

*A Festival of Christmas  
Lessons and Carols*

*Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora  
Diocese of Niagara*



*Sunday, December 17, 2023  
4:00pm and 6:30 pm*

Founded in 1832, the parish of St. John's Elora has offered Festival of Lessons and Carols for over 45 years.

This service was first introduced in 1918 to King's College to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. It was first devised by Dean Benson of Truro Cathedral in 1880 in the hopes of getting people out of pubs and into church. Many of us are feeling the burden this year as we hear the troubling news of war ravaged nations, the pall of the climate crisis, and the anxieties of illnesses and food insecurity. This service reminds us that God's loving purposes is found in the promise of Immanuel - God with us. In all humility God enters into a world of insecurity, fear and suffering for every generation to offer solidarity and hope. As you hear this music, sing the Carols and listen to these Lessons may you be moved to receive the Christ child and find your hope restored.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## Once In Royal David's City

**Solo:**

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

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

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

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

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

## BIDDING PRAYER (please remain standing)

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the record of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all people; for unity and harmony within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our diocese.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

**CAROL     Ding Dong Merrily on High**

arr. Charles Wood

*Ding dong merrily on high,  
In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angel singing.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!"  
By priest and people sungen.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers.  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

**LESSON I     Genesis 3:8-13, 22-24     Adam and Eve are cast out of Paradise**

*Read by Colin Fox 4pm*

*Read by Sharon Rice 6:30 pm*

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."

Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

**CAROL     Remember, O thou man**

Thomas Ravenscroft

*Remember, O thou man,  
thy time is spent:  
Remember, O thou man,  
how thou art dead and gone,  
And I did what I can,  
therefore repent!*

*The angels all did sing, o thou man,  
Upon the shepherds' hill;  
The angels all did sing  
Praises to our heavenly King,  
And peace to all living  
With a good will.*

*Remember God's goodness, o thou man,  
And promise made!  
Remember God's goodness,  
How he sent his son, doubtless  
Our sins for to redress:  
Be not afraid!*

*Give thanks to God always, o thou man,  
with heart most joyfully,  
Give thanks to God always,  
For this is our happy day,  
let we all sing and say:  
"Holy, Holy!"*

**LESSON II**

Isaiah 9.2b-7      The prophet foretells the birth of the Saviour

*Read by Susan Fox 4:00pm**Read by Jean Houston 6:30pm*

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.

**CAROL    In dulci jubilo**

arr. Robert Lucas Pearsall

*In dulci jubilo (in sweet jubilation)**Let us our homage shew;**Our heart's joy reclineth**In praesepio (In a manger),**And like a bright star shineth**Matris in gremio (In a mother's lap).**Alpha es et O (You are Alpha and Omega)!**O Jesu parvule (O infant Jesus)!**My heart is sore for Thee!**Hear me, I beseech Thee,**O Puer optime (O best of boys)!**My prayer let it reach thee,**O Princeps gloriae (O Prince of Glory)!**Trahe me post te (Draw me unto thee)!**O patris caritas (O love of the Father)!**O Nati lenitas (O mercy of the Son)!**Deeply were we stained.**Per nostra crimina (by our sins);**But thou hast for us gained**Coelorum gaudia (The joys of Heaven).**O that we were there!**Ubi sunt gaudia (Where are the joys),**If that they be not there?**There are Angels singing**Nova cantica (New songs),**And there the bells are ringing**In Regis curia (In the King's courts).**O that we were there!***HYMN 122    In the Bleak Mid-Winter**

1. 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.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth  
sustains; 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.

3. Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his  
mother only in her maiden bliss, worshipped the  
beloved with a kiss.

4. 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.

**LESSON III**

Isaiah 11.1-3a, 4a, 6-9      The peace that Christ will bring is foreshadowed.

*Read by Pam Gradwell 4pm**Read by Chris Houston 6:30pm*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord and he will delight in the  
fear of the Lord.

But with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.  
The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the  
Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**CAROL      Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming**

arr. Hugo Distler

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As seers of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright,  
She bore to us a Saviour,  
When half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendour  
The darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.*

**LESSON IV**

Luke 1.26-35,38

The Angel greets Mary

*Read by Susan Edwards 4:00pm*

*Read by Meg Prichard 6:30pm*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**CAROL      This Endris Night**

Sarah Quartel

*This endris night I saw a sight,  
A star as bright as day,  
And ever among, a maiden sung,  
"Lully, bye bye, lullay.*

*This lovely lady sat and sang,  
And to her child did say,  
"My son, my brother, father dear,  
Why liest thou thus in hay?*

*My sweetest bird, 'tis thus required,  
Though thou be king veray,  
But nevertheless I will not cease  
To sing 'Bye bye, lullay."*

*The child then spake whilst she did sing,  
And to his mother did say,  
"Yea, I am known as heaven-king  
In crib though I be laid.*

*For angels bright down on me light;  
Thou knowest 'tis no nay.  
And for that sight thou may delight  
To sing, 'Bye bye, lullay."*

*"Now sweet son, since it is so, that all is at thy will,  
I pray thee grant to me a boon, if it be right and skill,  
that child or man, who will or can, be merry on my day,  
to bliss them bring and I shall sing, 'Lully, bye bye, lullay. '"*

**HYMN 120   O Little Town of Bethlehem**

1.O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go  
by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the ever lasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee  
tonight.

