



Church of St. John the Evangelist

Clora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara

Christmas Day 10:00am
Choral Eucharist
(Book of Common Prayer)

10:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

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.

Mass Setting Mass for the Quiet Hour

Oldroyd

Hymn 136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night (vv 1,2,6)

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, "Fear not," said he,
all seated on the ground, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind.
the angel of the Lord came down "Glad tidings of great joy I bring
and glory shone around. To you and human kind."*

*"All glory be to God on high,
and to the world be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth
begin, and never cease."*

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 - Quartet

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

COLLECT

Celebrant: Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary: Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Lesson Isaiah 9.2-7

The first reading is written in the 9th chapter of the prophet Isaiah beginning at the 2nd verse.

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.

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 96 (said responsively)

O sing unto the Lord a new song;

sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his Name;
be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour among the nations,
and his wonders among all peoples.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King;
he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the peoples righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it;
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord;

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

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

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

**The Holy Gospel is written in the 2nd chapter of the gospel of Luke beginning at the 1st verse.
Glory be to thee O Lord.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

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.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Christ.
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 143 Angels from the Realms of Glory (vv 1,2,5)

*Angels, from the realms of glories
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

*Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

*Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill the eternal throne,
gather all the nations to him,
every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the new-born king.*

HOMILY Rev'd Canon Paul Walker

ANTHEM Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

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.niaqaraanglican.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 *(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

(Quartet 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:

Quartet: 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.

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.

Quartet Agnus Dei

*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)

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

Carol O Come All Ye Faithful (vv 1,2,5)
*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.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
 lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
 very God, begotten not created:
 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 Chorale Prelude on This Day so Rich in Joys

J S Bach

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.

Reader Jane Anne Murray
 Singers Emily Steers, Emily Petrenko, Quade Nielsen, Matt Oxley
 Technician Rod Murray

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

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

Announcements for Christmas Day, 2021

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.

New Altar Frontals

The new altar frontals, designed and made by Elizabeth Litch, feature a damask fabric called “Florence”, which is an appropriate design given the Church of St John’s connection to Florence Nightingale.

The liturgical colour of white is primarily used for the feasts of Christmas and Easter.

The high altar super frontal, incorporates appliqués from our retired set of white frontals from England. The central motif of the pomegranate, a symbol of resurrection and new birth, and side motifs of ivy could be over 100 years old.

Our thanks to Elizabeth for her skill and handiwork to create this gift given to the glory of God for St John’s.

To receive news about events at St. John’s in the weekly Pastoral Letter, send an email to the Rector at rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

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.

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