

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

*A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name Shall  
be called Emmanuel: God with us. Matthew 1:23*



*St. Paul's Cathedral*  
LONDON | CANADA



## **Readings and Music for the Season with Eucharist**

Please stand when clergy and choir enter.

*Choir sing: Introit **The Renunciation***

Into this world of sorrow,  
Into this valley of rue and sadness,  
Came Christ our dear Consoler,  
And brought us gladness.

Now is the time of His coming,  
Now are our hearts with joy replete;  
But, to lead us to Heaven,  
He bread of tears did eat.

*During the Opening Hymn, children, please follow the choir and gather in front of the Advent Wreath.*

### **Opening Hymn** Once in Royal David's City

*Choir*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Once in royal David's city<br>stood a lowly cattle shed,<br>where a mother laid her baby<br>in a manger for His bed:<br>Mary was that mother mild,<br>Jesus Christ her little Child. | 2 He came down to earth from heaven<br>who is God and Lord of all,<br>and His shelter was a stable,<br>and His cradle was a stall:<br>with the poor, and meek, and lowly,<br>lived on earth our Savior holy. |
|--|--|

**All Sing**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 3 For he is our childhood's pattern;<br>day by day like us he grew,<br>He was little, weak, and helpless,<br>tears and smiles like us he knew:<br>and he feeleth for our sadness,<br>and he shareth in our gladness. | 4 For he is our childhood's pattern;<br>day by day like us he grew,<br>He was little, weak, and helpless,<br>tears and smiles like us he knew:<br>and he feeleth for our sadness,<br>and he shareth in our gladness. |
|--|--|

## The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant From the Christ who was, who is and who is to come: Grace, Peace and Love be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant As the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer, we continue our Advent journey:

All **From the corners of our hearts, to the corners of this place, to the corners of your world O God, in your ever-widening embrace.**

*All Sing*                      5        **And our eyes at last shall see him  
Through his own redeeming love,  
For that Child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above:  
And he leads his children on  
To the place where he is gone.**

## Advent Wreath Lighting

Reader Today, O God, we light the candle of love. (silence as the candle is lit) We pray for places in our lives and in our world that cry out for your love and tender care. Make us instruments of your love, so that through us others may experience your fullness and know how deep, how wide, and how endless your love really is.

All **Grant us a green and living faith.**

Reader Bright star-maker God, travel with us through Advent. Shine into our dark corners, lead us into ways of justice, strengthen us, with your hope, peace, joy and love - bring us to new birth.

All **Hear us, O God, for we live in your love. We wait with all your people through the ages and into tomorrow. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

*Children are invited to go to the church school with Heather.*

Celebrant Let us pray

*The community may pray silently. The celebrant then says the collect.*

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

## **HYMN** Of Eternal Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
CP 132

Plainchant arr: Willcocks  
12th century

1. Of e - ter - nal Love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan\_ to be,

10 he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he,

19 of the things that are and have\_ been, and that

26 fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.\_

**2 At his Word the worlds were framed.**  
He commanded, it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean  
in their threefold order one;  
all that grows beneath the shining  
of the moon and burning sun,  
evermore and evermore.

**3 O that birth forever blessed,**  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore

4     **O ye heights of heaven, adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
all dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and king;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.**

*Please be seated.*

## **We Wait in Hope**

Reading     *Genesis 22:15-18*     John Lutman

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,  
And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this  
thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:  
That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the  
stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed  
shall possess the gate of his enemies;  
And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast  
obeyed my voice.

**God is praised in Hope**     The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George  
*By Susan Palo Cherwien*

God is praised in hope.  
God is praised in those who do not succumb to sarcasm and despair.  
Those who find a song in the cold night and the beauty in each day  
survive  
are not cast down  
are not crushed.

Suffering is a pregnant night and hope brings us to the dawn.

Hope shines our way through the wilderness  
to the new, the unexpected -  
the longed for.

In hope we find the beauty of each moment  
the song in the night  
the possible behind the pain  
the dawn behind the darkness  
the surprise behind the numbing cold  
the beloved behind the empty embrace  
the coming behind the silence.

