

# JOY



*Church of St. John the Evangelist  
Elora, Ontario*

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*Sunday, December 12, 2021*

*11am*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

## 11:00 am Choral Mattins (BCP)

*Welcome to an in-person liturgy at St. John's.*

*According to Diocesan Guidelines (November 1)*

***Keep your face mask on, keep a 2m distance with people from other households.***

*Congregational singing is allowed, softly with face masks on.*

*Tea, coffee or food will not be served.*

*The 11am liturgy is live-streamed to the St. John's Elora YouTube Channel.*

*There is no offertory hymn. You are encouraged to give your donation online electronically or using the "Offering Box" located at the church doors.*

*Please greet one another and socialize outdoors.*

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*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.*

*"Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."*

– Luke 21.28

**Introit: Rejoice in the Lord, Alway**

(anonymous)

**Opening Hymn 98 Hark the Glad Sound (vv 1,2,4)**

*Hark the glad sound!*

*The Saviour comes, the Saviour promised long:*

*let every heart prepare a throne,*

*and every voice a song.*

*Christ comes, the prisoners to release*

*in Satan's bondage held;*

*the gates of brass before him burst;*

*and iron fetters yield.*

*Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,*

*thy welcome shall proclaim;*

*and heaven's eternal arches ring*

*with thy beloved name.*

Minister: Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

*(you may kneel or sit for prayer)*

Minister: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,

All: **We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Minister: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Responses are sung.*

Minister: O LORD, open thou our lips;

All: **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Minister: O God, make speed to save us;

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Congregation is invited to stand)*

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

All: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Minister: Praise ye the Lord;

All: **The Lord's Name be praised.**

*(Congregation may join the Choir in singing)*

**Canticle Jubilate Deo**

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;*

*serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.*

*Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:*

*it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;*

*we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise.  
be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.  
For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting;  
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.*

## **FIRST LESSON**

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

## **Psalm 33.1-11** (sung by choir)

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous;  
for it becometh well the just to be thankful.

Praise the Lord with harp:  
sing praises unto him with the lute, and instrument of ten strings.

Sing unto the Lord a new song:  
sing praises lustily with a good courage.

For the word of the Lord is true,  
and all his works are faithful.

He loveth righteousness and judgement:  
the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

By the word of the Lord were the heavens made,  
and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

He gathereth the waters of the sea together, as it were in a bottle,  
and layeth up the deep, as in a treasure-house.

Let all the earth fear the Lord;  
stand in awe of him, all ye that dwell in the world.

For he spake, and it was done:  
he commanded, and it stood fast.

The Lord bringeth the counsel of the nations to nought,  
and maketh the devices of the peoples to be of none effect.

The counsel of the Lord shall endure for ever,  
and the thoughts of his heart from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON**

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

Minister: I believe in God

All: **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Responses are sung.*

Minister: The Lord be with you;

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

*(congregation is invited to kneel or sit)*

Choir: Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: **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. Amen.**

Minister: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

All: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister: O Lord, save the Queen;

All: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Minister: O Lord, save thy people;

All: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

All: **And evermore mightily defend us.**

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Collect for the Day

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesu Christ, who at the first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world with out end. **Amen.**

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Grace.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn 103 On Jordan`s Bank** (vv 1,2,5)

*On Jordan`s bank,  
The Baptist`s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken,  
for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
make straight the way for God within.  
Prepare we in our hearts a home,  
where such a mighty guest may come.*

*All praise, eternal Son,  
to thee whose advent doth thy people free,  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost for evermore.*

**Homily** Rev'd Canon Paul Walker

**Anthem This is the Record of John**

Orlando Gibbons

*This is the record of John,  
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him,  
Who art thou?  
And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly,  
I am not the Christ.*

*And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias?  
And he said, I am not.  
Art thou the prophet?  
And he answered, No.*

*Then said they unto him,  
What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.  
What sayest thou of thyself?  
And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,  
Make straight the way of the Lord.*

Closing Prayers for the church, the community, and the world.  
*(you may kneel or sit for the prayers)*

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Grace **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

