

# Church of St. John the Evangelist

Elora, Ontario  
Diocese of Niagara



Sunday December 26, 2021

10:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas

Service of Morning Prayer

(Book of Alternative Services)

# Service of Morning Prayer

(Book of Alternative Services)

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts;  
Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. - *Colossians 3:15, 16*

## **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God,  
let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins,  
that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon you and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord, open our lips,  
**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

God is our light and our salvation, and in his name we light this candle.  
May it remind us of the beauty of his truth and the radiance of his love.  
May our hearts be open to the light of Christ, now and at all times.  
**Lord, in your mercy, let there be light.**

Unto us a child is born.  
**O come, let us worship.**

**CAROL 145 (v 1, 4, 5)**  
**Good King Wenceslas**

Good King Wenceslas  
looked out on the feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about,  
deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger:  
fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page;  
tread thou in them boldly.  
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage  
freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod,  
where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,  
wealth and rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor,  
shall yourselves find blessing.

**FIRST READING**

A reading from the 1st book of Samuel beginning at the 18th verse.

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

**Psalm 111** (*said responsively*)

Hallelujah!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
**in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the deeds of the Lord!  
**they are studied by all who delight in them.**

His work in full of majesty and splendour,  
**and his righteousness endures for ever.**

He makes his marvellous works to be remembered;  
**the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

He gives good to those who fear him;  
**he is ever mindful of his covenant.**

He has shown his people the power of his works  
**in giving them the lands of the nations.**

The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;  
**all his commandments are sure.**

They stand fast for ever and ever,  
**because they are done in truth and equity.**

He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever;  
**holy and awesome is his name.**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
**those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the 2nd chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, beginning at the 41st verse.  
Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith, as we say:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**Homily**

*Canon Paul Walker*

## **CAROL 148 (v 1, 2, 5)**

### **See Amid the Winter's Snow**

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years!  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
who enthroned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim.  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a mighty love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

## **The Prayers**

I invite you to offer your prayers for one another and for our world saying with me: "Grant us your peace."

Let us pray.

Holy and almighty God, we pray for people who worship you on this holy morning. Give us the wisdom to follow the light of your Son, that we may be inspired to faith and love. Lord, in your mercy; **Grant us your peace.**

We pray for one another: for our friends and families; for those who work in health care and public health; that the places where we work, learn, and live, may be places of safety and good will.

Lord, in your mercy; **Grant us your peace.**

We pray for the lonely, the hungry, and the homeless.

We pray for those who are far from home, or those who are in any kind of need, trouble or illness .....

May they be strengthened, protected and provided for.

Lord, in your mercy; **Grant us your peace.**

We pray for all who are in positions of leadership and authority in our nation and all the nations of the earth. We pray for our Queen, and all who are in positions of authority under her, that they might work for justice and peace for all.

Lord, in your mercy; **Grant us your peace.**

We pray for all our loved ones who have died: ..... May light perpetual shine upon them.

We pray for those who mourn: ..... Grant them the consolation of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy; **Grant us your peace.**

We offer you all these prayers from our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## **The Collect for the First Sunday after Christmas**

Almighty God,

you have shed upon us

the new light of your incarnate Word.

May this light, enkindled in our hearts,

shine forth in our lives;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Collect for St. Stephen**

Grant us grace, O Lord,  
that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies  
and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt;  
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,  
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 those who 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.**

### **CAROL 154 (vv 1,2,3) Joy to the World**

Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come: let earth receive the King:  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods,  
rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as our sin is found, f  
ar as our sin is found,  
far as, far as our sin is found.

**POSTLUDE** French Noel: Where are you Going, Happy Shepherds? Nicolas Lebeque

This service is live-streamed on the St. John's Elora YouTube Channel.  
The service is modified to work for the safety of our community and reduce the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. St. John's Elora operates within the Diocese of Niagara guidelines (December 21) and public health guidelines.

**Flowers this Christmas are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of**

Eric Hilborn

*the gift of his loving wife, Denise and family*

Rita and Arthur Doraty

*the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre*

Ken Coultres

*the gift of his wife, Linda Coultres*

Pam Walker and John Walker

*the gift of Paul Walker*

Dr. William B. Ellis and deceased family

*the gift of Patricia Ellis*

David Rogers

*the gift of family*

Loved ones

*the gift of Gwyneth Watkins*

David Watkins

*the gift of his wife Barb, and children Susan, Tom and MaryAnn*

Stuart and Catherine Sheppard, Rita Houston

*the gift of Chris and Jeannie Houston*

Peggy Oxley and Ann Abelson Carotte

*the gift of Marion Oxley*

Peter Peloso

*the gift of Max and Maureen McIntyre*

Beverly Steers-Redston

*Judy Steers' Aunt*



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