



*Church of St. John the Evangelist  
Elora, Ontario*

*Choral Evensong  
Candlemas*

*January 28, 2024  
4:00 pm*

## 4:00pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

*Welcome to St. John's Elora.*

*Hearing Assist devices, hymn books and prayer books and children's activity packs  
are available from the Greeters at the back of the church.*

*This liturgy is live-streamed on St. John's Elora You Tube.*

*Taper candles will be offered to be lit during the Offertory Hymn.*

*You may keep your candle burning for the remainder of the service.*

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*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 Haldimand 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.*

### **Introit When to the Temple Mary Went**

Johannes Eccard

When to the temple Mary went,  
And brought the Holy Child,  
Him did the aged Simeon see,  
As it had been revealed.  
He took up Jesus in his arms  
And blessing God he said:  
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,  
The Hope of Israel, the Light of all.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,  
That we may ever be  
As once the faithful Simeon was,  
Rejoicing but in Thee;  
And when we must from earth departure take,  
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

### **Sentence**

*The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

Habakkuk 2:4

Minister: Dearly beloved, let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Minister: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,

All: **We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Minister: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.  
God pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.  
Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Versicles and Responses are sung by Choir.*

Maxine Thévenot

O LORD, open thou our lips;  
*And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*  
O God, make speed to save us;  
*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

*(please stand)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*  
Praise ye the Lord;  
*The Lord's Name be praised.*

*(congregation may be seated)*

**Psalm 84** (sung)

O how lovely are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!  
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord:  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  
even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be always praising thee.  
Blessed are they whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the pilgrim ways;  
Who going through the Vale of Misery use it for a well; yea, the early rain covereth it with blessings.  
They go from strength to strength, and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.  
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayers: hearken, O God of Jacob.  
Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.  
For one day in thy courts is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.  
For the Lord God is a light and defence; the Lord will give grace and glory;  
and no good thing shall be withhold from them that lead a godly life.  
O Lord God of hosts, blessed is the one that putteth his trust in thee.

## FIRST LESSON

### Malachi 3.1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like washers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Magnificat Truro Service

Gabriel Jackson

*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

*For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.*

*For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

*For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.*

*And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.*

*He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.*

*He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.*

*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;*

*As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.*

*GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

## SECOND LESSON

### Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

**Nunc Dimittis      Truro Service**

Gabriel Jackson

*LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;*

*To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.*

Minister:      I believe in God

All:            **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Versicles and Responses are sung by Choir.*

Maxine Thévenot

*The Lord be with you;  
And with thy spirit.*

*Let us pray.*

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

All: 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. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

*And grant us thy salvation.*

O Lord, save the King;

*And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.*

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*And make thy chosen people joyful.*

O Lord, save thy people;

*And bless thine inheritance.*

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

*Because there is none other that fighteth for us but only thou, O God.*

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

*And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.*

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:

Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Collect For Aid Against all Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Anthem Bring Us, O Lord God**

William Henry Harris

Bring us, O Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of heav'n:

to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,

where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling,

but one equal light no noise nor silence,

but one equal music no fears nor hopes,

but one equal possession no ends nor beginnings,

but one equal eternity in the habitation of thy glory and dominion,

world without end. Amen.

## Offertory Hymn 14 O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

Tallis' Canon

During the Offertory Hymn an offering will be collected.

Members of the congregation will be offered a candle light from which to light their own candle. You may keep your candle lit for the remainder of the service.

*O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,  
in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he,  
and blest are you, his holy Son.*

*Now sunset comes, but light shines forth;  
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit:  
God who dwells in the eternal light.*

*Worthy are you of endless praise,  
O Son of God, life giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth  
and in the highest heaven adored.*

Prayers

**The Grace**    **May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

## Recessional Hymn 266 Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace

Song 34

*Lord, let your servant go in peace:  
your promises have been fulfilled;  
your saving power has been displayed  
before the face of all the world.*

*My eyes have seen salvation's dawn:  
the Sun of life ascending bright;  
your people's glory evermore,  
the nations' everlasting light.*

Readers: Doug Wilson, Chris Rynberk

Technician: Jon Warland

Choir: Lesley Bouza, Jennifer Krabbe, Rebecca McKay, Janelle Santi, Kate Wright, Rachel Barreca, Emily Burnett, Audrey Coates, Autumn Debassige, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Sharang Sharma, Michael Cressman, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky, Alan Macdonald, Luke MacLean

## Candlemas

Candlemas marks 40 days after Christmas. The date is actually February 2nd, commonly known as Groundhog Day. On this day it is all about light. Whether the ground hog sees his shadow or not determines how long winter will be. The feast of the Presentation of Christ in the temple is all about the revelation of the light of the Messiah to Simeon and Anna. It is about coming out of the shadows and is celebrated at every Evensong with the Nunc Dimittis. Simeon can now die in peace knowing that he has seen the Messiah, a light for the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. The promise first made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, now is extended for the world. The light has come into the world and the darkness has not extinguished it.

