



# Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario  
Diocese of Niagara

December 24, 2022  
7:00pm and 9:00pm

## Christmas Eve

*Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. (Isaiah 9.6)*

## Holy Communion (BCP)

**Mass Setting**      **Missa Brevis No. 4** (Corde natus ex parentis)

Healey Willan

**Introit**    **Frohloeket, ihr Völker auf Erden**

Felix Mendelssohn

Rejoice, ye people of the earth, and praise God!  
The redeemer is come, whom the Lord has promised.  
He has revealed his justice to the world.  
Hallelujah!

### **Hymn 140**    **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

Carol

(Blessing of the Creche between last two verses)

*1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch  
their harps of gold:  
"Peace on earth, to all good will from heaven's  
most gracious king!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.*

*3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand  
years of wrong;  
and we amid our wars hear not the words  
of peace they bring;  
O Listen now, and still your strife  
to hear the angels sing.*

*2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the  
weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on  
hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.*

*4. And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow;  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing.*

### **COLLECT AT THE CRECHE**

*O Heavenly Father, as we celebrate again the nativity of thy Son our Saviour, we pray that, like the angels, we may sing his joyful praise; like the shepherds we may go even to Bethlehem and see the Child lying in a manger; and like the wise men, we may offer to him our worship, and give him the love and loyalty of our hearts; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen***

*5. For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years  
shall come the time foretold:  
when the new heaven and earth  
shall own the Prince of Peace, their King,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.*

### **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Kneel as you are able.*

**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.

### **SUMMARY OF THE LAW**

**Celebrant:** OUR Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel, The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it:  
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both 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.

### **HYMN 135 Shepherds In the Field Abiding (vv 1,2,3)**

Iris

*1. Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us, when the seraph bright greeted you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*2. We beheld (it is no fable), God incarnate, king of bliss, swathed and cradled in a stable, and the angel strain was this:  
Gloria....*

*3. Choristers, on high were singing Jesus and his virgin birth, heavenly bells the while a ringing, "Peace, goodwill to all on earth."  
Gloria...*

## COLLECT

*Celebrant*

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

*People:* **Amen.**

## FIRST READING **Isaiah 52.7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

## PSALM 98 (*plainchant*)

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things.

With his own right hand, and with his holy arm, hath he gotten himself the victory.

The Lord hath declared his salvation:

his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He hath remembered his mercy and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel;

and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.

Show yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands: sing, rejoice, and give thanks.

Praise the Lord upon the harp: sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.

With trumpets also and the sound of the horn, O show yourselves joyful before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein; the round world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;

for he is come to judge the earth.

With righteousness shall he judge the world, and the peoples with equity.

*(please stand)*

## GOSPEL **John 1.1-14**

*Reader:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And with thy spirit.**

*Reader:* The Holy Gospel is written in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the gospel according to John beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was

life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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** **There is No Rose**

Colin Britt

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bare Jesu;  
*Alleluia* (praise be to God).

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in persons three,  
*Pari forma* (equal in form).

For in this rose contained was  
Heaven and earth in little space;  
*Res miranda* (wonderful thing).

The angels sungen the shepherds to:  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo* (Glory to God in the highest):  
*Gaudeamus* (let us rejoice).

Leave we all this worldly mirth,  
And follow we this joyful birth;  
*Transeamus* (let us follow).

**Offertory Hymn 119 Silent Night***1.Silent night! Holy night!**All is calm, all is bright**Round yon virgin mother and child**Holy infant so tender and mild,**sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**2.Silent night! Holy night!**Shepherds quake at the sight:**Glories stream from heaven afar,**heavenly hosts sing alleluia,**Christ the Saviour is born,**Christ the Saviour is born.**3.Silent night! Holy night!**Son of God, love's pure light**Radiant beams from thy holy face,**with the dawn of redeeming grace,**Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS**

*“Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2.10,11*

**INTERCESSIONS***(remain standing)**Celebrant:*

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

We uphold all those in need this night because of illness, trouble, or distress.....

