

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



## A CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10.30 pm

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### ORGAN PRELUDE

### HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

*Common Praise #138*

**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 newborn King."**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh 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."**

**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."**

## GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this night on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

**May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

Here let heaven and earth embrace;  
**here may God's people find home.**

## THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

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 Counsellor, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 96



## THE SECOND READING

*Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave

himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

*Common Praise #123*

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**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.**

**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 gather round.**

## **THE GOSPEL**

*Luke 2:1-20*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 Saviour, 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 favours!" 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.

Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **SILENT NIGHT**

*Common Praise #119*

**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.**

## **HOMILY**

### **ANTHEM**

*Il est né (John Rutter)*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God,  
**in whom is power and compassion.**

**We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,  
set solar systems dancing into space, shaped molecules and mountains,  
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.  
God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;  
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,  
encouraging and caring for each one of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;  
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.  
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,  
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,  
forgave his enemies and changed lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us,  
opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness.  
Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE PEACE**

Peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **THE FIRST NOWELL**

*Common Praise #139*

**The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

**They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

**And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

**This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

**Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

**Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought.**

*Nowell, nowell...*

## **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life: friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden potentials we never knew we had, and beauty – serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you have crafted and the words, the sounds, the colours with which people reflect and explore life.

We love you, holy God, for not leaving us alone, because in Jesus you became tangible: hands touched him, tears touched him, generosity touched him. And he has touched us. That is why we are here.

That is why across time and eternity we sing because we cannot keep silent:

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Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and earth are  
 full of your glo-ry. Ho- san - na in the high-est. Bless ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high-est, ho- san - na in the high - est.

God, we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, summoned to your table.

It was on a night when old, familiar stories were retold, that Jesus and his friends engaged in the sacred meal which Jews call Passover.

During that meal, rich in food and in memory, Jesus took a piece of bread. After he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine, and having given thanks over it, he gave it to his disciples with the words, 'In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me.'

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality, God, let your Spirit move among us ✠ and be present in the food we share so that this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Open our eyes to see him, our ears to hear him, our hands to hold him, our hearts to receive him, our souls to cherish him. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on  
 earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we for-give those who  
 sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the  
 king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev - - er. A - men.

# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Silence is kept.*

As Jesus broke bread,  
**we break this bread.**

As Jesus took wine,  
**we take this cup.**

As his first disciples shared communion in an upstairs room,  
**we share these gifts and feed on them in our hearts with love and gratitude.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION

*New Prince, New Pomp (John Ireland)*

*Communion is offered in both bread and wine. Simply extend your hand to receive communion; or fold your arms if you prefer to receive a blessing instead. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, be assured that in the Anglican tradition, receiving only the bread is considered a complete communion. Please do not dip the bread into the communion wine.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

God of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to be one of us. May we who have tasted heavenly things share them with our hurting world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Generous God,

**in our world some hunger for food, and others for meaning;  
you have blessed this place and time, where we have been fed in many  
ways; bless us now, as we go on – sharing food for the journey,  
finding companions on the way. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Now go from here – may the Creator go with you, Christ companion you, the Spirit enliven you, and the Trinity bless you, ✠ so that you may know God's presence this night and always. **Amen.**



# JOY TO THE WORLD!

*Common Praise #154*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as our sin is found,  
far as our sin is found,  
far as, far as our sin is found,**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love,**

## DISMISSAL

Go, in love and light!  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729 (J.S. Bach)*

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*Presider*  
*Deacon & Preacher*  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff  
The Reverend Dr Caroline Ducros  
Dr Gordon Johnston

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Prayers of the Day: *The Book of Alternative Services* © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm Music by Gordon Johnston © 2011. Eucharistic Liturgy: *Iona Abbey Worship Book* © 2016 The Iona Community, published by Wild Goose Publications (Permission for use given by the Bishop of Ottawa, January 2019).

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