thy people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace: And grant unto thy servant CHARLES our King, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, all Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and specially to thy servant Susan, our Bishop, and Colin, our Assistant Bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and living Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: Prosper, we pray thee, all those who proclaim the Gospel of thy kingdom among the nations: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and specially to this congregation here present, that, with meek heart and due reverence they may hear and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life as in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, *especially those for whom our prayers are desired.*

We remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: ... (*Names of those who have died are offered*)...and we bless thy holy Name for all who in life and death have

glorified thee; beseeching thee to give us grace that, rejoicing in their fellowship, we may follow their good examples, and with them be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Celebrant: ALMIGHTY God,

All: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people: we acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him: Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. - *Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. - *John 3:16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. - *1 Timothy 1:15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any one sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. - *1 St John 2:1, 2.*

THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

Celebrant: The Lord be with you;

All: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;

All: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

All: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and preserver of all things. Who in the multitude of thy Saints hast compassed us about with so great a cloud of witnesses, that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us, and together with them may receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the Highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Celebrant: BLESSING and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he give it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of

everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you;

All: And with thy Spirit.

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies May be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

Choir: Agnus Dei

Administration of Communion

All are invited to come forward to receive the sacrament as a reminder of your baptism. Please come forward during the singing of the Angus Dei. The choir will receive after the congregation. If mobility challenges prevent you from navigating the chancel steps safely, the clergy will bring the sacrament to you. If you do not wish to receive the chalice, you are invited to touch the base of the chalice while you hear the words of administration.

If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

OUR Father

All: who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is

the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

All: **And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee.**
And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN 108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

Merton

*1. Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day."*

*2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
let the earth bound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.*

*3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray that we may be forgiven.*

*4. that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.*

*5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the ever lasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.*

POSTLUDE Plein Jeu and Grands Jeux from Magnificat in D

JF Dandrieu

Quartet	Kate Wright, Christina Stelmacovich, Lanny Fleming, Michael Cressman
Readers	Diana and John Spearn
Greeters	Susan Adams, Maureen MacIntyre
Chalice Bearer	Damaris Martin
Altar Guild	Wendy Donohue, Susan Hirst
Technician	Rod Murray

Flowers are to the glory of God
in loving memory of Veronica Punnett, the gift of her husband, Gerald.

Pastoral Letter:

To receive the weekly Pastoral Letter from the Rector with news of activities at St. John's, please let us know, or send an email to rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Christmas Memorial Flowers

If you would like to make a donation towards Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones please let us know by Tuesday December 20. You can leave a message for Elaine Dightam at 519-846-5911.

Offering Envelopes for 2023

In the event that our supplier is not able to deliver the boxes of Offering Envelopes for 2023 before the New Year, we have provided some provisional interim offering envelopes for you to use. Please help yourself at the back of the church to as many as you will need. We apologize for the inconvenience, and we hope that the boxes of offering envelopes arrive soon!

Parish Choir goes Caroling

Thanks to your response, quartets from the Parish Choir were able to visit 14 homes in the community to offer Christmas Carols on December 16 and 17 in the evening. This was a wonderful musical outreach and fund raiser for the Parish Choir Fund.

Please give generously to the Choir Fund to support our singers.

Support St. John's with a Gift this Christmas

Your financial gift to St. John's supports over 75% of our ongoing ministry expenses. You are invited to make a special gift to St. John's this Christmas in thanksgiving for this liturgy. All donations received before December 31 will be eligible for a receipt for income tax purposes. Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to a box of Offering Envelopes for 2023 please let us know. To make a monthly gift through Pre-Authorized Giving, or make a change to your monthly gift, please use the form available on our website or at the back of the church.



Christmas at St. John's

Invite friends and family to join you at our Christmas services:

TODAY - 4pm and 7pm (Christmas Lessons and Carols)

NOTE: 7pm will be live-streamed and will have the Bishop with us.

CHRISTMAS EVE - 4pm (Eucharist with Volunteer Choir); 7pm (Holy Communion with Parish Choir); 9pm (Holy Communion with Parish Choir)

NOTE: 7pm will be live-streamed.

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10am (Holy Communion with Quartet)

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 10am (Holy Communion with Quartet)

NOTE: there is only ONE in-person liturgy on Sunday January 1st at 10am. It will not be live-streamed.

St. John's Four Areas of Ministry

Proclaim the Love of Christ - Engage and Involve - Musical Outreach - Open Doors

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker	rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Director of Music:	Dr. Patrick Murray	music.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko	
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon	sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com

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