

LOVE



Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

*December 19, 2021
11:00 am*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Modified Holy Communion (BCP)

According to Diocesan Guidelines (December 16)

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

Congregational singing is allowed, softly with face masks on.

Please socialize outdoors.

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.

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.

Mass Setting Darke in A

Hymn 114 Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending (vv 1,4)

*Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.*

*Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!*

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 - Choir

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

COLLECT

Celebrant: 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.**

Raise up, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MICAH

Micah 5.2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Psalm 80.1-7 *(said responsively)*

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock;
show thyself also, thou that sittest upon the cherubim.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up thy strength, and come and help us.

Turn us again, O God;
show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears,
and hast given them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou makest us a very strife unto our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

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

GOSPEL Luke 1.39-55

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of the gospel according to Luke beginning at the 39th verse.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: **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.

Hymn 155 From East to West, from Shore to Shore (vv 1,4,7)

*From east to west, from shore to shore,
let every heart awake and sing
the holy child whom Mary born,
the Christ, the everlasting King.*

*Assenting to the angel's word,
she chose what God the Spirit willed,
and suddenly the promised Lord
that pure and hallowed temple filled.*

*All glory for this blessed morn
to God, the source of all, is due;
all praise to you, O Virgin-born;
all praise, O Holy Ghost, to you.*

HOMILY Rev'd Judy Steers

Anthem Ave Maria

Nathaniel Dett

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

During the Anthem the Celebrant prepared the elements for Communion.

"I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to thy word." – Luke 1:38

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 ELIZABETH our Queen, and to all that are put in authority under her, 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

(Choir stand)

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.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

Choir 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.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; 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.**

Choir Agnus Dei

During Communion:

*Please remain in your seat and the sacrament will be brought to you in one kind (bread).
Please keep your face mask on while you hear the words of administration or blessing.
If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, please fold your arms across your chest.
Once the communion administrator is beyond your 2m physical distance you may remove
your face mask to consume the sacrament.*

Prayer During Reception: (for people participating online with spiritual communion)

*Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine. I love you and I
desire your presence afresh in my life. Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,
Come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself to you; never let me be separated
from you.*

(Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria e'Liguori)

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Singers remain standing

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

*If you have any questions about your registration at a Sunday Service,
please contact Thomas Littlewood
at reservations.stjohnselora@gmail.com*

*The flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Veronica Punnett,
the gift of our 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	Chris and Jean Houston
Server	Thomas Littlewood
Altar Guild	Susan Hirst, Wendy Donohue
Flower Guild	Jane Anne Murray, Dawn McClure
Choir	Kate Wright, Lesley Bouza, Emily Petrenko, Christina Stelmacovich, Quade Nielsen, Lanny Fleming, Michael Cressman, Alan Macdonald
Video Technician	Rod Murray
Greeters	Chris and Jeannie Houston

Announcements for December 19, 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 he liturgy.

Please keep a physical distance from people not in your household. Face masks are required at all time indoors, and when you cannot keep a physical distance of 2m outdoors.

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

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.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

TODAY at 4:00pm and 6:30pm

The 4:00pm service will be live-streamed on YouTube.

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 or call him at 519-846-5911.

Support the Ministry of St. John's

You are invited to give a Christmas gift to support the work of the ministry of St. John's. You can also support the work of the Parish Choir if you mark your donation "CHOIR FUND" on the memo line or on the envelope.

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.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

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

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.

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

**ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DEPENDING ON DIOCESAN AND PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES**

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker	rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Curate:	The Rev'd Judy Steers	curate.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Director of Music:	Dr. Patrick Murray	music.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko	
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon	sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com

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

Church of St. John the Evangelist
36 Henderson Street
Elora, ON NOB 1S0

Follow St. John's Elora on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

stjohns@sentex.net