For those who have died..... May they be received into the fullness of thy presence;

For those who mourn; may they be comforted; hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant this, 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.

*(you are invited to kneel)*

*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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born on this night for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made fully human of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

*Choir* 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 gave 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, 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.

## Agnus Dei

### Communion Motet for Christmas Eve: O magnum mysterium

Morten Lauridsen

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear  
Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

### Administration of Communion

*All are invited to come forward to the high altar or to the standing station to receive the sacrament as a reminder of your baptism. Please come forward during the singing of the Agnus Dei.  
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

*Kneel as you are able.*

*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**

### **CAROL 118 O Come All Ye Faithful** (vv 1-5)

*1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*2. God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:  
O come...*

*5. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.  
Jesus, to thee by glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come...*

*3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
O come...*

*4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
O come...*

Adeste Fidelis

### **POSTLUDE Noel Suisse**

L C Daquin

*CHOIR: Lesley Bouza, Audrey Coates, Rebecca McKay, Janelle Santi, Kate Wright, Rachel Barreca, Emily Burnett, Lisa Jones, Caroline Schmidt, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Jeffrey Smith, Michael Cressman, Paul Genyk-Berezowski, Alan Macdonald, Luke MacLean*

*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 Haldemand 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.*



*The Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of*

*Eric Hilborn*

*My parents, Rita and Arthur Doraty*

*Ken Coultes*

*Pam Walker and John Walker*

*Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family members*

*David Rogers*

*Loved ones*

*Stuart and Catherine Sheppard,*

*Rita Houston*

*Ann Ableson Carotte and Peggy Oxley*

*David Watkins*

*Dr. Peter William Davidson and*

*Dr. Paul W.N Chong*

*My parents, Joan and Alexandra Douglas  
and granddaughter Amaya Chapman*

*the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family*

*the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre*

*the gift of his wife, Linda Coultes*

*the gift of Paul Walker*

*the gift of Patricia Ellis*

*the gift of his family*

*the gift of Gwyneth Watkins*

*the gift of Chris and Jeannie Houston*

*the gift of Marion Oxley*

*the gift of his wife Barb and his family Susan,  
Tom and Mary Ann.*

*the gift of Carrie and Michael Chong*

*the gift of Susan Adams*

Readers 7pm  
Readers 9pm  
Greeters 9pm  
Crucifer 7 and 9 pm  
Chalice Bearer 7pm  
Technician 7pm

Bob Cooper, Rachel Barreca  
Lesley Bouza, Philip Arnott  
Jane Rapp and Charlotte Logan  
Ken Reid  
Damaris Martin  
Steve Hornett

### **Welcome to St. John's Elora**

We are delighted that you are joining us at St. John's to celebrate Christmas and we wish you every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. Join us on Sundays at 8, 9 and 11am for worship. The Knitters and Quilters typically meet on Wednesdays mornings in the Parish Centre. There is also a Wednesday morning celebration of the Communion at 10:00 a.m. A service of Compline is offered on Tuesdays of the first full week of each month at 8pm. Anyone is invited to join the Compline Choir which rehearses at 6:30. There is a service of choral Evensong on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm. Look out for some new musical outreach opportunities in the new year featuring some recitals offered by members of the Parish Choir and a Bach Cantata series. To participate in some aspect of life at St. John's, please let us know.

### **Boxes of Offering Envelopes for 2023**

Boxes of Offering Envelopes have arrived and are available for pick up at the back of the church. Thank you for your commitment to support the work of St. John's Elora. You can support St. John's using Offering Envelopes, monthly Pre-Authorized Giving (forms are available at the back of the church and on the website), or through E-transfer to [treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com).

### **Pastoral Letter**

To receive the weekly Pastoral Letter from the Rector with a reflection and news of events at St. John's please send an email to [rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

### **New Year's Day**

Sunday January 1<sup>st</sup> there will be one service at 10:00 am. Holy Communion (BCP) with soloist.

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

### **Proclaim the Love of Christ – Engage and Involve Musical Outreach – Open Doors**

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