

Welcome to the Church of 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.



This service is video recorded, streamed, and broadcast. By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video in our on-line worship offering through St. John's website and Facebook pages.



Hymns are from the [blue](#) Common Praise hymnbook unless otherwise indicated.

Today's service can be found on page 185 of the [green](#) Book of Alternative Services ([BAS](#)) located in the pew back in front of you.

Christmas Eve *in the evening*

December 24, 2023
SUNG EUCHARIST ~ 7 pm.

Book of Alternative Services page 185

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting: Christmas Eve

Theme: The Lord Jesus Christ

Opening Explanation

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! These words of hope and expectation are the centre of the advent season, when we wait for the coming of Jesus – born in Bethlehem, crowned King of Heaven, alive in our hearts, and returning at the end of days.

On this, the day of Jesus' birth, we rejoice and give thanks to God for the coming of the Christ. Anticipated in Abraham and David, proclaimed by the prophets, attested to by John the Baptist, and born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus of Nazareth comes this day, King of God's creation, and infant in a manger. Today we pray that God would prepare our hearts so that God's son, our Lord Jesus Christ would be born king of hearts just as he is king of the world.

Prayer:

People of God: shout and sing!

Tell the good news of peace on earth.

Lord, bring us today into Christ's peace.

All God's people shout:

Amen!

Angels dance

and the bright star shines.
All creation bows to the Lord of all.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people say/shout:
Amen!

One with us,
yet born to save,
he will show us the way to God.
Lord, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people say/shout:
Amen!

People of God: shout and sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Amen.

• Processional (Opening) Hymn

118

Greeting

With all the voices of heaven we celebrate the coming of our
Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at his birth.
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

• Collect for Purity

BAS, p. 185

• The Gloria (Sung)

BAS, p. 186

Collect of the Day

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. **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.
3 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.
4 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.
5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
6 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.
7 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.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.

**4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.**

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

**6 Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

9 Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

**10 Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity.'**

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12 let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 14 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.

People: Thanks be to God.

• **Gradual Hymn:**

120

vss. 1 & 2 before the Gospel, vs. 3 & 4 after the Gospel

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-19

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. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 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. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom

he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 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.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 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: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The Prayers of the People

- **Confession and Absolution** **p. 191**

The Peace

People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.

Offertory Hymn **136**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

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.

- **Eucharistic Prayer #3** **p. 198**

Sanctus (sung)

**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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

- **The Lord's Prayer** **p. 211**

- **Breaking of the Bread 5** **p. 212**

Communion

All who are baptized are welcome to receive the bread and/or the wine of Holy Communion. At the Greeter's direction, please make your way to receive the elements if you wish to. All are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

- **Hymns during Communion** **123, 126 139**
119_

- **Hymn after Communion** **74**

Prayer after Communion

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.

- **Doxology** **p. 214**

The Blessing

May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

- **Recessional Hymn** **138**

Dismissal

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAY K7A

Come and pray for Smiths Falls and area. The last Sunday of each month Christians from across Smiths Falls gather to pray for the town and area, to sing praise to God, and to encourage each other. This month (December 31 at 7pm) we'll gather at St. John's Parish Hall. We'll be giving thanks to God for the year that is ending, and seeking God's blessing for the year to come for the town and area. We will be handling music in the style of an Open Mic night or a good old fashioned Irish Ceilidh, so bring an instrument and/or some praise music you love.

OFFICE HOURS

Christmas and New Year holiday office hours:

Dec. 25 to 28 office closed;

Friday, Dec. 29 regular office hours;

Wednesday, Dec. 27 no communion;

January 1, 2024, office closed

For pastoral emergencies, call Thomas (613)207-6296.

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer
Reader & Intercessor: Donna Howard
Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis & Chris Elmsley
Greeters : Ron Coleman & Linda Coleman
Readings for next Sunday, December 31, 2023 ~
Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Mt 2:1-12

Merry Christmas!

Next week...

The wisemen arrive!

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

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

Lily Willis

Arnold & Vivian Fleming
Lisa Fleming
Norman and Muriel Burke
Elmer and Dorothy Paul
John Paul

Roy & Edith James
William & Alice Hamilton

Rev. Albert Hoppins, Eldon,
Jessie, Bob, Dorothy, Larry,
Joyce & Stan Minshull, Daniel
Degrace

Douglas Rhoden

Clifford Orr

Robert Moir
Kenneth Moir

Charles Evoy

Bill Burns

Roy & Lois McLaren

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

Charles & Esther Roberts
Jim and Sadie Roberts
Roy Roberts
Tom Roberts
Al & Marion, Barry, Geoff

Henry Hauraney

Ernest & Lyla Dowdall
John & Doreen Cassell

Dan Burns

Kathleen & Leslie Lewis
David Hall
Leo Donovan
Graham Hall
Tom & Elaine Moyse

James Bennett
Winston Porter

Audrey Bennett

Daniel Burns