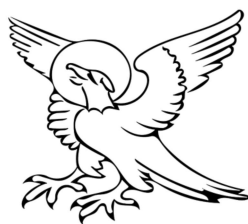


St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

Diocese of Ottawa | Anglican Church of Canada

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024



Sung Eucharist | Advent 3 | 10 AM

From the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada (v.2.1)

Welcome

to St. John the Evangelist

A worshipping congregation of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa,
part of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. We give thanks to God for the care and stewardship of this land we share. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

If you are visiting, or here for the first time, we hope you will feel most welcome! Please know that baptised members of all churches are welcome to receive communion and everyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Children are always welcome! They may remain in the congregation, if they choose, or they may join our excellent Sunday School. Children are also invited to take part in the opening procession by helping to carry items to the altar for worship.

The notes in **this service booklet** will help you to understand and participate in the actions and words of our worship today. Please read the notes on the left-hand column of most pages if more information would be helpful. The red text will give instructions about posture or actions. And if you still have questions, feel free to ask anyone around you. We're a friendly bunch and would love to help.

Video Disclaimer

By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video, on-line (Facebook) and broadcast.

A bit about Advent...

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty.

(Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour [though in North America we have adopted Blue as the colour of advent to separate us

from the penitential theme of Lent]. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

*From the Church of England,
Times and Seasons
www.churchofengland.org*

Before the service begins....

Please use this psalm for your own personal devotions as you prepare for worship.

Psalm 72 *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

Of Solomon

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.

- 5 May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

- 17 May his name endure for ever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
- 19 Blessed be his glorious name for ever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.



We Gather and Prepare for Worship

The Liturgy—a word that means “the work of the people”—helps us put our faith into actions as well as words. The Liturgy leads us on a journey that begins when we enter the church and continues through the week to come.

The tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath is not an old one. Coming from the Lutheran traditions of Northern Europe, it quickly became popular among Christians of many traditions and nations. It is meant to anticipate the warmth and light of Christmas while enhancing the sense of anticipation as we await the coming of the Lord.

Prayer

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now. Amen.**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting

Advent 3 Theme: John The Baptist

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, the risen and ascended King of Heaven, alive in our hearts, and returning at the end of days.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we remember how John the Baptist prepared the world for the coming of the Christ. He called everyone who would hear him to prepare the way, to make straight paths, and change their ways from self-service to the service of God. Today we pray that God our Heavenly Father would prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, just as he prepared the people of Judea through the ministry of John the Baptist.

Processional Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

O come, O wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
from every foe deliver them

that trust your mighty power to save
and give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high
and close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, O Dayspring from on high
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace.

Refrain

All stand.

*We begin by greeting each other,
and encouraging each other in
God's love for us.*

The presiding celebrant greets 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.

People **And also with you.**

Please remain standing.

In this prayer, we ask God to prepare our hearts to come before him in worship.

Canticle: In Advent and Lent the Glory To God is replaced with another prayer or canticle. Here, we are saying the hymn of Mary which declares the mercy and greatness of God in raising up the lowly, and bringing down the proud.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,

People 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.**

The Canticle

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

The Collect of the Day

A 'collect' is a prayer that 'collects' the major themes of the service and commits them to God.

All God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please be seated for the reading of God's word.

Anglican worship tradition includes four readings from Holy Scripture, in addition to the many quotations from Scripture that make up the words of the liturgy itself.

The readings are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary, a globally agreed upon calendar of readings shared by the majority of Christians.

These readings include a passage from an Old Testament book, a passage from the Psalms, a passage from a New Testament book, and a passage from the Gospels. Over the course of three years, the majority of the Bible gets read and preached upon.

We Proclaim the Word

Reader A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all

your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that

time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6)

REFRAIN Ring out your joy, for the Holy One of Israel is in your midst.

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour.

Refrain

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salva-

tion. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **Refrain**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **Refrain**

New Testament Reading

Reader A reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel book is processed to the centre of the church as we sing.

Advent Gospel Acclamation by Kate O'Keefe

Chorus *sung by all*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Fine
x2

Verse *sung by cantor/choir* : Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Chorus

All stand for the Gospel and turn to face the Gospel reader.