## St. John's Four Areas of Ministry

*Proclaim the Love of Christ - Engage and Involve - Musical Outreach - Open Doors*

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker	<a href="mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com">rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Director of Music:	Dr. Patrick Murray	<a href="mailto:music.stjohnselora@gmail.com">music.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko	
Parish Administration	Thomas Littlewood	<a href="mailto:parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com">parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon	<a href="mailto:sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com">sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com</a>

Church of St. John the Evangelist  
36 Henderson Street, Elora, ON N0B 1S0  
519-846-5911

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

[stjohns@sentex.net](mailto:stjohns@sentex.net)  
[www.stjohnselora.ca](http://www.stjohnselora.ca)

### Events This Week at St. John's

#### Today

4:00 Evensong with Parish Choir

#### Monday

2:00 Bible Study (Parish Centre)

6:00 Children's Choir (Parish Centre)

7:00 Bible Study (Portage)

#### Tuesday

7:30 TRC Reading and Reflection Group (on Zoom)

#### Wednesday

9:30 Knitters and Quilters

10:00 Holy Communion

#### Thursday

11:00 Service at Wellington Terrace

7:00 Parish Choir

#### Friday

10:30 Song Circle

7:30 CONCERT: "House of our Pilgrimage"

#### Sunday February 4 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - Sexagesima

8:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

9:00 Holy Eucharist

11:00 Choral Communion with Parish Choir



# Welcome to St. John's Elora

## Learn More

To learn more about St. John's through the Pastoral Letter sent from the Rector every Saturday, send an email to [rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

## Evensong - TODAY, 4:00 p.m.

The Parish Choir offers a special service of Choral Evensong for Candlemas, 40 days after Christmas.

## Concert - FRIDAY February 2, 7:30 p.m.

Anima presents: House of our Pilgrimage. Daniel Cabena, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky (Parish Choir), and Luke Hathoway (poet) offer a program of medieval and modern music with spoken word. Admission by donation at the door (suggested \$30).

## Vestry Reports

Please send your annual Vestry Report to Thomas Littlewood at [parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com) before January 31.

## Vestry Meeting of Mission and Ministry

### SATURDAY February 24, 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

We gather together for the annual Vestry Meeting on SATURDAY February 24 at 10:30 on Zoom. If you know of someone who does not have access to Zoom, and would like to participate, please let the Rector know.

If you are interested in participating this year at St. John's as a member of Parish Council, Member of Synod, or a Warden, let Jane Houlding or the Rector know.

Parish Council meets with the Rector and Wardens six times a year to review the financial statements and help fulfill the goals of our vision as authorized by the Vestry.

## Bible Study - Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

Join Rev'd John Lockyer and others who are exploring themes in the gospel of Mark.

## Volunteer Choir - Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

We rehearse every Tuesday at 5:30 to participate liturgically on Sundays at 9:00 every other week. Contact Jurgen for more information.

## TRC Reading and Reflection Group - Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Join on Zoom as we continue to reflect and learn about the 94 Calls to Action.

## Knitters and Quilters - Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.

Join a group of people who knit, crochet, or simply enjoy being together on Wednesday morning in the Parish Center.

### **Song Circle - Friday at 10:30 a.m.**

Join Stan Litch as he leads an informal time of signing some old tunes on Fridays at 10:30. It's a fun and informal time together of signing and stories. All are welcome.

### **Compline Services**

The choir rehearses at 6:30 on the day of the service. The service begins at 8:00 p.m. and is offered on February 6, March 5, April 9, May 7 and June 4.

### **Organ Update**

Adjusting sound samples and installing new speakers in the organ chamber is the task at present. All the indications so far suggest that Jurgen is quite excited about it, and we trust that when you eventually hear the full new organ, you will be excited too.

### **Pancake Supper - Tuesday February 13**

Are you willing to help offer a pancake supper on Tuesday February 13?

So far we have 2 people to set up in the afternoon and 2 people in the kitchen to cook. Please speak to the Rector if you can participate as kitchen crew, servers or clean up team.

### **Readers**

If you would like to participate as a reader at the 11am service, please contact [Patricia Reimer](#).

### **2024 Offering Envelopes**

Please pick up your box of Offering Envelopes at the back of the church.

If you would like Offering Envelopes please contact Thomas through the office or by email at [parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com](mailto:parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com)

### **World Day of Prayer - Friday March 1**

Hosted at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Fergus. The service this year is prepared by the women of Palestine, based on Ephesians 4:1-3—"I beg you...bear with one another in love." Please let Thomas know if you wish to participate.

### **Washrooms**

Washrooms are located at the west entrance of the church, downstairs in Thompson Hall, and an accessible washroom is located at the Parish Centre (yellow house east of the church).