2.For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim thy  
holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace  
to all the earth.

3.How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given  
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's  
heaven! No ear may hear his coming; but in this world  
of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear  
Christ enters in.

4.O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We  
hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O  
come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

**LESSON V      Luke 2.1, 3-7      Mary gives birth to the Christ child**

*Read by Patricia Reimer 4pm*

*Read by Carrie Chong 6:30pm*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

**CAROL. Still, Still, Still**

arr. Philip Ledger

*Still, still still,  
Let all the world be still,  
For Mary lays her son to rest,  
Sings to him softly at her breast,  
Still, still, still  
Let all the world be still.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
My dearest baby sleep,  
The angels all rejoice and sing,  
Heaven for your delight shall ring,  
Sleep, sleep, sleep,  
My dearest baby sleep.*

*Joy, joy, joy,  
My heart is filled with joy,  
The God of love has left his throne,  
Made this humble world his own,  
Joy, joy, joy,  
My heart is filled with joy.*

**LESSON VI**      Luke 2.8-16      Shepherds go to the manger in Bethlehem

*Read by Thomas Littlewood 4pm*

*Read by Michael Chong 6:30pm*

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.

**CAROL The Lamb**

John Tavener

*Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee  
Gave thee life & bid thee feed  
By the stream & o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight  
Softest clothing wooly bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice  
Making all the vales rejoice!  
Little Lamb who made thee  
Dost thou know who made thee*

*Little Lamb I'll tell thee  
Little Lamb I'll tell thee!  
He is called by thy name  
For he calls himself a Lamb:  
He is meek & he is mild  
He became a little child:  
I a child & thou a lamb  
We are called by his name  
Little Lamb God bless thee  
Little Lamb God bless thee*

**OFFERTORY HYMN 118      O Come, all ye Faithful**

*(during this hymn a collection will be taken)*

1. O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him born the king of angels:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

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

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

5. Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:  
O come...

*Please remain standing for the reading*

**LESSON VII      John 1.1-18      St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



**CAROL See Amid the Winter Snow**

Becky McGlade

*See, amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on Earth below,  
See, the tender Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.*

*Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail...*

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

*"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...*

*Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits among the cherubim.  
Hail...*

*Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.  
Hail...*

**COLLECT**

The Lord be with you.

***And with thy spirit.***

Let us pray. *(please remain standing)*

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 for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

1.Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King."

2.Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the ever lasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled inflesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King."

3.Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth,  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King."

**Postlude O Come Thou Saviour of the Gentiles**

J S Bach

## **St. John's Parish Choir**

Lesley Bouza, Jennifer Krabbe, Rebecca McKay, Janelle Santi, Kate Wright, Rachel Barreca, Emily Burnett, Audrey Coates, Autumn Debassige, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Marcel Van Helden, Daniel Cockayne, Michael Cressman, Marcus Kramer, Chris Petersen.

The 6:30 p.m. liturgy will be live-streamed  
on the St. John's Elora You Tube channel.

Hymn texts from  
Common Praise, Anglican Church of Canada, 1998  
and  
Hymnal, Anglican Church of Canada, 1955.

*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**

If you are a visitor or at St. John's for the first time  
please sign the guest book in the Narthex.

## **Pastoral Letters**

To receive the weekly Pastoral Letter from the Rector with a reflection  
and news of upcoming activities, send an email to  
rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

## **Calls to Action Reading and Reflection Group**

Join us in the new year on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 for one hour as we read through the 94 Calls to Action. It is a helpful exercise to learn how we can seek to be reconciled with our indigenous, First Nations and Metis peoples of this community.

## **2024 Offering Envelopes**

If you support St. John's using Offering Envelopes  
please pick up your box at the back of the church.

## **Open Doors**

One of our four priority areas, Open Doors, is intended to address accessibility and improve our HVAC and electrical capacity by creating a new community reception space that would connect the church to the Parish Centre (yellow house). If you would like to learn more about this exciting project or how to make a financial gift so support this community project, please let us know.

## **ST. JOHN'S ELORA VISION**

Proclaim the Love of Christ – Engage and Involve  
Musical Outreach – Open Doors

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S ELORA

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Volunteer Choir 6:00 p.m. Choral Communion with Parish Choir 8:00 p.m. Choral Communion with Parish Choir
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10:00 a.m. Choral Communion with Quartet
<b>December 31</b>	8:00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) 9:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist (BAS) 11:00 am Choral Communion (BCP)

Rector:	The Rev'd 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 Clergy:	Canon Robert Hulse, Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers	

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