



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara

December 24, 2023
6:00pm and 8:00pm

Christmas Eve

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

Holy Communion (BCP)

Mass Setting **Missa Brevis IV** (Of the Father's Heart Begotten)

Healey Willan

Hymn 123 **Once in Royal David's City**

Irby

(Blessing of the Creche between last two verses)

Solo:

1. Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

(Congregation invited to stand and join in singing remaining verses)

2. He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

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***

6. Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

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.

Introit Frohloket, 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!

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.

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 the Virgin Mary: 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.**

GLORIA

Merbecke

(congregation please stand)

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

FIRST READING **Isaiah 9.2-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

PSALM 97 (*plainchant*)

The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof: yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof. Clouds and darkness are round about him:

righteousness and judgement are the foundation of his throne.

There goeth a fire before him, and burneth up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings gave shine unto the world: the earth saw it, and was afraid.

The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

The heavens have declared his righteousness, and all the peoples have seen his glory.

Confounded be all they that worship carved images, and that delight in vain gods: worship him, all ye gods.

Sion heard of it and rejoiced, and the daughters of Judah were glad, because of thy judgements, O Lord.

For thou, Lord, art the Most High over all the earth: thou art exalted far above all gods.

O ye that love the Lord, see that ye hate the thing which is evil;

the Lord preserveth the souls of his saints; he shall deliver them from the hand of the ungodly.

There is sprung up a light for the righteous, and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks unto his holy Name.

(*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 1st chapter of the gospel according to John beginning at the 1st 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).

SERMON Canon Paul Walker

Offertory Hymn 119 Silent Night

Stille Nacht

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

"To you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord." – Luke 2.11

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 as at this time 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

Administration of Communion

Regardless of your background tradition, everyone is invited to come forward to the high altar or to the standing station to receive the sacrament as a reminder of God's love in your life.

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)

Adeste Fideles

*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.*

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

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

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

POSTLUDE Plein Jeu and Dialogue from Magnificat in D minor

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

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 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.

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

Eric Hilborn

My parents, Rita and Arthur Doraty

Ken Coultres

Mary Tanter, Avril Blower, Brenda Randall

Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family members

David Rogers

Our granddaughter, Amaya

David Watkins

Dr. Peers Davidson and

Dr. Paul W N Chong

the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family

the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre

the gift of his wife, Linda Coultres

the gift of Paul Walker

the gift of Patricia Ellis

the gift of his family

the gift of George and Susan Adams

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

the gift of Carrie and Michael Chong

Readers 6pm

Readers 8pm

Greeters 6pm

Greeters 8pm

Crucifer 6 and 8pm

Chalice Bearers 6pm

Chalice Bearers 8pm

Technician 8pm

Ted Arnott, Phillip Arnott

Quade Nielsen, Ken Reid

Patricia Reimer, David Campbell

Jane Anne Murray

Thomas Littlewood

Jeannie Houston, Bob Cooper

Damaris Martin, Ken Reid

Gerry Hill

Welcome to St. John's Elora. You are invited to participate in this community of Christian faith.

PROCLAIM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Pastoral Letter - to receive the weekly Pastoral Letter with updates on what is happening at St. John's with a short reflection from the Rector, please let us know.

Sundays - 8:00 a.m. (said communion service from the Book of Common Prayer; 9:00 a.m. (an informal service with the Volunteer Choir); 11:00 a.m. (traditional choral service with the St. John's Parish Choir alternating between Matins and Holy Communion)

Bible Study - Mondays at 2:00 p.m starting January 8. We are studying the gospel of Mark.

Bible Study at Portage - Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Help us offer a Bible Study for the residents of Portage - a residential recovery program for young people from across Ontario.

TRC Reflection Group - meets online on Tuesday evenings.

ENGAGE AND INVOLVE

Knitters and Quilters - help with the annual Poppy Project, Christmas puddings, prayer shawls, hats and mitts on Wednesdays 9:30 to 12:00

Men's Dinner - typically meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. with a delicious meal and a guest speaker. In January we meet on January 10 and the guest speaker is Michael Chong, MP for Wellington Halton.

Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Greeters, Readers, Volunteer Choir, Live-stream Tech Team - you are welcome to participate in any aspect of our rich and diverse liturgical life.

Music at St. John's Elora

St. John's Elora sustains a proud tradition as a regional centre of musical excellence with an international reputation, including supporting Canada's premiere professional church choir, two vibrant choirs for community singers, and frequent performance events. 2023 was a year of exciting growth and renewal for us, with initiatives including commissioning new choral music, the Bach Meditations series, the Elora Children's Choir, and a concert series. Thank you for your support this past year!

The **Parish Choir**, St. John's professional church choir, sings each week at the 11am liturgy, as well as **Evensong** on the last Sunday of each month. On April 28, the Parish Choir will offer our next **Bach Meditations** event and, on June 16, a year-end **concert**. Join us for these special and beautiful events.

Our **Concert Series** will continue on **Sunday, January 21, 3pm** with "New Year's Follies!" a vocal recital featuring Parish Choir singers Lesley Bouza and Alan Macdonald. Don't miss this fun afternoon of artful and popular song. Admission PWYC at the door; no tickets required. Details on all **upcoming concerts** at St. John's Elora are available on the church website.

The **Compline Choir** (first Tuesday of each month) and **Volunteer Choir** (9am liturgies) continue to be open to new members. If you are interested in joining either of these ensembles, please reach out to Patrick Murray.

The **Elora Children's Choir**, under the direction of Kate Wright, had an enormously successful debut this past fall. Do you know a young person who likes to sing who would enjoy making new musical friends? New singers are welcome in this community-focused children's choir!

If you are interested in making a sustaining donation either to the Parish Choir Fund or the Concert Series, please reach out to Patrick Murray.

OPEN DOORS

New Project - To help us fulfill our vision priorities, St. John's is looking to create a new reception hall that would connect the church to the Parish Centre (yellow house) and provide accessible washrooms, a commercial kitchen and upgrade our electrical capacity, HVAC and plumbing. We are happy to share with you how you can support this exciting community project.

Donations - Support St. John's with regular donations through Offering Envelopes (new boxes for 2024 are available at the back of the church), E-transfer to treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com, or monthly Pre-Authorized Giving (forms available at the back of the church). Contact Thomas at parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com for more information. Thank you for your generous support.

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
Administration:	Thomas Littlewood	parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Honorary Assistants:	Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers	

Proclaim the Love of Christ – Engage and Involve

Musical Outreach – Open Doors

Church of St. John the Evangelist

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www.stjohnselora.ca