**Hymn** O Come Divine Messiah

- 1 O come, divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away.**

*Refrain*

*Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.  
Dispel the night and show your face,  
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.  
O come, Divine Messiah;  
the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph  
and sadness flee away*

- 2 O Christ, whom nations sigh for,  
whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
come, break the captives' fetters,  
redeem the long-lost fold.**

*Refrain*

- 3 You come in peace and meekness  
and lowly will your cradle be;  
all clothed in human weakness  
shall we your Godhead see.**

*Refrain*

## **We Wait in Peace**

Reading     *Isaiah 11:1-4b, 6-9*     Ruth McCluskie

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Your Kingdom Come** The Venerable Sam Thomas

*By Mimsy Jones*

The Kingdom of God is like standing on your head and seeing the world upside down. It is seeing things differently. It is seeing things the way God apparently sees them. God, according to Jesus, sees greatness in small people and things and actions, in the seemingly insignificant people and events we tend to overlook. God is looking for justice and fairness and peace. One Bible scholar says that 'Your Kingdom Come' should be translated "Set the world right."

To set the world right means to make the world a better place. It may surprise us to know that when Jesus tells us, his disciples, to pray for the coming of the kingdom, he means the outer conditions of the world as much, if not more, than in human hearts. Jesus was a social activist; he died to set the world right.

It seems to me that he would be urging us today to act for justice, to speak up for better schools, to get to the core of the causes of poverty and addiction. Jesus would tell us to talk more about peace and less about war. To build weapons of massive peace initiatives while we take action to protect innocent people from mass destruction. It is not always comfortable to raise these issues, but as Barbara Taylor says, "Jesus needs followers, not admirers."

## **HYMN “Your Kingdom Come”**

- 1     “Your kingdom come” on bended knee  
the passing ages pray;  
and faithful souls have yearned to see  
on earth that kingdom’s day.**
- 2     But the slow watches of the night  
not less to God belong,  
and for the everlasting right  
the silent stars are strong.**
- 3     And lo, already on the hills  
the flags of dawn appear.  
Gird up your loins, you prophet souls;  
proclaim the day is near:**
- 4     The day in whose clear shining light  
all wrong shall stand revealed,  
when justice shall be throned in might,  
and every hurt be healed;**
- 5     When knowledge, hand in hand with peace,  
shall walk the earth abroad  
The day of perfect righteousness,  
the promised day of God.**

## **We Wait in Joy**

Reading     *Isaiah 35:1-6*

Laurence Williams

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a



deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

### **First Coming**

The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George

*by Madeleine L'Engle*

God did not wait till the world was ready,  
till...the nations were at peace.  
God came when the heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.  
God did not wait for the perfect time.  
God came when the need was deep and great.  
God dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. God did not wait  
till hearts were pure. In joy God came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours of anguished shame  
God came, and god's light would not go out.  
God came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait til the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
God came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

### **Choir: Go Tell it on The Mountain**

African-American Spiritual *arranged by Ken Burton (b.1970)*

### **We Wait in Love**

Reading      *Micah 5:2-5a*      Obiageli Oraghalum

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

## **Virgin Birth**

The Venerable Sam Thomas

*by Joy Cowley*

We have within us a virgin place,  
a holy space which belongs to God alone.  
We know it by its hunger,  
we name it by its need,  
this space which will not be touched by the people we love or the things we  
gather or the positions we hold.

We have within us a growing place,  
an eternal space that exists for truth  
where the love of God overcomes us,  
where the life of God fills us,  
the Emmanuel space where we conceive and  
become pregnant with the Holy One  
and day by day give birth  
to Christ in the world.

