

# *Advent Lessons and Carols*

*Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora*

I look from afar;  
and lo,  
I see the power  
of God coming.



*Sunday, December 3, 2023*

*4:00pm and 6:00pm*

## MATIN RESPONSORY

*(congregation may be seated)*

I look from afar:

And lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep:

Tell us, art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come:

to reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming,  
and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say:

Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

## HYMN **Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth**

*(choir only)*

1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
and manifest thy virgin-birth:  
let every age adoring fall;  
such birth befits the God of all.

**4 O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,  
the weakness of our mortal state  
with deathless might invigorate.**

*(congregation and choir)*

**2 Begotten of no human will,  
but of the Spirit, thou art still  
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,  
the Saviour, now to us displayed.**

**5 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
and darkness glow with new-born light,  
no more shall night extinguish day,  
where love's bright beams their power  
display.**

**3 From God the Father he proceeds,  
to God the Father back he speeds,  
runs out his course to death and hell,  
returns on God's high throne to dwell.**

*(choir only)*

6 O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee  
eternal praise and glory be,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

## Opening Sentences and Prayer

Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity and also for that Day when he shall come to judge the hearts of all people. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

In words and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the Scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; with John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin Mary, we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life, and death of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

But first, let us pray for those who, by reason of adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved, those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness, and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

*Silence is kept*

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

*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, forever and ever. Amen.*

May the Lord when He comes find us watching and waiting. *Amen.*

## **LESSON I** Genesis 3.1-15      The Fall of Adam and Eve

*Read by Marcus Kramer 4pm*

*Read by Mayor Shawn Watters 6pm*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

**ANTHEM Adam Lay Ybounden**

Geoffrey Williams

*Adam lay ybounden  
Bounden in a bond  
Four thousand winter  
Thought he not too long*

*Nay had the apple taken been  
The apple taken been  
Nay had never our lady  
Abeen heavene queen*

*And all was for an apple  
An apple that he took  
As clerkes finden  
written in their book*

*Blessed be the time  
That apple taken was  
Therefore we moun singen  
Deo gracias, Deo gracias!*

**LESSON II Isaiah 6.1-8 God reveals his glory to the prophet.***Read by Catherine Robertson 4pm**Read by Bob Cooper 6pm*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

**ANTHEM Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

Stephanie Martin

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heav'nly food.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”*

**LESSON III**    Jeremiah 31.31-34    A new covenant is promised.

*Read by Doug Wilson 4 pm*

*Read by Jim Bottoms 6 pm*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**ANTHEM**      **Thou Shalt Know Him**

Mark Sirett

*Thou shalt know Him when he comes  
not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners nor his airs,  
nor by anything he wears.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
not by his crown or by his gown,  
But his coming known shall be  
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.*

**HYMN 91 People, Look East! The Time Is Near**

**1. People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**2. Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled; even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**4. Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.**

**5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who bring new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

**LESSON IV:** Baruch 4.36-5.9      God will redeem all of creation.

*Read by Chris Rynberk 4pm*

*Read by Shirley Schonbacher 6pm*

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.  
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;  
they are coming, gathered from east and west,  
at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.  
Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction,  
O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.  
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;  
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;  
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east,  
and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One,  
rejoicing that God has remembered them.  
For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies;  
but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.  
For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low  
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.  
The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.  
For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory,  
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

**ANTHEM      Christ the Appletree**

Stanford Scriven

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
laden with fruit and always green;  
the trees of nature fruitless be  
compared with Christ the Appletree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,  
and pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all, but now I see  
'tis found in Christ the Appletree.*

*His beauty doth all things excel,  
by faith I know, but ne'er can tell.  
The glory which I now can see,  
in Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
it keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be  
with Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

*I'm weary'd with my former toil,  
here I will sit and rest a while;  
under the shadow I will be,  
of Jesus Christ the Appletree.*

**LESSON V**      Zephaniah 3.14-18      The Lord will be among us.

*Read by Jane Anne Murray 4pm*

*Read by Peter Barr 6pm*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!  
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.  
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

