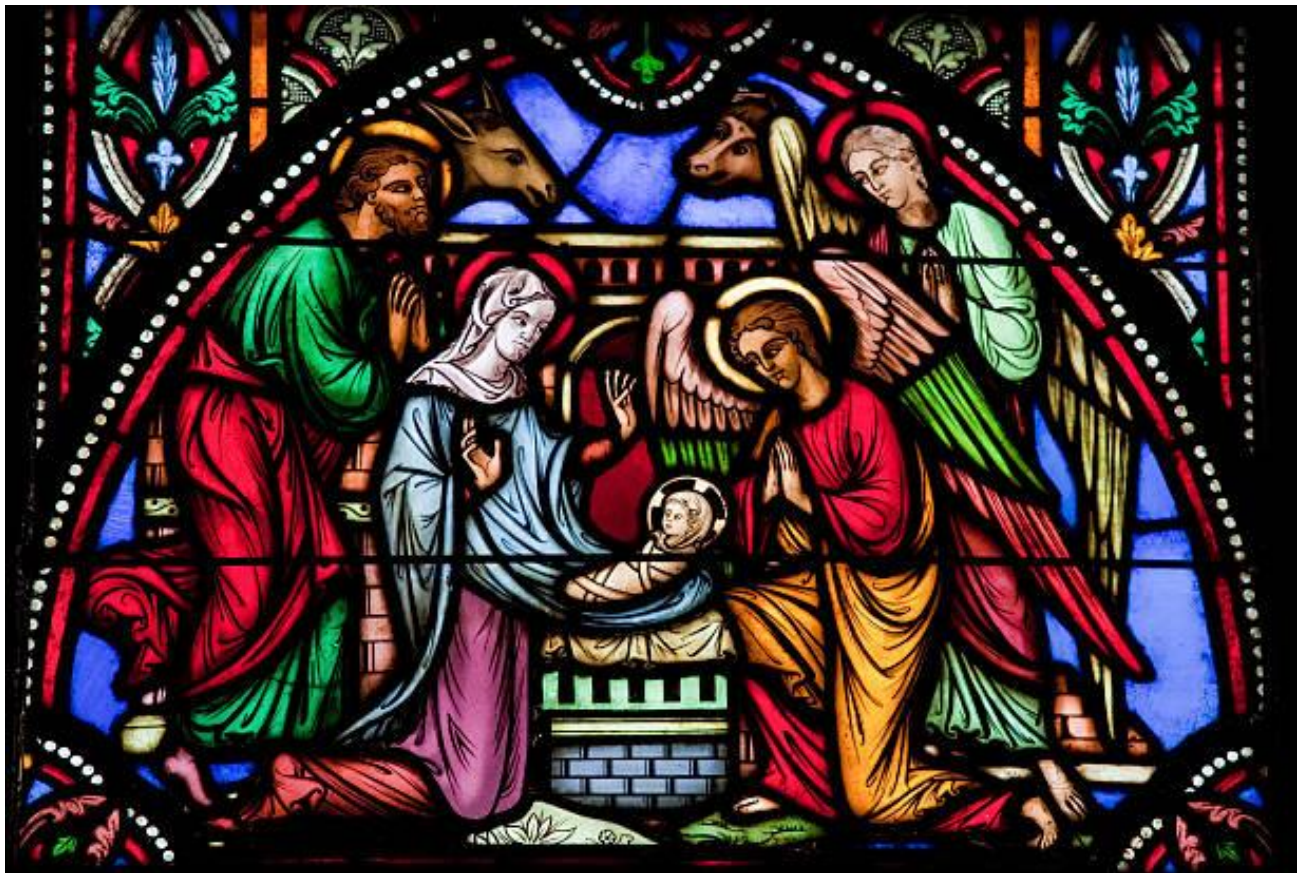


*A Festival of Christmas
Lessons and Carols*

Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora



*Sunday, December 18, 2022
4:00pm and 7:00 pm*

*with Right Reverend Susan Bell,
Bishop of Niagara, at 7:00 pm*

Founded in 1832, the parish of St. John's Elora has offered Nine Lessons and Carols for over 40 years.

This service was first introduced in 1918 to King's College to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. Many of us are experiencing the same realities and feelings during the pandemic. The bidding prayer and the lessons remain unchanged over the years. The last lesson reminds us that the gift of the incarnation of God in the flesh means that God does not stand aloof from our sufferings. God enters into our human experience with all humility in order to transform it, that we might be free to love one another.