**HYMN** O Come, All Ye Faithful

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!**  
**O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;**  
**Come and behold Him**  
**Born the King of Angels:**  
**O come, let us adore Him, (3×)**  
**Christ the Lord.**

**God of God, light of light,**  
**Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;**  
**Very God, begotten, not created:**  
**O come, let us adore Him, (3×)**  
**Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest:  
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)  
Christ the Lord.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Led by Susan Patterson

*As we continue on our Advent Journey, eyes fixed on hopeful horizons, let us pray.....*

O Compassionate One, we look to the stormy sky of political and economic unrest – help us to pay attention to the cries for mercy, peace and justice for all peoples,

**In the name of Christ who was, is and shall be.**

O Earth-keeper, we look to the polluted sky of an ailing planet – help us to pay attention to the ways in which we can mend and tend your earthly garden,

**In the name of Christ who was, is and shall be.**

O Source of being, we look to the cloudy sky of indifference and carelessness – help us to point to the signs of awe and wonder waiting to be revealed so as to inspire faith and hope.

We remember especially today from our prayer list: Ann & Ellis, Marg, George, Kevin, Stanley, Ruth, Phyllis, Fabian, Jill, Leeanne, Ethan, Patricia, Sophia, Vaughan.

**In the name of Christ who was, is and shall be.**

O Gentle Healer, we look to the twilight sky of those who are suffering with illness, loneliness, imprisonment- help us to pay attention to the ways we can ease their struggles.

We pray for those who are ill and in need of God's healing, and those in health care facilities.

**In the name of Christ who was, is and shall be.**

O Guiding light, we look to the dawning sky of a new day – help us to live out your way of abundant promise and blessing,

**In the name of Christ who was, is and shall be.**

O God of Mystery, we look to the shining dark sky that envelopes your peoples,  
past, present and future - bind us together in dreams, stories and memories,  
granting us as many blessings as there are stars in the advent sky.

All **Amen.**

## **The Peace**      *Please stand*

Celebrant    The peace of the Lord be always with you.

