

JOY



Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

December 17, 2023

11:00 am

*Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday*

11:00 am Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Welcome to St. John's

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

The third Advent Candle of JOY is lit during the processional hymn.

Mass Setting Communion Service in F

Herbert Sumsion

Processional Hymn 98 Hark the Glad Sound

Richmond

*1.Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.*

*3.Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasuries of grace
to bless the humble poor.*

*2.Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield.*

*4.Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.*

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant: ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(congregation may be seated or kneel)

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Celebrant: Hear the Law of God which was given to Israel in old time. God spake these words and said: I am the Lord thy God; Thou shalt have none other gods but me.

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

The remaining commandments are sung with the same response, followed by

Celebrant: Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his servant, nor his maid, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is his.

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Kyrie

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

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: O Lord Jesu Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and made ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at the second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight; who livest and reignest with the Father the Holy Spirit, ever 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.

Lesson Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126 (sung)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Sion, then were we like unto them that dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with joy.

Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord hath done great things for them.'

Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already; whereof we rejoice.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, as the rivers in the South.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth his seed, shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

(please stand)

GOSPEL John 1.6-8, 19-28

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel is written in the 1st chapter of the gospel according to John beginning at the 6th verse.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing. The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

Celebrant: I BELIEVE in one God

People: **the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; light, of light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.**

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Anthem There is no Rose

Gerald Near

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pari forma (equal in form).

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda (wonderful thing).

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo:
Gaudeamus (let us rejoice).

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus (let us follow).

HOMILY

Offertory Hymn 108 Hark a Herald Voice is Sounding

Merton

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

1. Hark, a herald voice if sounding:

"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.

*"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"*

*2. Wakened by the solemn warning,
let thy earth bound soul arise;
Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.*

*3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;
let us all, with deep repentance,
pray with we may be forgiven,*

*4. that when next he comes with glory,
and the world is wrapped in fear,
with his mercy he may shield us,
and with words of love draw near.*

*5. Honour, glory, might, and blessing
to the Father and the Son,
with the every lasting Spirit,
while eternal ages run.*

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

"May those who sow in tears reap with songs of joy."

- Psalm 126:5

INTERCESSIONS (You may kneel or sit for prayer)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Let us pray for the church, for our community, for the world. Let us pray for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples of Canada. Let us pray for all who need our prayers today, and all who have died in the peace of Christ.

Leader: ALMIGHTY and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all people: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live

in unity and godly love. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We beseech thee also to lead all nations in the way of righteousness; and so to guide and direct their governors and rulers, that thy people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace: and grant unto thy servant Charles our King, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially administer justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and specially to thy servant Linda, our Primate, and Susan, our Bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and living Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: Prosper, we pray thee, all those who proclaim the Gospel of thy kingdom among the nations: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, that, with meek heart and due reverence, we may hear and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those for whom our prayers are desired.....Lord, in thy mercy.

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear: and we bless thy holy Name for all who in life and death have glorified thee; beseeching thee to give us grace that, rejoicing in their fellowship, we may follow their good examples, and with them be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Today we remember.....Lord in thy mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: YE that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Celebrant: ALMIGHTY God,

All: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people: we acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in

newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him: Come unto me all that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. - *Matthew 11:28*
God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. - *John 3:16.*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. - *1 Timothy 1:15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any one sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins. - *1 St John 2:1, 2.*

THANKSGIVING AND CONSECRATION

Celebrant: The Lord be with you;

All: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts;

All: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

All: It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, creator and Preserver of all things.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

Quartet: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the Highest.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Celebrant: BLESSING and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation,

and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he give it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you;

All: And with thy Spirit.

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, Trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies May be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. Amen.

Quartet: Agnus Dei

Administration of Communion

All are welcome to receive communion as a reminder of your baptism. The congregation is invited to come forward to receive the sacrament or a blessing during the singing of the Agnus Dei. You are welcome to participate in receiving the chalice by either touching the base of it, or drinking from it.

If you would like communion brought to you in the pew, please let the Greeter know.

Communion Motet Remember, O Thou Man

Thomas Ravenscroft

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.
OUR Father

All: **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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee that thou dost graciously feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; assuring us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are living members of his mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom.

All: **And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. And although we are unworthy, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.**

BLESSING

Recessional Hymn 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Crüger

1. Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son! Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun! He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free, to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

3. Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring; all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend, his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

2. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth, and love, joy, hope, life flowers, spring in his path to birth. Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go, and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

4. O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest, from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest. The tide of time shall never his covenant remove. His name shall stand forever; that name to us is Love.

POSTLUDE O Come Thou Saviour of the Gentiles

J S Bach

Flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Veronica Punnett,
the gift of her husband Gerald.

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.

Quartet	Jennifer Krabbe, Emily Burnett, Lanny Fleming, Michael Cressman
Readers	Diana Spearn, John Spearn
Chalice Bearers	Thomas Littlewood, Damaris Martin, Ken Reid
Flower Guild	Damaris Martin
Altar Guild	Wendy Donohue, Susan Hirst

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

2024 Calendars

Copies of the 2024 church calendars (using the BCP lectionary) are available at the back of the church for \$10. St. John's Elora is featured in the calendar (January). The Canadian Church Calendars (using the Revised Common Lectionary) is available for \$5 each. Both calendars provide the dates of the seasons and feasts celebrated in the Christian year with beautiful photos or paintings of churches in Canada.

2024 Offering Envelopes

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.

Christmas Puddings

There are a few more still left at \$20.00 each.

Contact Jane Anne Murray at jamconsults@gmail.com for more information.

Song Circle

Friday, 10:30

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

Open Doors Project

We are making an effort to meet with people to share the latest information about the project and to gauge your support.

The project came before the Centre Wellington Committee of Adjustment last Tuesday.

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

PWRDF

The [Anglican Al-Ahli Hospita](#) in Gaza has reopened for patients, but is operating at over capacity.

Please consider a gift to help support the hospital and the humanitarian aid in Gaza.

[Hope in Action: Reflections on Farming, Family and Faith](#) in the midst of the Climate Crisis. Subscribe to the Advent resource "Hope in Action" by Karri Munn-Venn. Karri is a climate policy analyst turned regenerative wool farmer and knit wear designer living in Quebec.

Keeping Healthy

Here's what you can do to keep healthy for Christmas:

- If you are in a large gathering (like at church or a concert) consider wearing a face mask.
- If you have symptoms or a compromised immune system, please do wear a face mask.
- Ensure your flu and COVID vaccines are up to date.
- If you test positive for COVID, stay home.

And... wash your hands frequently, and cover your cough or sneeze.

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

TODAY

4:00 Christmas Lessons and Carols

6:30 Christmas Lessons and Carols (This service will be live-streamed)

Monday

7:00 Bible Study at Portage

Tuesday

5:30 Volunteer Choir

Wednesday

9:30 Knitters and Quilters (Parish Centre)

10:00 Holy Communion

Thursday

9:00 Yoga (Parish Centre)

7:00 Parish Choir

Friday

10:30 Song Circle (Parish Centre)

Sunday December 24

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 Choral Matins with Quartet

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 Eucharist with Volunteer Choir

6:00 Choral Communion with Parish Choir

8:00 Choral Communion with Parish Choir

Monday December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 Choral Communion with Quartet

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 Assistants:	Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers	

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