The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, 2024

10:00AM

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

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
LONDON, ONTARIO | ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON

SUNG EUCHARIST (Book of Alternative Services)

Please stand when clergy and choir enter.

Prelude *The First Nowell*

Opening Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **Blue Book 120**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Presider From the Christ who was, who is and who is to come: Grace, Peace and Love be with you.
All **And also with you.**

Glory to God *Mass of Comfort and Joy* K Keil

The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.
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.
People **Amen.**

"Children's Corner" – Children are welcome to join Heather at the back of the Cathedral.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Today's Reader: Allan Nagata

(Silence is observed between the readings and the homily for reflection.)

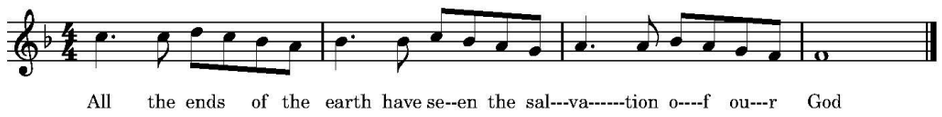
First Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm



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.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* **Blue Book 146, vs 1,2**
(Verses 1, 2 before the Gospel/Verses 3, 4 after the Gospel.)

Holy Gospel *Luke 2: 1-20*

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.**

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!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Hymn *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* **Blue Book 146, vs 3, 4**

Homily *The Very Rev'd Dr. Kevin George* *Please be seated*

The 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 Intercession Susan Patterson

Leader Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. I invite you to take a comfortable posture: standing, sitting or kneeling for the Prayers of the People.

A brief silence.

Angels sing with praise, and shepherds run with haste. As we glorify and praise you in this place, send us into the world, proclaiming the salvation you have revealed this night. God of grace,

People **receive our prayer.**

Leader The seas roar, and the trees of the forest sing for joy. As creation resounds with praise, inspire us with awe, reverence, and a renewed care for all that fills the fields, skies, and seas. God of grace,

People **receive our prayer.**

Leader The nations declare your glory. Uphold the leaders of the earth with your justice and righteousness. Break the rod of the oppressor in every land, and bring peace where there is conflict especially The Middle East, and Ukraine.

People **receive our prayer.**

Leader The holy family finds shelter around the animals' manger. Draw near to persons experiencing homelessness, those who are alone this holiday season, and all for whom this world makes no room. Wrap all your children in bands of love and mercy. God of Grace,

People **receive our prayer.**

Leader A child is born for us and light shines on the weary. Watch over those who give birth this day and attend to those who are dying. Be present in our joys and in our sorrows. God of grace,

People **receive our prayer.**

Leader The heavenly host praises you. With thanksgiving for Mary, Joseph, and all your saints, sustain us in the blessed hope revealed this night. Fashion us by their example into a people zealous for good deeds, sharing your love and mercy with all, God of Grace,

People **Receive our prayer.**

Leader We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 *Please stand*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn *See Amid the Winter's Snow* **Blue Book 148**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider 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.
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 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.

Holy Holy Holy *Mass of Comfort and Joy* K Keil

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 children; 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.

Great Amen *Mass of Comfort and Joy* K Keil

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The Communion

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

Gluten-free communion wafers *are available. Please indicate your wish to the administrant at Communion.*

Lamb of God *Mass of Comfort and Joy* K Keil

Communion Anthem *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* French tune *arranged by D Willcocks*

Prayer after Communion *Please stand*

Presider Let us pray.
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.
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 *Joy to the World* **Blue Book 154**

Blessing and Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the congregation in these or similar words:

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

Postlude *A Festive Christmas Voluntary* P Lehenbauer

Tonight's Liturgical Leaders

Presider and Preacher – **The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George**
Gospeller – **The Reverend Pat Henderson**
Interim Organist – **Dr. Matthew Pope, DMA**
Associate Organist – **Olakunie Aoko**
Bell Ringer – **Lynn Watson**
Servers – **Pat Binnington, Victor Onebunne**
Lay Administrants – **Linda Gregson, Marilyn Papple**
Greeter – **Linda Gregson**
Children's Ministry – **Heather Clark**
Wardens – **Hazil Malone, Marilyn Papple**
Live Stream/Sound – **Christopher Sadler**

Christmas Flowers 2024

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 babies Jaxon and Edward given by Wendy, Stephanie, Lydia and family;
- ✝ our parents given by Linda Fraser and Allan Nagata;
- ✝ Archdeacon Ian Grant given by his wife Carol;
- ✝ Jozefa, Zofia, Kazia, Prab, Adam, Jurek, Irek, Wlad, Stan, Andrey;
- ✝ a husband and father Joe Haggerty, and a daughter and sister Susan, given by Marian, Tom & Catherine Haggerty;
- ✝ Jim Haight, husband, father, papa and Jim McGregor, father, given by Vicky Haight & family;
- ✝ dear family and friends given by William & Patricia Mack;
- ✝ parents and grandparents given by Esther Moore;
- ✝ Audrey Smith given with love from the Smith Family;
- ✝ Vera & Hay Shum given by the Shum Family;
- ✝ Ron Wise given by wife Pat.

And also in memory of loved ones given by...
- ✝ Iain & Julia MacGregor;
- ✝ John & Nancy Shipston
- ✝ Keith & Lynn Watson.

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.

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

The Right Reverend Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron
The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George
Dean of Huron & Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral
The Venerable Sam Thomas
Senior Associate Priest/Director of Pastoral Care
The Rev'd Dr. Dawn Davis
Director of Faith Formation
The Reverend Pat Henderson
Deacon
The Reverend Canon Marian Haggerty
Honorary Assistant Emeritus

The Reverend Dr. Joshua Samuel
Resident Theologian
Matthew Pope
Interim Organist & Director of Music
Gregory Childs
Church Warden
Gord Rolleston
Church Warden
Heather Clark
Children's Ministry
Carrie Fieldhouse
Parish Coordinator

St. Paul's Cathedral
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