While we believe that all Scripture is God-breathed, we treat the Gospel readings with greater honour because it is there that we hear the words of Jesus and come to know of his actions and teachings.

The Gospel Reading

These words are sung.

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we

do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

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

Advent Gospel Acclamation

as above.

Chorus *sung by all—twice*

Verse *sung by cantor/choir*: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.*

Chorus

Scripture needs not only to be read, but also explained (Acts 8:31). The sermon is when we hear the word explained and proclaimed.

Sermon

A silence for reflection may follow.

All stand.

The Nicene Creed

A creed is a statement or collection of statements that outline a system of belief. The Nicene and Apostles' Creeds are foundational to the vast majority of Christian

Celebrant

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

churches and express the most condensed statements of what Christians believe.

In the Nicene Creed we declare faith in God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the final statements we declare that there is only one Church (no matter how many denominations there might be), and that the Church is holy (meaning, set apart for God's purposes), it is catholic (which means universal—it is the same Church regardless of time or place), and it is apostolic (that is, it is uniquely sent by God, and it sends its people into God's work and world).

We also declare our faith in the Gospel promise that in Jesus Christ there is forgiveness for our sins and life everlasting.

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.

Please sit or kneel for the prayers and through the confession and absolution.

We give thanks for what God has done, and ask him to help us and the world.

In the time of silence, you are encouraged to speak to God of those things in your life that hinder your relationship with God and with others. Speak to God of the things you have done and said that were wrong, and speak to God of the wrong things others have done and said to you. We ask for healing and forgiveness for ourselves and for each other.

Having asked God's forgiveness, we are assured that his mercy, pardon, deliverance, strength, and eternal life are granted to us.

All stand.

Having reconciled with God, and having forgiven our neighbours, we express our good will and right relationship with each other by sharing a sign and word of the peace given to us in Jesus Christ.

The Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

Amen.

The Peace

The presiding celebrant addresses the people.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice,
him serve with mirth, his praise forth
tell;
come ye before him and rejoice.

O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name al-
ways,
for it is seemly so to do.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

Please remain standing.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

Prayer over the Gifts

All **God of hope, renew in us the joy of your
salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The first part of the Great
Thanksgiving prayers is sung,
with everyone standing together.*

The Great Thanksgiving

*The Eucharistic prayers we use are
part of the ancient heritage and
history of the church. These pray-
ers express the Christian under-
standing of what the Eucharist is,
and what it means to have com-
munion with Jesus and with each
other. But above all, they give
thanks (the meaning of 'Eucharist')
to God for the gift he has given us
in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the
gift Jesus has given us in his sup-
per.*

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, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You may be seated, or remain standing, as you see fit.

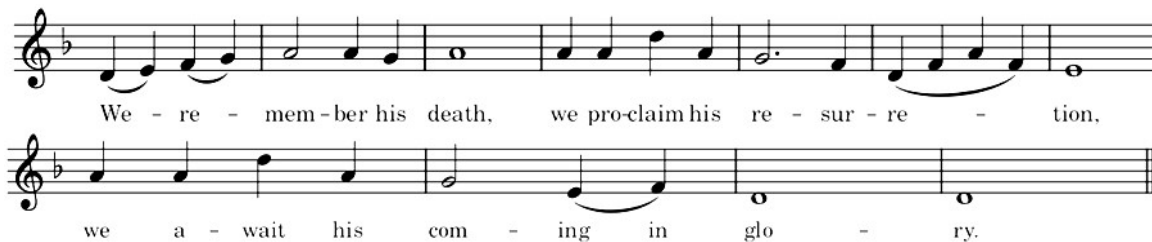
We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

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,



The image shows two staves of musical notation in a single system. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We - re - mem - ber his death, we pro-claim his re - sur - re - tion,
we a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

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.