**ANTHEM**                      **Illuminare Jerusalem**                      Pierre de Manchicourt

*Shine, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come,  
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.  
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light,  
and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

**LESSON VI**    Isaiah 65.17-25              God promises a new heaven and a new earth.

*Read by Margaret Johnson 4pm*

*Read by Guinevere Kern 6pm*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

**ANTHEM**              **Drop down, ye heavens, from above**                      Judith Weir

*Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.  
Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people;  
My salvation shall not tarry.  
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy  
transgressions.*

*Fear not, for I will save thee;  
For I am the Lord thy God,  
The holy one of Israel, thy redeemer.  
Drop down ye heavens from above,  
And let the skies pour down righteousness.*

## **Offertory Hymn 624 O Thou Who Camest From Above**

*You are invited to make a donation to support the work of St. John's Elora*

**1.O thou who camest from above,  
the pure celestial fire to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.**

**3.Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up thy gift in me.**

**2.There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.**

**4.Ready for all thy perfect will  
my acts of faith and love repeat,  
till death they endless mercies seal  
and make the sacrifice complete.**

**LESSON VII** Luke 1.5-25                      An angel announces Elizabeth will bear a son.

*Read by the Rector 4 pm*

*Read by Deb Watters 6 pm*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'



## **ANTHEM      Never Weather-Beaten Sail**

Thomas Campion

*Never weather-beaten sail more willing bent to shore,  
never tired pilgrim's limbs affected slumber more,  
than my wearied sprite now longs to fly out of my troubled breast:  
O come quickly, sweetest Lord, and take my soul to rest.*

*Ever blooming are the joys of heaven's high paradise,  
cold age deafs not there our ears, nor vapour dims our eyes;  
glory there the sun outshines whose beams the blessed only see;  
O come quickly, glorious Lord, and raise my sprite to thee!*

## **BLESSING**

### **VESPER RESPONSORY** *(stand) (sung by choir)*

G.P. da Palestrina, adapt.

*Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.*

## **RECESSIONAL      O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*Choir only*

*1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**3. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by thine Advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Congregation and choir*

**2. O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**4. O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**5. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes, from Sinai's height,  
In ancient time didst give the law  
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## **Postlude**

**Choir:** Lesley Bouza, Britany Harris, Jennifer Krabbe, Kate Wright, Janelle Santi, Rachel Barreca, Emily Burnett, Audrey Coates, Autumn Debassige, Emily Petrenko, Catherine Robertson, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Marcus Kramer, Jeffrey Smith, Sharang Sharma, Michael Cressman, Daniel Cockayne, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky, Alan Macdonald

**Greeters** 4:00 pm Jane Houlding, Mark Haslett  
6:00 pm Peter Barr, Wendy Donohue

**Technician** 6:00 pm Heather Malek-Shankland

*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.*

## Welcome to St. John's Elora

### Welcome to St. John's

We are delighted you are here today. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex before you leave. To receive the weekly "Pastoral Letter" with a reflection from the Rector and updates on events, please send an email to [rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

### Christmas Puddings!

Small \$10.00 Large \$ 20.00

Cash payments accepted or E-transfer to: [treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com). Identify "Puddings" in the note area. Contact Jane Anne Murray at [jamconsults@gmail.com](mailto:jamconsults@gmail.com) for more information or come to church tomorrow!

### Washrooms

Washrooms are located at the west entrance of the church, downstairs in Thompson Hall, and an accessible washroom is located at the Parish Centre (yellow house east of the church).

Rector:	The Reverend 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>
Administration:	Thomas Littlewood	<a href="mailto:parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com">parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Honorary Assistant:	Rev'd John Lockyer	

Church of St. John the Evangelist  
36 Henderson Street  
Elora, ON N0B 1S0  
519-846-5911

YouTube, Facebook and Instagram: St. John's Elora  
Website: [www.stjohnselora.ca](http://www.stjohnselora.ca)  
Email: [stjohns@sentex.net](mailto:stjohns@sentex.net)