



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara

Christmas Day 10:00am
Choral Eucharist

10:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Mass Setting Mass of 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 Titus 2.11

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak; and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Psalm 98 *(plainchant)*

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

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

The Lord hath declared his salvation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;
for he is come to judge the earth.

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

(please stand)

GOSPEL: Luke 2.1-20

The Lord be with you.

And with thy Spirit

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 John Lockyer**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

“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. - *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!
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

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 Patricia Reimer, David Campbell

Quartet Lesley Bouza, Rachel Barreca, Jerome Chang, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky

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

Eric Hilborn

My parents, Rita and Arthur Doraty

Ken Coultes

Mary Tanter, Avril Blower, Brenda Randall

Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family members

David Rogers

David Watkins

Dr. Peers Davidson and

Dr. Paul WN Chong

Our granddaughter Amaya Chapman

the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family

the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre

the gift of his wife, Linda Coultes

the gift of Paul Walker

the gift of Patricia Ellis

the gift of his family

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

the gift of Carrie and Michael Chong

the gift of Susan and George Adams

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 12:00

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 to 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	

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