St. Paul's Cathedral

Christmas Eve

HOLY EUCHARIST (Book of Alternative Services)

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2:10-11

Prelude *Variations on 'Infant Holy'* Alex Guilmant

Opening Hymn *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **Blue Book 138**
Please stand

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Greeting

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

People **And also with you.**

Advent Wreath

Presider The season for watching and waiting is over. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. This is the light of the world, and the darkness cannot extinguish it.

The Christ candle is lit.

All **O sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.**

Presider Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples. Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the Lord in holy splendor. Tremble before him, all the earth.

All **Say among the nations, 'The Lord is King!' Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. He will judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with truth.**

Presider We acknowledge that the land on which we gather and in which our diocese serves is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral), and Wendat peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. May we seek to listen and learn and share in ministry with our Indigenous siblings.

Gloria **Blue Book 686**

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Psalm *96* Chant: John Foster

Second Reading *Titus 2:11-14*

Gradual Hymn *Shepherds in the Field Abiding* **Blue Book 135**

Holy Gospel *Luke 2:1-20* *The Rev. Dr. Virginia C. Lane*

Gospeller The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the conclusion:

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily *The Rev. Michael DeKay*

Nicene Creed *Please stand*

Presider Let us confess our faith, as we say,

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.

Prayers of the People

Leader In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God, on this most holy day, we celebrate your Son our Saviour, born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night of His birth, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand (...and) all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, your Christ came as a shining light in the darkness. Bring comfort to (...and) all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, the angles sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in the world. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's saving redemption. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On that holy night, heaven came down to earth, and earth was raised to heaven. Hold in your hand (...and) all those who have journeyed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader On this holy day, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that Christ may be born in us today. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Gracious and Loving God, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints, through Him, who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider Most merciful God,

All **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.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon 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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *The First Nowell* **Blue Book 139**

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the lory of your name.

Sanctus (from 'Little Organ Mass') Joseph Haydn

Presider 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."

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

Presider 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 for ever.

People **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider 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.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please move to the communion station closest to you.

Agnus Dei (from 'Little Organ Mass') Joseph Haydn

Communion Motet *Sussex Carol* Philip Ledger

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
People **Amen.**

Doxology

Presider 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful* **Blue Book 118**

Blessing & Dismissal
The congregation is dismissed in these or similar words:

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo'* J.S. Bach

Presider – **The Right Reverend Robert Bennett**
Preacher – **The Reverend Michael DeKay**
Intercessor – **The Reverend Dr. Virginia C. Lane**
Organist – **Ian Sadler**
Servers – **Stephanie Allen, Bryan Kenwell**
Lay Administrants – **Doug Campbell, Marilyn Freeman, Gord Rolleston**
Reader – **Stephanie Allen**
Children's Ministry – **Heather Clark**
Wardens – **Greg Childs and Marilyn Papple**
Bell Ringer – **Murray Hunter**
Live Stream – **Jade Vajna** / *Sound Technician* – **Daniel Aldcroft**

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
from the Staff and Clergy of St. Paul's Cathedral

Christmas Flowers 2022

THE FLOWERS that decorate the Cathedral in honour of Christmas are to the glory of God and in memory of...

- ✝ Jean Clewley a loving mum and granny, our sweet heavenly babies Jaxon and Edward given by Wendy, Stephanie, Lydia and family;
- ✝ a husband and father Joe Haggerty, and a daughter and sister Susan, given by Marian, Tom & Catherine Haggerty;
- ✝ my parents, Helen and Fred Knight given by Jodi Knight;
- ✝ family members given by Bill & Jane Korhonen;
- ✝ William & Helen MacGregor and Gordon & Noreen Heard given by Iain & Julia MacGregor;
- ✝ Parents and Grandparents given by Esther Moore;
- ✝ our families given by Gordon and Joan Rolleston;
- ✝ my beloved Tom, our parents & loved ones given by Florence Perkes; and
- ✝ Vera & Hay Shum given by the Shum Family.

And also in memory of loved ones given by...

- ✝ The Rev'd Michael & Christine DeKay;
- ✝ Allan Nagata;
- ✝ Janet Gard and Holly Shevchuk;
- ✝ John & Nancy Shipston; and
- ✝ Nancy Wells.

The flowers at the South Transept are presented to the glory of God and in loving memory of...

- ✝ Ron Sewell, Gladys & Percy Stewardson and Blanche & Grant Anderson given by Murray & Gayle Anderson and family.

The flowers at the Douglas Cross are in loving memory of...

- ✝ Lt. Robert Hugh Douglas given by the Altar Guild.