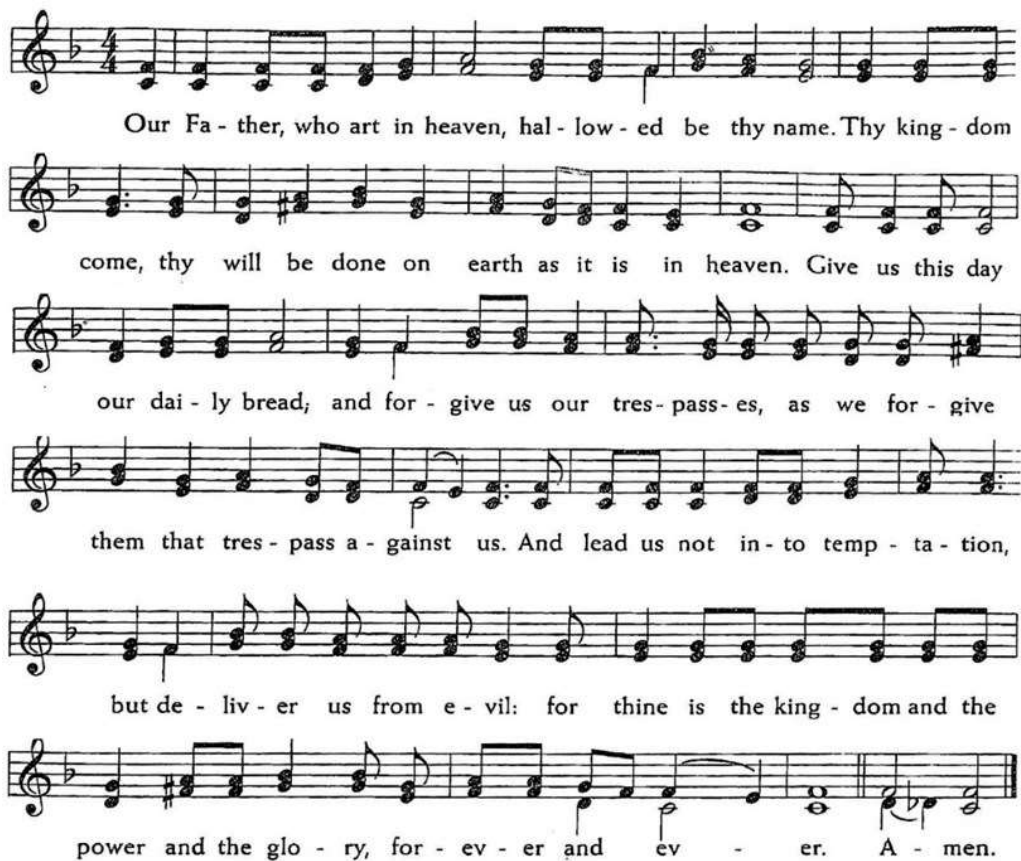
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable

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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



Our Fa - ther, who art in heaven, hal - low - ed be thy name. Thy king - dom
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day
our dai - ly bread, and for - give us our tres - pass - es, as we for - give
them that tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,
but de - liv - er us from e - vil: for thine is the king - dom and the
power and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The bread, when broken, is a sign both of the gift of God in the breaking of Christ's body upon the cross, and of how the whole church (also known as the 'Body of Christ') is unified in our sharing of his communion.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

Every baptized person who is welcome to receive communion in their own church is welcome to

The Communion

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, x2

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world; Grant us___ grant us___ peace.

receive here. All are welcome to come forward to ask for a blessing.

The Communion Hymn and The Hymn After Communion are found in the bulletin insert.

Prayer after Communion

Please remain standing.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. Amen.**

The Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can**

This quotation from Ephesians 3:20 leads us to praise God for the ways in which he works on our behalf, and how his generosity exceeds our imaginings. We proclaim our praise not only for and by ourselves, but with and for all the generations of the faithful, past, present, and future.

ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Go into the World

The Blessing

Celebrant Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing.... **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the
Lord,
is laid for you faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he
hath said,
to you who to Jesus for refuge have fled?
“Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dis-
mayed!
For I am thy God and will still give thee
aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause
thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent
hand.
When through the deep waters I call thee
to go,

the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to
bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

When through fiery trials thy pathway
shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy sup-
ply:
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only de-
sign
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to
refine.

The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for
repose
I will not – I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor
to shake,
I’ll never – no, never – no, never forsake!

At the end of the service of worship, we are all sent out into the world, once again, to carry out the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and by deed. In the week to come, peace; fellowship; love; forgiveness; welcome; and the Good News we have proclaimed are all blessings we can share with the world.

