

PEACE



Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

*December 10, 2023
11:00 am*

Second 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.

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

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 second Advent Candle of PEACE is lit during the processional hymn.

Processional Hymn 103 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Winchester New

*1. On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.*

*3. For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.*

*2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within.
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.*

*4. To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.*

*5. All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.*

"Prepare the way of the Lord and make his paths straight."

- Luke 3.4

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 A Tender Shoot

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot has started up from a root of grace,
as ancient seers imparted from Jesse's holy race:
It blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us, from Jesse's root should spring;
The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
Thus turning darkness into light.

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 Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

(Congregation remain seated)

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land: thou hast restored the fortunes of Jacob.
Thou has forgiven the offence of thy people, and covered all their sin.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say:
for he shall speak peace unto his people and to his saints,
and unto them that turn their hearts to him.
Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth springeth out of the earth; and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.
Yea, the Lord shall give what is good; and our land shall yield her increase.
Righteousness shall go before him, and shall direct his going in the way.

Lesson II Mark 1.1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Canticle Benedictus

William Byrd

*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

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the

blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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 Virga Jesse

Anton Bruckner

The rod of Jesse hath blossomed:
a Virgin hath brought forth God and man:
God hath restored peace,
reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.
Alleluia.

Homily Rev'd John Lockyer

Offertory Hymn 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

Ascension

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

*1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod;
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!*

*2. O Zion, give voice to good tidings,
ascend to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
The works of pride all perish,
like flowers they shall decay;
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away.*

*3. But your word, O God, is faithful,
your arm, O Lord, is strong;
you stand in the midst of nations,
and you will right the wrong.
You will feed your flock like a shepherd,
and fold the lambs to your breast;
in pastures of peace you'll lead them,
and give to the weary rest.*

*4. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord our God may go!*

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 111 Herald! Sound the Note of Judgement

Neander

*1. Herald! Sound the note of judgement,
warning note of right and wrong,
turning us from sin and sadness,
till once more we sing the song.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King has come.*

*3. Herald! Sound the note of pardon!
Those repenting are forgiven;
God restores the wayward children,
and to all new life is given.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King has come.*

*2. Herald! Sound the note of gladness!
Tell the news that Christ is here;
make a pathway through the desert
for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King has come.*

*4. Herald! Sound the note of triumph!
Christ has come to share our life,
bringing God's own love and power
granting victory in our strife.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message!
Christ the Saviour King has come.*

POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on Lord Christ, the only Son of God

J S Bach

The flowers are to the glory of God and in loving memory of Veronica Punnett,
the gift of her husband, Gerald.

Celebrant 8am	Rev'd Judy Steers
Celebrant 9 am	Rev'd Judy Steers
Homily 9am	Rev's John Lockyer
Celebrant /Homily 11am	Rev'd John Lockyer
Choir	Lesley Bouza, Rebecca McKay, Janelle Santi, Kate Wright, Rachel Barreca, Emily Burnett, Audrey Coates, Emily Petrenko, Jerome Chang, Lanny Fleming, Quade Nielsen, Sharang Sharma, Michael Cressman, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky, Alan Macdonald, Luke MacLean
Greeters	
Readers	Gerry Hill, Judy Bates
Flower Guild	Nancy Knudstrup
Technician	Rod Murray

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

Memorial Flower Donations

To make a donation towards memorial flowers for Christmas, please leave a message for Elaine Dightam at the church office, 519-846-5911.

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 comes before the Centre Wellington Committee of Adjustment on December 13, 3:00pm.

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 Puddings

Limited availability, only Large left \$20.00 each, last day to purchase and pick up will be Saturday December 16th, pickup in the Parish Centre.

Exploring the *Gospel of Mark*

Monday, 2:00pm

Join us Monday in the Parish Centre as we continue to explore the ideas about the gospel of Mark.

Song Circle - Friday, 10:30

Join Stan on ukulele as he leads us in singing some favourite old tunes. Song books provided.

A Child's Christmas in Wales at St. John's

This event is full to capacity.

Doors open at 1:45.

Featuring "Musicians of the KWSymphony."

Admission by donation at the door (suggested \$30).

Saturday, December 16, 2:30pm

Narrated by Tom Allen. With music by Lori Gemmell, Larry Larson, and Debbie Stroh.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday December 17 at 4:00 and 6:30 pm

Come for this beautiful service with the Parish Choir at 4:00 or 6:30pm. Invite friends and family to join you.

Advent IV - Sunday December 24

11:00 am - Choral Matins with Quartet

NOTE that there is only ONE liturgy in the morning for Advent IV.

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. The BAS (Canadian Church Calendar) should be available next week.

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

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

Monday

- 2:00 Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark (Parish Centre)
- 6:00 Children's Choir (Parish Centre)
- 7:00 Bible Study at Portage

Tuesday

- 11:00 Greater Wellington Clericus (St. Mark's Orangeville)
- 5:00 Festival of Carols - The Elora Singers - SOLD OUT
- 8:00 Festival of Carols - The Elora Singers - SOLD OUT

Wednesday

- 9:30 Knitters and Quilters (Parish Centre)
- 10:00 Holy Communion
- 5:00 Festival of Carols - The Elora Singers - SOLD OUT
- 8:00 Festival of Carols - The Elora Singers - SOLD OUT

Thursday

- 9:00 Yoga (Parish Centre)
- 7:00 Parish Choir

Friday

- 10:30 Song Circle (Parish Centre)

Saturday

- 2:30 "Child's Christmas in Wales" - SOLD OUT

Sunday December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 Holy Communion
- 9:00 Holy Eucharist
- 11:00 Choral Communion with Quartet
- 4:00 Christmas Lessons and Carols
- 6:30 Christmas Lessons and Carols

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	rector.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
Administration:	Thomas Littlewood	parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Honorary Assistant:	Rev'd John Lockyer	
Honorary Assistant:	Rev'd Judy Steers	

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