

# Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario Diocese of Niagara

Sunday after Christmas
11 am
Choral Eucharist

# **Sunday after Christmas**

# **December 31, 2023**

# 11:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Mass Setting Missa Sancta Maria Magdalena

**Healey Willan** 

Hymn 156 The People that in Darkness Sat

Dundee

1.The people that in darkness sat

a glorious light have seen;

the Light has shined on them who long in shades of death have been.

4.For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given,

and on his shoulder ever rests all power in earth and heaven.

2.To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,

the gathering nations come;

they joy as when the reapers bear

their harvest treasures home.

5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace,

the everlasting Lord,

the Wonderful, the Counsellor,

the God by all adored.

3. For thou their burden dost remove,

and break the tyrant's rod, as in the day when Midian fell before the sword of God. 6.Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray, and make us thine alone, who with the Father ever art

and Holy Spirit one.

#### 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.

**SUMMARY OF THE LAW** (congregation can kneel or sit for prayer)

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 - Soloist

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

**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.** 

### **COLLECT**

Celebrant: O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come again to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.** 

#### **COLLECT FOR NEW YEAR**

Celebrant: O Immortal Lord God, who inhabitest eternity, and hast brought thy servants to the beginning of another year: Pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, bless to us this New Year, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### Lesson Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

**Psalm 148**(said responsively)

O Praise the Lord from the heavens:

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all ye angels of his:

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon:

praise him, all ye stars of light.

Praise him, all ye heavens,

and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord;

for he commanded and they were created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever:

he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
ye dragons and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and vapour,
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;
Mountains and all hills;
fruitful trees and all cedars;
Beasts and all cattle;
creeping things and feathered fowls;
Kings of the earth, and all peoples;
princes and all judges of the world;
Young men and maidens together;
old men and children;
Let them praise the Name of the Lord:

for his Name only is excellent, and his glory above heaven and earth.

He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him:

even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(please stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40
The Lord be with you.
And with thy Spirit

The Holy Gospel is written in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of the gospel of Luke beginning at the 22<sup>nd</sup> verse. **Glory be to thee O Lord.** 

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to

all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him. The Gospel of Christ.

Praise be to thee. O Christ.

#### THE NICENE CREED

All: I BELIEVE in one God 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.

## SOLO If with All Your Hearts

If with all your heart ye truly seek Me, Ye shall ever surely find Me, Thus saith our God. If with all your heart ye truly seek Me, Ye shall ever surely find Me, Thus saith our God. Thus saith our God. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might even come before His presence. Felix Mendelssohn

Oh, that I knew where I might find Him,
That I might even come before His presence,
come before His presence.
Oh, that I knew where I might find Him.
If with all your heart ye truly seek Me,
Ye shall ever surely find Me,
Thus saith our God.

Ye shall ever surely find Me, Thus saith our God.

#### **HOMILY** Canon Paul Walker

# Offertory Hymn 137 What Child is This

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

# Greensleeves

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading, This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

3.So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

#### PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

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

**INTERCESSIONS** (You may kneel or sit for prayer)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Let us pray for the church, for our community, for the world. Let us pray for reconciliation with indigenous peoples of Canada. Let us pray for all who need our prayers today, and all who have died in the peace of Christ.

Leader: 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. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: 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. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and specially to thy servant Linda, our Primate, and Susan, our 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, that, with meek heart and due reverence, we may hear and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

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

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: ..... 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. Lord in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

We offer these prayers from our hearts for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, 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. -  ${\it Matthew}$ 

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

Solo: 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.

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.

## **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 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.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

OUR Father 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.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and

All:

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**

# Hymn 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding

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 in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3.Choristers on high were singing
Jesus and his virgin birth,
heavenly bells the while aringing,
"Peace, goodwill to all on earth."
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Iris

4.Thanks, good shepherds, true your story; let us go to Bethlehem. Angels hymn the king of glory; carol we with you and them. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

#### **Postlude**

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.

Readers Patricia Reimer, David Campbell

Soloist Quade Nielson

Thank you to all the members of the Flower Guild for decorating the church so beautifully for Christmas.

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 12:0ur

**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.

#### **MUSICAL OUTREACH**

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 to the church), E-transfer to <a href="mailto:treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com">treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>, or monthly Pre-Authorized Giving (forms available at the back of the church). Contact Thomas at <a href="mailto:parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com">parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a> 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

Organist: Jurgen Petrenko

Sexton and Caretaker: Garry Cantlon <a href="mailto:sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com">sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Administration: Thomas Littlewood parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com

music.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Honorary Assistants: Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers

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