



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara

Christmas Day 10:00am
Choral Eucharist

10:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Mass Setting Mass for the Quiet Hour

George Oldroyd

Hymn 154 Joy to the World

Antiphon

*1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*3. No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as our sin is found, far as our sin is found,
far as, far as our sin is found.*

*2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

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 - Quartet

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: 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. **Amen.**

Lesson 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 Counselor, 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 96 *(plainchant)*

O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name; be telling of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his honour among the nations, and his wonders among all peoples.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King;
he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the peoples righteously.
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.
Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it;
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord;

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

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

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

(please stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 2.1-20

The Lord be with you.

The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd chapter of the gospel of Luke beginning at the 1st verse.

Glory be to thee O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.

ANTHEM In the Bleak Mid-winter

Harold Darke

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom Angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain,
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty —
Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am? —
If I were a Shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part, —
Yet what I can I give Him, —
Give my heart.

HOMILY Rev'd Canon Paul Walker

Offertory Hymn 126 **Away in a Manger**

Cradle Song

*1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where
he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus — look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*3. Be near me, Lord Jesus:
I ask you to stay close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.*

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 (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. - *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:

Quartet: 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.

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

Hymn 148 See Amid the Winter's Snow

1. See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years!

Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2. Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies, who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Hail...

See Amid the Winter's Snow
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

Hail...

4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels, singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Saviour's birth."

Hail...

5. Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Hail...

Postlude Chorale Prelude on This Day so Rich in Joys

J S Bach

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
Quartet

Patricia Reimer, David Campbell
Lesley Bouza, Emily Burnett, Quade Nielsen, Luke MacLean

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

<i>Eric Hilborn</i>	<i>the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family</i>
<i>My parents, Rita and Arthur Doraty</i>	<i>the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre</i>
<i>Ken Coultres</i>	<i>the gift of his wife, Linda Coultres</i>
<i>Pam Walker and John Walker</i>	<i>the gift of Paul Walker</i>
<i>Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family members</i>	<i>the gift of Patricia Ellis</i>
<i>David Rogers</i>	<i>the gift of his family</i>
<i>Loved ones</i>	<i>the gift of Gwyneth Watkins</i>
<i>Stuart and Catherine Sheppard, Rita Houston</i>	<i>the gift of Chris and Jeannie Houston</i>
<i>Ann Ableson Carotte and Peggy Oxley</i>	<i>the gift of Marion Oxley</i>
<i>David Watkins</i>	<i>the gift of his wife Barb and his family Susan, Tom and Mary Ann.</i>
<i>Dr. Peter William Davidson and Dr. Paul W N Chong</i>	<i>the gift of Carrie and Michael Chong</i>
<i>My parents, Joan and Alexandra Douglas and granddaughter Amaya Chapman</i>	<i>the gift of Susan Adams</i>

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

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 my 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.

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

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

You can call any one of us at 519-846-5911.

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