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: In dulci jubilo

arr. Bob Chilcott

*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 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!*

*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)!*

*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!*

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

Read by Chris Houston 4:00pm

Read by Michael Chong 7:00pm

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 Jesus Christ the apple tree

Elizabeth Poston

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*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 apple tree.*

*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 apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

LESSON II

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

*Read by Jean Houston 4:00pm**Read by Carrie Chong 7:00pm*

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 I Wonder as I Wander

arr. Andrew Balfour

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die.
"For poor ordinary people like you and like I,
I wonder as I wander out under the sky."*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing,
He surely could have had it,
'Cause he was the King.
I wonder...*

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 Steve Hornett 4:00pm**Read by Peter Huck 7:00pm*

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: A Tender Shoot

Kerensa Briggs

*A tender shoot hath started
Up from a root of grace,
As ancient seers imparted,
From Jesse's holy race,
It blooms without a blight,
Blooms in the cold bleak winter,
Turning our darkness into light.*

*This shoot Isaiah taught us
From Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us
The branch of which we sing,
Our God of endless might
Gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.*

LESSON IV

Luke 1.26-35,38

The Angel greets Mary

Read by Laura Robertson 4:00pm

Read by Meg Prichard 7:00pm

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: The Angel Gabriel

arr. Malcolm Archer

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, His eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou Lowly Maiden Mary,
Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed Her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," She said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name."
Most Highly-Favoured Lady. Gloria!*

*"For known a Blessed Mother Thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour Thee,
Thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria!*

*Of Her, Immanuel, the Christ is born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will every say
"Most Highly-Favoured Lady." Gloria.*

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 Ted Arnott 4:00pm

Read by Walter Langford 7:00pm

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.

ANTHEM: Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae,
Et concepit de Spiritu sancto.*

*The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
And she conceived of the Holy Ghost.*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.*

*Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini,
Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done unto me according to Thy word.*

Ave Maria...

Hail Mary...

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
Ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

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

Read by Lisa Arnott 4:00pm

Read by Gerry Hill 7:00pm

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 In Slumber Deep

Patrick Murray

*Wrapped was the world in slumber deep,
By seaward valley and cedarn steep,
And bright and blest were the dreams of its sleep;
All the hours of that wonderful night-tide through
The stars outblossomed in fields of blue,
A heavenly chaplet, to diadem
The King in the manger of Bethlehem.*

*In the dimly lit stable the mother mild
Looked with holy eyes on her child,
Cradled him close to her heart and smiled;
Kingly purple nor crown had he,
Never a trapping of royalty;
But Mary saw that the baby's head
With a slender nimbus was garlanded.*

*Speechless her joy as she watched him there,
Forgetful of pain and grief and care,
And every thought in her soul was a prayer;
While under the dome of the desert sky
The Kings of the East from afar drew nigh,
And the great white star that was guide to them
Kept ward o'er the manger of Bethlehem.*

Text: Lucy Maud Montgomery

Please stand 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.

ANTHEM Peace on Earth

Errollyn Wallen

*And snow falls down on me.
Peace on earth.
The night is dark and soft.
Peace on earth.
The lights that sparkle in the square,
The smoke the lingers in the air.
Peace on earth.*

*And grace falls down on me.
Peace on earth.
The dark will turn aside.
Peace on earth.
The fires that burn in ev'ry hearth
Do sing out praise of Christmas past.
Peace on earth.*

*Hear them singing.
Peace on earth.*

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...

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

CAROL – Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Michael Praetorius/arr. Jan Sandstrom

*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.*

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.”

Recessional and Postlude Plein Jeu and Grands Jeux from Magnificat in D

JF Dandrieu

St. John’s Parish Choir

Lesley Bouza, Katy Clark, Audrey Coates, Rebecca McKay, Marlys Neufeldt, Janelle Santi, Emily Burnett, Autumn Debassige, Catherine Robertson, Caroline Schmidt, Christina Stelmacovich, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Marcus Kramer, Quade Nielsen, Jeffrey Smith, Michael Cressman, Paul Grambo, Luke MacLean, Ben Wallace.

The 7:00 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.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S ELORA

Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Volunteer Choir
7:00 p.m. Choral Communion with Parish Choir
9:00 p.m. Choral Communion with Parish Choir

Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. Choral Communion with Quartet

New Year's Day 10:00 a.m. Choral Communion with Quartet



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.

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

Compline

Typically on the Tuesday of the first full week of every month we gather for a service of sung Compline. It is a reflective and meditative way to end the day. You are invited to participate in the Compline Choir which meets to rehearse at 6:30 p.m. and the service begins at 8:00 p.m.
The next service of Compline will be on Tuesday February 7.

Bach Cantata Series

In the new year we are launching a new Bach Cantata series sung by members of the Parish Choir. It will include some background on the musical and scriptural texts of the cantata.
All are welcome.

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.

ST. JOHN'S ELORA VISION

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

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

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

Church of St. John the Evangelist
36 Henderson Street
Elora, ON N0B 1S0
www.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Follow St. John's Elora on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube
stjohns@sentex.net

