



Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

*December 24, 2023
11:00 am*

Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Choral Mattins (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.

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.

The fourth Advent Candle of LOVE is lit during the processional hymn.

Processional Hymn Sing of Mary (vv 1,2,3,5)

Hermon

*1. Sing of Mary, pure and lowly
Virgin-Mother undefiled,
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
Who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest Mother,
God the Lord, who came to earth,
Word made Flesh, our very Brother,
Takes our nature by his birth.*

*3. Sing of Mary, sing of Jesus,
Holy Mother's holier son.
From his throne in heaven he sees us,
Thither calls us every one,
Where he welcomes home his Mother
To a place at his right hand,
There his faithful servants gather,
There the crowded victors stand.*

*2. Sing of Jesus, Son of Mary,
In the home at Nazareth,
Toil and labour cannot weary
Love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
Though it drove him from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
Till on Calvary he died.*

*5. Glory be to God the Father;
Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
From all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain re-echoes
Unto earth's remotest ends.*

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word.” - Luke 1:38

Minister: Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.
And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks

for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

(you may kneel or sit for prayer)

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.**

Introit O virgo virginum

Healey Willan

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?

For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.

Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?

The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.

Responses are sung.

Minister: O LORD, open thou our lips;

All: **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Minister: O God, make speed to save us;

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

(please stand)

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

Minister: Praise ye the Lord;

All: **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Canticle Venite

(remain standing)

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.*

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth;

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it:

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God;

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

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.

Lesson 1 Romans 16.25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26

(Congregation remain seated)

My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord;

with my mouth will I ever showing thy faithfulness from one generation to another.

For I have said, 'Loving-kindness shall be built up for ever;

thy faithfulness shalt thou stablish in the heavens.

Thou spakest sometime in a vision unto thy saints, and sadist,

'I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant: with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand shall hold him fast, and my arm shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not be able to do him violence: the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.

I will beat down his foes before his face, and smite them that hate him.

My faithfulness also and my mercy shall be with him: and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his hand also on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.

He shall call me, "Thou art my Father, my God and the rock of my salvation."

Lesson II Luke 1.26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth of a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much

perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Canticle Benedictus

Charles Wood

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us,
in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of holy prophets,
which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,
that he would grant us
That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him,
all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people
for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God;
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.*

(Please stand)

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.

Responses are sung.

Minister: The Lord be with you;

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

(please kneel or sit for prayer)

All: 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.**

Minister: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

All: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister: O Lord, save the King;

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

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Minister: O Lord, save thy people;

All: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord;

All: **And evermore mightily defend us.**

Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us;

All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Collect for the Day

Raise up, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Grace.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Anthem I Sing of a Maiden

Lennox Berkeley

I sing of a maiden
That is makeless.
King of all kinges
To her son she ches.
He came all so stille
There his mother was,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so stille
To his mother's bowr,
As dew in Aprille
That falleth on the flower.
Mother and maiden
Was never none but she;
Well may such a lady
Goddess mother be.

Homily Rev'd John Lockyer

Offertory Hymn 363 My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord

Duke Street

An offering plate will be passed during this hymn. Your donation to support St. John's is most welcome.

*1. My soul proclaims your glory, Lord,
my spirit sings with thankful voice,
for you my lowly prayer have heard:
in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.*

*3. You have made bare your mighty arm
to break the yoke of selfish power,
and lift your broken ones from harm,
bursting the gates of greed's proud tower.*

*2. Nations, unborn will bless your name,
giver of boundless grace to me,
in every age you are the same:
you make the humble whole and free.*

*4. You fill the hungry mouths with food,
and show the poverty of wealth.
Your ancient vow you have made good,
and raised your children to new health.*

*5. Glory to God, all being's Spring,
to God the Word, salvation's voice,
to God the Spirit, praise we sing:
with all the ages we rejoice.*

Closing Prayers for the church, the community, and the world, and those in need.
(you may kneel or sit)

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.

Hymn 72 The Mighty God, the Lord hath Spoken

St. Clement

*1. The mighty God, the Lord hath. Spoken,
And bids the trembling earth draw nigh:
The silence of long ages broken,
He speaks in thunder from the sky.*

*3. He speaks, and all the nations tremble;
Heaven, earth, and hell his voice obey:
In solemn awe his saints assemble,
The world's dim shadows flee away.*

*2. Forth from heavenly Zion shining,
In perfect beauty he appears:
Love, wisdom, majesty combining,
Bright are the diadems he wears.*

*4. O who can stand, when thou appearest
In robes of majesty divine?
Though now each contrite sigh thou hearest,
What terrors then will round thee shine!*

*5. O mighty God, O Lord most holy,
Prepare us for that solemn day:
O shield and guard us, save us wholly,
Thy pardoning grace to us display.*

POSTLUDE Plein Jeu and Dialogue from Magnificat in D minor

Jean-Francois Dandrieu

The flowers are to the glory of God.

Quartet
Readers

Jennifer Krabbe, Rachel Barreca, Jerome Chang, Michael Cressman
Susan Edwards, Jerome Chang

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
Director of Music:	Dr. Patrick Murray
Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon
Administration:	Thomas Littlewood
Honorary Assistants:	Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers

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Welcome to St. John's Elora

Welcome to St. John's

We are delighted you are here today. Please sign our guest book in the Narthex before you leave. To receive the weekly "Pastoral Letter" with a reflection from the Rector and updates on events, please send an email to rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Open Doors Project

We are meeting with parishioners who are interested to learn more about the project to gauge support and give you the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how this project is vital to our mission as a parish.

Please speak with Peter Barr, Colleen Murray, the co-chairs of the Open Doors team, or to the Rector. At the municipal level, the project was approved unanimously at the Committee of Adjustment this month and next goes to the Planning Department.

Once it goes through the municipal process, it will come back to us for review and approval at a Special Vestry in the new year, and then to the Bishop and Synod Council for approval. Keep talking with one another and praying as we work towards fulfilling our vision priority of Open Doors.

Christmas Eve - Sunday December 24

4:00 pm - Eucharist with Volunteer Choir

6:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Communion with full Parish Choir

8:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Communion with full Parish Choir

Christmas Day - Monday December 25

10:00 am - Traditional Christmas Day Communion with Quartet

Offering Envelopes 2024

Offering Envelopes for 2024 are now available at the back of the church. Your envelope number may be different than it has been previously. If you don't see your name there and would like a box of offering envelopes, please let Thomas know.

2024 Calendars

2024 BCP calendars are available, cost \$10. Canadian Church Calendars with the Revised Common Lectionary are available for \$5.

Keeping Healthy

Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene. Ensure your flu and COVID vaccines are up to date.

If you test positive for COVID please stay home. If you have symptoms or a compromised immune system, wear a face mask. And.. always practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.

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).

Events This Week at St. John's

Sunday December 31 – Sunday after Christmas Day

8:00 Holy Communion

9:00 Holy Eucharist

11:00 Choral Communion with Soloist