POSTLUDE **Chorale Prelude on Lord Christ, the Only Son of God**

J S Bach

***Please allow people closest to the door to exit first.***

***PLEASE KEEP A PHYSICAL DISTANCE FROM ONE ANOTHER  
AND GREET ONE ANOTHER OUTDOORS.***

*Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Veronica Punnett,  
the gift of her husband Gerald.*

*Contact Elaine Dightam if you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones who  
have died, or in thanksgiving for an anniversary, birthday or event.  
You can contact Elaine at 519-843-5091*

Readers	Lesley Bouza, Chris Rynberk
Greeters	Jane Rapp, Charlotte Logan
Singers	Lesley Bouza, Audrey Coates, Emily Petrenko, Christina Stelmacovich, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Luke Maclean, Matt Oxley
Video Technician	Steve Hornett
Flower Guild	Nancy Knudstrup, Judy Briggs

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 12, 2021**

### **Gathering for Worship Safely**

In an effort to reduce the amount of time spend indoors, unless you have mobility challenges or you are involved in the leadership of the liturgy, please do not enter the church until 20 minutes before the start of the service.

We are monitoring the balance between open doors for ventilation and temperature, so doors will be open before and after the liturgy, and the east vestry door will remain open in the building during the liturgy.

Please keep a physical distance from people not in your household. Face masks are required at all times indoors.

For the purposes of screening and contact tracing it is important that [you register each week online before Saturday at 6pm](#), or if you do not have a computer, please call the office [before Friday](#).

If you have any questions about your registration you can contact Thomas Littlewood at [reservations.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:reservations.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

### **Pastoral Care**

If you know of someone in need of pastoral care, please contact a member of the clergy directly.

### **Keeping in Touch**

Each week copies of the Order of Service and Sermon Text notes are mailed or hand delivered to a group of people who do not have access to a computer and may not be able to attend in-person services because of health restrictions. If you know of someone who needs to be included on this list please contact Susan Edwards through the office at 519-846-5911.

### **Food Bank**

The Centre Wellington Food Bank is in need of food items. You can bring non-perishable food items to the hamper in the church, or deliver them directly to the Food Bank at 105 Queen Street West in Fergus.

### **Church Calendars**

Canadian Church Calendars for \$5.00 and Anglican Church Calendars for \$10.00 are available at the back of the church and in the Parish Centre. Place your money in the "Offering Box" at either entrance to the church.

### **Offering Envelopes**

The 2022 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up at the back of the church. If you do not see your box there or you would like to get a box of Offering Envelopes, please contact Steve Hornett at [givings.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:givings.stjohnselora@gmail.com) or call him at 519-846-5911.

### **Christmas Services**

Registration for all Christmas services will be open on the home page of our website on December 12. Please register early as we have limited capacity. Service times and capacity are subject to change depending on public health and diocesan guidelines.

### **Christmas Flowers**

If you would like to contribute to the cost of flowers for the Christmas season with a donation in memory of loved ones, please contact Elaine Dightam at 519-843-5091.

## CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

You are invited to attend in-person to celebrate Christmas at St. John's.

All being well, online registration opens today for all of our Christmas liturgies. PLEASE REGISTER for the services that you plan to attend in-person. This helps us with screening and collecting contact tracing information.

The online registration has room to accommodate 50 people at each liturgy.

If you do not have a computer, please call the church to register before December 23rd.

If your symptoms change, stay home and let us know that you are not coming.

Please do not enter the church until at least 20 minutes before a liturgy begins.

### Sunday December 19

4:00pm Lessons and Carols

(in-person and live-stream)

6:30pm Lessons and Carols

### Friday December 24

4:00pm Holy Eucharist (BAS)

6:30pm Holy Communion (BCP) with Parish Choir

(in-person and live-stream)

9:00pm Holy Communion (BCP) with Parish Choir

### Saturday December 25

10:00am Holy Communion (BCP) with Quartet

### Sunday December 26

10:00am Choral Matins with Quartet

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker	<a href="mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com">rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Curate:	The Rev'd Judy Steers	<a href="mailto:curate.stjohnselora@gmail.com">curate.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>

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

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