

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada



## CHRISTMAS EVE

### HOLY EUCHARIST & BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

December 24, 2020 ~ 4pm & 7pm

Book of Alternative Services page 185

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## Merry Christmas! Welcome to St. John the Evangelist.

*We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video in our on-line worship offering through St. John's website, YouTube and Facebook site.

Amber stage of the Diocese of Ottawa's pandemic plan means various safety measures to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Many of these feel counter-intuitive and just plain strange and awkward. We are social creatures and the desire to linger, chat and hug is hard-wired into us – specially this time of year. But for now, there are limitations on how we can "be together". Please be mindful of the following:

- Continue to wear your mask throughout the service.
- There is no congregational singing allowed at this stage. It will be really difficult, but please refrain from singing the carols which are so familiar. Sing them in your heart!
- Remain in your pew for all of the service unless it is absolutely necessary for you to move. The washroom at the back of the church is available for use. If it is occupied, please ensure physical distancing as you wait.
- Refrain from physical contact with those outside your "bubble." When exchanging the peace, make eye contact, smile (behind your mask!) and nod or bow to your neighbours, while wishing the peace of Christ.
- The offering plates will not be passed. If you wish to make a financial offering, you can place your envelope in the offering plate at either the back of the church as you enter or at the exits upon leaving.
- Communion will be brought to you in your pew. Please keep your mask on until the priest has moved away from you. You should sanitize your hands before and after receiving Communion.
- Following the service, please wait for the Greeter to direct your row to exit the church via **side** aisles to the front doors. If you entered by the back parking lot, you may exit via the centre aisle towards the back. Try to have your coat on before you leave the pew to avoid crowding at the exits and recycle your order of service in the blue bin at the exit if you do not wish to keep it. Please sanitize your hands upon leaving.

Please turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate/silent mode. Thank you.

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

**All to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Blessing of the Crèche**

Celebrant Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns for ever. **Amen.**

### **Gloria**

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

**All and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader      The Word of the Lord  
**All            Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 97** (*said responsively*)

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; \* let the multitude of the isles be glad. Clouds and darkness are round about him, \* righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

**A fire goes before him and burns up his enemies on every side. \* His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees it and is afraid.**

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \* at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

**The heavens declare his righteousness, \* and all the peoples see his glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!  
\* Bow down before him, all you gods. Zion hears and is glad, \* and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O Lord.

**For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; \* you are exalted far above all gods.**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; \* he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**Light has sprung up for the righteous, \* and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous \* and give thanks to his holy name.**

## **Second Reading**

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader        The Word of the Lord  
**All            Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel** *(please stand)*

Luke 2:1-14

Gospeller    The Lord be with you

**All            And also with you.**

Gospeller    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**All            Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Gospeller    The Gospel of Christ.

**All            Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Homily**

### **Nicene Creed**

Celebrant    Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

**All            We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of  
God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten,  
not made, of one being with the Father. Through him  
all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became  
incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Intercessions** *(please kneel or sit)*

Please respond to each petition with "*Hear our prayer.*"

### **The Peace**

Celebrant Beloved, as we are reconciled in Christ, so may we be reconciled with one another. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

*Please remain in your pew and refrain from physical contact with those outside your "bubble" as you share the peace of Christ with your neighbours.*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### **Prayer over the gifts**

#### **Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in  
the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**All** Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**



Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**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 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Celebrant The gifts of God are for the people of God.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Communion**

*Everyone who has been baptized is welcome to receive Holy Communion. During this stage of the pandemic, only the bread will be offered. Please remain in your pews and the priest will come and give communion to you. Please keep your mask on until the priest has moved away from you, at which point you may remove your mask to consume the bread. Sanitize your hands before and after receiving Communion.*

## **Prayer after Communion** *(please stand)*

### **Doxology**

Celebrant    Glory to God

**All**            **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing & Dismissal**

### ***Postlude***

*Following the service, please wait until directed by the Greeter to leave your pew by the side aisle and proceed to the exit at the front of the church closest to you. Please keep your physical distance as you exit. If you entered via the back door, you may leave via the centre aisle to that exit. Please take your belongings with you. Thank you for worshipping with us this holy night. Blessings upon you and those you love.*

### ***Postlude***

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher  
The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah

Readers & Intercessors  
4pm: Louise Sherry  
7pm: Chris Cutler

Greeters  
4pm: Doreen & Ron Watt  
7pm: Karen Bryan & Linda MacLaren

Ushers  
4pm: Nancy Fleming; Linda MacLaren  
7pm: Cindy Penman; Beryl Young

**St. John's will move to the Red Stage of the Diocese of Ottawa's Pandemic plan effective 12:01am on Saturday, December 26. The building and office will be closed, and all worship will be offered on-line via our website, Facebook and YouTube.**

**The flowers in the church this Christmastide are given  
to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for:**

Bud & Lois Arkell  
Anne & Tracy

The Rev'd Edward Attwell  
Fred & Frances Attwell  
Jack Attwell

David & Mabel Ashworth  
Marion & Roscoe Hodgins

Wilma & Chip Burrows  
Bill Lee

Marion Burrows  
Catherine (MacDonald) & Andrew  
James Burrows  
Patricia Hambleton

Bruce Byington  
Jean Lewis

John & Doreen Cassell  
Ernest & Lyla Dowdall

Dawn Chamberlain

Arnold Fleming  
Muriel & Norman Burke  
Dorothy, Elmer & John Paul

Eva & Sidney Hagan  
Annette & Willis Hagan  
Stella & Vincent McGlynn  
John Conor McCabe

Carrie, Charles, David, Ross, Lyle,  
Cheryl & Christine Haskins

Henry Hauraney

The Rev'd Albert Hoppins  
Eldon, Jessie, Bob, Dorothy, Stan, Larry  
& Joyce Minshull  
Randy & Daniel DeGrace

Elton Hewitt  
Philip Hewitt  
Ross Troop  
Fred & Maude Hewitt  
Ormond & Carrie Bass

Wayne Jackson & Nancy Jackson  
Eva & John Craig & Family  
Bonnie & Ray Harper

Grace Kelso  
Wilhelmine Hill  
Luella Randall  
Harold & Sarah Millar  
Dave & Edna Good

Leslie & Kathleen Lewis  
David Hall  
Leo Donovan  
Pat Wiseman

Sandra Mulrooney  
Ralph Purcell  
Lynsey Whitney  
Joseph Purcell

The Rev'd Doug Norman  
Sylvia Conboy

Clifford Orr

Norm Porter  
Earl, Florence, Joan Porter  
Bill, Keitha & Mabel Porter  
Boyd & Eileen Thompson

Art Powers  
George Kelly  
Clarence Kerfoot  
Ken Brown

Harry & Florence Cross &  
sons Lloyd, John, Glenn & Larry

Wilhelmina & Lawrence Spencer

Joyce & Bill Swenson;  
Edna & Ross Barber  
Carol (Swenson) Levere

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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www.facebook.com/St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Louise Sherry – Church Secretary

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9am -12noon by appointment only.

## Weekly Liturgies

Sundays 8am & 10:30am Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays 10am Holy Communion

The Right Reverend Shane A. D. Parker – Bishop of Ottawa

The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah – Incumbent Priest & Pastor  
catherine-ascah@ottawa.anglican.ca | (613) 859-4962

The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

Sterling Bennett – Organist 283-7833

Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator emduberville@hotmail.com

Paul Howard – Rector's Warden 283-1172

Karen Bryan – People's Warden 284-8149

Garry Rodford – Deputy Warden 284-0488

Dan Willis – Deputy Warden 884-5095

Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary

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