



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara

December 24, 2021
6:30pm
(Livestream on YouTube)

Christmas Eve

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. (Isaiah 9.6)

Welcome to St. John's Elora

This service is live-streamed from St. John's according to Diocesan guidelines (December 21) with not more than ten people in the building.

We trust that you are keeping safe, grounded and connected in your faith this Christmas season. May you be blessed as you join us in offering our prayers and praises to the glory of God on the Feast of the Incarnation.

Holy Communion (BCP)

Mass Setting

Missa Brevis

Stephanie Martin

Carol 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

*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 the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.*

*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.*

*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.*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Kneel as you are able.

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

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 - Singers

Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT

Celebrant Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52.7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

GRADUAL (all stand) Christmas Anthems

(Plainchant)

Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given (Isaiah 9:6).

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only-begotten Son Into the world that we might live through him (1 John 4:9).

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)

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 John 1.1-14

(remain standing)

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 John beginning at the 1st verse.

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

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Celebrant: I BELIEVE in one God

People: **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.

SERMON Rev'd Judy Steers

Carol 119 Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

Round yon virgin mother and child

Holy infant so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight:

Glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing alleluia,

Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

*Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Thank you for your continued financial support of the ministry of St. John's.

You can give a financial gift to the glory of God through:

- *E-transfer to treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com*
- *Online at www.niagaraanglican.ca/donate (identify "Elora - St. John's" as the parish)*
- *Canada Post to St. John's Elora, [36 Henderson Street, Elora, ON, N0B1S0](#)*

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." – Luke 2.11

INTERCESSIONS

(Singers can be seated)

Celebrant:

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

We uphold all those in need this night because of illness, trouble, or distress.....

For those who have died..... May they be received into the fullness of thy presence;

For those who mourn; may they be comforted; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant this, Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost 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 stands

Celebrant: The Lord be with you;

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;

Choir: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

Choir: It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born on this night for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made fully human of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the 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.

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, 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 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world; grant us thy peace.

Administration of Communion

The sacrament is offered in one kind only.

The Celebrant partakes of the chalice on behalf of the entire community, gathered in person and online.

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)

Anthem Infant Holy

Malcolm Archer

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Kneel as you are able.

Celebrant: Let us pray.
OUR Father

All: 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

CAROL 118 O Come All Ye Faithful (vv 1,3,5)

*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, Christ the Lord.*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee by glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

POSTLUDE Noel Suisse

L C Daquin

St. John's church sits on the traditional unceded territories of the Attawandaron, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. These lands are covered by the Between the Lakes Treaty and the Haldemand land grant. These lands are also part of The Dish With One Spoon Treaty, all subsequent newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. Today this land is home to many diverse Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples.

Readers
Singers

Patricia Reimer, Colin Fox
Emily Steers, Rachel Barreca, Emily Petrenko
Jerome Chang, Quade Nielsen, Michael Cressman



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

<i>Eric Hilborn</i>	<i>the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family</i>
<i>My parents, Rita and Arthur Doraty</i>	<i>the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre</i>
<i>Ken Coultres</i>	<i>the gift of his wife, Linda Coultres</i>
<i>Pam Walker and John Walker</i>	<i>the gift of Paul Walker</i>
<i>Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family members</i>	<i>the gift of Patricia Ellis</i>
<i>David Rogers</i>	<i>the gift of his family</i>
<i>Loved ones</i>	<i>the gift of Gwyneth Watkins</i>
<i>Stuart and Catherine Sheppard,</i>	<i>the gift of Chris and Jeannie Houston</i>
<i>Rita Houston</i>	
<i>Ann Ableson Carotte and Peggy Oxley</i>	<i>the gift of Marion Oxley</i>
<i>David Watkins</i>	<i>the gift of his wife Barb and his family Susan, Tom and MaryAnn.</i>
<i>Peter Peloso</i>	<i>the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre.</i>
<i>Beverley Steers-Redston</i>	<i>Judy Steers' Aunt</i>

Altar Frontals

The new altar frontals are designed and made by Elizabeth Litch. The fabric is damask fabric called "Florence" which, given the Church of St. John's historical connection to Florence Nightingale seemed appropriate. The appliques on the super frontal at the high altar were transferred from the retired altar frontal from England that was thought to be over 100 years old. The motif of the pomegranate is a symbol of resurrection and new life. These frontals are given to the glory of God.

Thank you to all the members of the Flower Guild
for decorating the church so beautifully for Christmas.

Parish Choir

The Parish Choir, under the direction of Patrick Murray,
released two special features to inspire you at Christmas:

“O Rex Gentium” on December 22 and

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow” on Christmas morning.

They are both available on the St. John’s Elora YouTube Channel.

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.

To stay up to date on news and events at St. John's Elora subscribe to the Rector's weekly Pastoral Letter by sending an email to rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com



(Barry McCarthy)

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