

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa • Anglican Church of Canada

**Christmas
Day**

December 25, 2023
SUNG EUCHARIST ~ 10 a.m.

Book of Alternative Services page 185

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.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

Announcements

Advent Wreath Themes and Prayers:

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 say/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.

- **Greeting**

BAS, p.185

- **Collect for Purity**

- **Gloria**

BAS, p. 186

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 for ever.

Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Is 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has

bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

(Read Responsively)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

Heb 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. **Amen.**

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

- **Nicene Creed** **p. 188**
- **Prayers of the People** **p. 190**
- **Confession and Absolution** **p. 188**

The Peace

People may greet one another with the peace of Christ.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Generous Creator,
in faith and joy
we celebrate the birth of your Son.
Increase our understanding and our love

of the riches you have revealed in him,
who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

- **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. 213

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.*

Prayer after Communion

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of
divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the
name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

- **Doxology**

p. 214

The Blessing

Dismissal

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY: MON 7:15PM

We have completed our journey through the book, *Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together*. It has been an incredible year reading and discussing Jesus' teachings through this book. We are taking a break and will start up again on January 15, 2024 reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*, by Joanna Weaver. If anyone would care to join, please let Nancy Fleming know so she can order a book for you. We meet on Mondays at 7:15-8:15 through zoom.

PINT & A PASSAGE: TUES 7PM

Join the conversation about the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday at Rob Roy's. Bring your Bible and an open mind.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are now available to be picked up in the Canterbury Room.

CHURCH CALENDARS

2024 Church calendars are now available for pick up in the Canterbury Room. The cost is \$6.00.

2023 CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

All 2023 Church contributions must be made **by January 5, 2024** and cheques post-dated for December 31, 2023. E-transfers must be deposited by December 31, 2023. Any contributions received after that date will be entered into 2024 contributions.

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 here at St. John's Parish Hall (2 George St., South).** 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.

Church 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.

Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

December 31:

Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Presiding Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer

Preacher: Rev. Canon Jim Roberts

Reader: Lois Arkell

Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis/Kathy Porter

Greeters: Kathy Porter

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

**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

Bill Burns
Daniel Burns

Charles Evoy
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

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Follow us on Facebook at:

St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Kathryn Rycroft – Parish Secretary

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Weekly Liturgies

Holy Eucharist – Sundays 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.* – Wednesdays 10 a.m.

*Sunday School offered at 10 a.m. from September – June

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

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer, Presiding Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant

The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

Garry Hoekstra – Organist

Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator

emduberville@hotmail.com

Paul Howard – Rector's Warden 613-283-1172

Karen Bryan – People's Warden 613-284-8149

Garry Rodford – Deputy Warden 613-284-0488

Dan Willis – Deputy Warden 613-884-5095

Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary

SJSFenvelope secretary@gmail.com