Dismissal

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome to join us for refreshments in the parish hall after the service.
God bless you and keep you.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

Today, December 15, 4:00 p.m.

2024 CONTRIBUTIONS

December 31st is on a Wednesday this year. The last day to submit your contributions for 2024 will be Sunday, January 5, 2025. Any cheques, e-transfers, tithes, etc. must be dated no later than December 31, 2024. Offerings submitted after January 5th will be entered as 2025 contributions. Thank you.

175 ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS

Your Parish Council has been hearing some great ideas of how we could celebrate our 175th anniversary. If you have an idea and are willing to champion the event (plan, promote and execute), please submit a proposal to the Church office with the following information: type of event, approximate date, who will take the lead and resources required. Let's party!

175th Anniversary Hymn

We want to celebrate our 175th in song!

Are you a wordsmith or a poet? Consider sharing your love of St. John's by writing some lyrics for a 175th Anniversary Hymn. Choose your melody from Let All Things Now Living (Hymn #403 BB) OR For the Fruit of all Creation (Hymn #259 BB) Write on your own or as a team. The best of the best may stand alone or be blended with other entries. You have lots of time to be creative – we are aiming for a May reveal! Questions? Check in with someone on the Music Ministry Team.

"ST. JOHN'S TODAY" – NEWSLETTER

We will be providing print and electronic copies of the newsletter. If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please provide your e-mail address on the sheets located in the Canterbury Room and at the North Entrance. You may also call the Church Office (613)283-1261 or e-mail, stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com to be placed on the e-mail list.

KEENAGERS

Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All

are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007. tercession for the needs and cares of our shared home.

SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAM-PAIGN

The Salvation Army is looking to recruit volunteers for the Kettle Campaign which begins November 15, 2024. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mary Lynn Wilson (613) 283-3563 or mary-lynn.wilson@salvationarmy.ca.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

If you wish to remember loved ones with memorial flowers this Christmas, please contact the Parish Office with the names of the people you wish remembered. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Office. Please make cheques payable to St. John's Altar Guild. **The deadline is Wednesday, December 18, 2024.**

DEC PRAY K7A

In this season joy in the coming of the Light of the World, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, all are invited to gather again on December 29 to pray for Smiths Falls and area. The last Sunday of each month, Christians from across the Smiths Falls area gather to pray for the town, townships, and villages, to sing praise to God, and to encourage each other. This month, December 29, at 7:00 p.m. we will gather here at St. John's. We'll be praying generally for the town and area, giving thanks for God's gifts of grace and seeking his in-

INTERVAL HOUSE

On behalf of St. John's, Lydia Dixon (previous Sunday School Coordinator) will be collecting items for the Lanark County Interval House for the Christmas season. Some items that are needed include: hygiene items such as shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, feminine products; hats and mittens (adults and children); arts and craft sets; self care items; socks and cozy items; board games and puzzles; books or journals; gift cards, pajamas for women and children. Items will be collected until December 22. Items may be dropped off at the Church. Questions, please contact Lydia at (613) 285-9811 or by e-mail: l.s.dixon@live.com.

CHURCH OFFICE

Will be closed Monday, December 23 to Friday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Go out to Ann Hare on December 17!

Today's ministry team

Presiding Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer

Preacher: Rev. Canon Jim Roberts

Reader: Karen Bryan

Communion Assistants: Mike McCulloch & Chris Elmsley

Greeters : Paul Howard & Donna Howard

Altar Guild: Debbie Lewis & Ila Bennett

Readings for next Sunday, December 22, 2024:

Mic 5:2-5a; Cantic 18 (Luke 1:46-55); Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

2 George Street South, Smiths Falls, Ontario K7A 1X4
613-283-1261 | stjohs.smithsfalls@gmail.com
www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com

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. (said) & 10 a.m. (sung)*
Wednesdays 10 a.m.

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

Ministry Team

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

John Wanless – Organist
Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator emduberville@hotmail.com
Dan Willis – Rector's Warden 613-884-5095
Lois Arkell – People's Warden 613-283-3444
Tammy Mulrooney – Deputy Warden 613-485-3128
Pat Lee – Deputy Warden 613-485-3368
Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary SJSFenvelope secretary@gmail.com