



Welcome to St. George's

A Family Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

5:00 PM

*I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11*

We are a Christian church within the Anglican tradition and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Welcome to our church family!

Rector The Rev. Canon Ralph Blackman
Organist Gerry Manning
Singers Sophie Wilhelm, Laura McDonald, Catherine Manning, Naomi Frazer

We wish to acknowledge that we meet on land that, at the time of contact, was held by the Attawandaron as an area of trade and ceremony by the 2 rivers. At various times the land was occupied by both Haudenosaunee from the south and Anishnaabe from the north. In more recent times the Huron Treaty gave rights to the Mississaugas of New Credit. May we who dwell on or visit this land also be good stewards and honour those who came before us.

Prelude *The Holly and the Ivy* James Biery
Shepherds Wilbur Held

Welcome

Introit *Once in Royal David's City* Irby

Opening Responory

Presider The people who walked in darkness...

All Sometimes we walk in darkness.

Presider ...have seen a great light.

All We live in darkness and in light.

Presider Those who lived in a land of deep darkness
– on them has light shined.

**All Whenever we find ourselves in the night,
God's morning dawns anew.**

Presider You have increased the nation's joy.

All The people rejoice as at the time of harvest.

Presider For the yoke of their burden you have broken.

**All The pressure, the tension, the anxiety of the past fade
as we gather in this place.**

Presider For a child has been born for us.

All God's child has come to be with us.

Presider One who will rule with peace and justice for ever and ever,

All and through whose love, we are all children of God.

Gathering Prayer

All God of grace and wonder,
on this night, we, like the shepherds, are amazed.
We hear again the message of the angels
proclaiming peace on earth,
and we recall the ageless story
of a baby born in a manger,
and we know beyond any doubt that you love us
more than we can ever know. Thank you. Amen.

Carol *O Christmas Tree*

German: *O Tannenbaum*

Story *The First Christmas Tree*

by Eugene Field

The Blessing of the Crèche

Carol *Away in a Manger*

Cradle Song

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People

Presider God of life, tonight the world is reborn with the birth of Jesus. We thank you for the gift of your Child, who came to show us your way. In your love,

All **hear our prayer.**

Presider Loving God, you are the guardian of the poor. Many children are being born tonight in places no better than that stable in Bethlehem. We pray for them. In your love,

All **hear our prayer.**

Presider God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick, lonely, in trouble, or afraid, that they may be healed and comforted. In your love,

All **hear our prayer.**

Presider God among us, in the birth of Jesus, you show us your hope for the world. We pray for ourselves and for each other, that we may be filled with hope and new life, now and always. In your love,

All **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

Presider God is with us! May the peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

WE CELEBRATE AT GOD'S TABLE

Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

Prayer over the Gifts

All **We offer you these gifts, Loving God, as an expression of our thanksgiving for your grace and goodness. We remember your Christmas gift of Jesus to be our friend and Saviour. We are your children and we belong to you. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts!

All **We lift them up to God!**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider We praise you, God among us, for on this holy night, we found your Child Jesus, wrapped in rags, lying in a feed-box in a Bethlehem barn, one of the poorest among a poor people. We ordinary folk heard angels sing that night:

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

Presider Jesus came to live with us, to bring hope in times of fear, to bring peace in times of danger, to bring joy in times of darkness, to bring love, your love, in every time. Therefore, with all who love and serve you in heaven and on earth, we raise our voices, as we sing:

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

Presider On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took the bread, saying, "Blessed are you, Holy God, Maker of all, for you bring forth bread from the earth." Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying, "This is my body, which I give for you."

Jesus took the cup, saying, "Blessed are you, Holy God, Maker of all, for you give us wine to gladden our hearts." He gave it to his friends, saying, "This is my blood, which I give for you. Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, do it in memory of me."

With this bread and this wine, we celebrate the birth and life of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, and make them holy, so that we, your people, being fed by holy things, may share hope and peace, joy and love with the world; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, now and forever.

All Amen.

Lord's Prayer

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Invitation to Spiritual Communion

Presider You are invited to receive spiritual communion with the following prayer.

Come, Lord Jesus, and make in my heart your dwelling place and home. I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, and so, through your presence in bread and wine, I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God. As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people, rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving, I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.

Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

Music during Communion

Carol *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head*

arr. G. Manning

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

All Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Presider Glory to God,

All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH INTO THE WORLD

Carol *Silent Night*
(Arranged by Daniel Kantor: *Night of Silence*)

Blessing and Dismissal

Presider We have heard the good news: Jesus Christ is born!

All We go to share God's love with others.

Presider Know that Jesus has come not just for us, but for all the world.

All We go to share God's love with others.

Presider May the love of the God who created us, who came as one of us, and who is with us still, bless and sustain you this night and always.

All Amen.

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Prince of Peace.

All Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Unto Us a Boy Is Born*
Joy to the World

Alan Reesor

Wilbur Held

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Donations can be made by:

- Scanning the QR Code to the right
- On our website (www.saintgeorge.ca)
- E-transfer to bookkeeper@saintgeorge.ca
- Cheque to our mailing address

Office Hours:

The office is closed to the public at this time. The office email and voicemail are checked regularly.

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