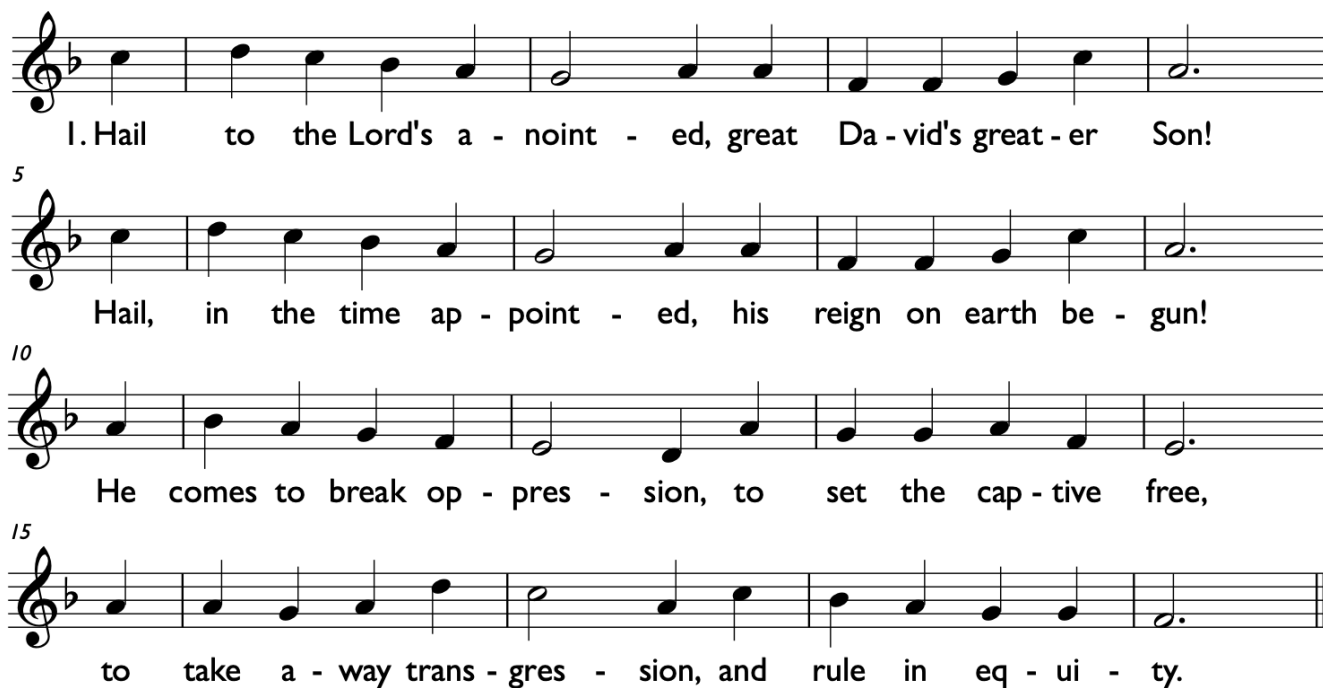
People       **And also with you.**

*Please exchange God's love of peace with each other.*

## **Offertory Hymn** Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CRÜGER  
CP 101

Johann Crüger  
1598 - 1662



I. Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!

5 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!

10 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,

15 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.

**2**    He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains  
shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

- 3     **Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
His praise all people sing.  
To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.**
- 4     **O'er every foe victorious,  
He on his throne shall rest,  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-best.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand forever:  
that name to us is Love.**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Celebrant     Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother  
                    of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the  
                    name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People         **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving



The\_ Lord\_ be with you and\_ al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to\_ the Lord\_

Let us give thanks to\_ the Lord\_ our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.\_

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff has a melody starting on G4, moving up to D5 and back down. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a lower melody starting on G3. The fourth staff continues the lower melody. The lyrics are written below each staff, with underscores indicating where the notes align with the words.

**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.

Piano: All Sing:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might:\_\_\_ Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might:\_\_\_  
Hea - ven and earth are full,\_\_\_ Full\_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho san - na in the high - est.  
Bles - sed is he who comes\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.\_\_\_ Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho san - na in the high - est.

**Celebrant** 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."

All

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**we remember his death,**

**we proclaim his resurrection,**

**we await his coming in glory;**

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.

People

Community Mass  
CP 734






Richard Proulx  
1937-2010





## Lord's Prayer

Celebrant   
Priest: As our Sa-viour taught us, let us pray:

People   
Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal-low-ed be your name, your king - dom come,  
  
your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us to-day our dai - ly bread.  
  
For-give us our sins As we for-give those who sin a - gainst\_ us.  
  
Save us from the time of trial, and de - li - ver us from e - vil.  
  
For the king-dom, the power, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

The choir will sing the **Agnus Dei**

The choir will sing the **Angus Dei** to the *Missa Brevis* (Short mass) setting by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Miserere nobis / Dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us / Grant us peace.

## The Communion

Celebrant 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.

### Communion Anthem Hymn to Mary by Hywel Davies

Hail! Quene of Heaven and steren of blis,  
Sen that thy sone thy fader is,  
How suld he only one thing thee warn,  
And thou his mother and he thy barne?

Hail! Fresh fontane that springes new,  
The rute and crope of all vertue,  
Thou polist gem without offence,  
Thou bair the Lamb of Innocence.

*Anonymous 16th century text*

### Communion Hymn People, Look East! The Time Is Near

BESANÇON  
CP 91

*Trad. French Melody*

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three lines of music. The first line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half). The lyrics are: "I. Peo - ple, look east! The time is near of the crown-ing of\_\_ the year." The second line starts with a measure rest of 6. The melody is: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half). The lyrics are: "Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim\_ the hearth\_ and set\_ the ta - ble." The third line starts with a measure rest of 11. The melody is: C3 (half), B2 (half), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (half), C2 (half). The lyrics are: "Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the guest, is on\_\_ the way." The piece ends with a double bar line.

I. Peo - ple, look east! The time is near of the crown-ing of\_\_ the year.

6  
Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim\_ the hearth\_ and set\_ the ta - ble.

11  
Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day: Love, the guest, is on\_\_ the way.

- 2 **Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**3     Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.**

**People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**4     Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**5     Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.**

**People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Celebrant**    Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.  
May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**People**        **Amen.**

**Reading** *Luke 1:39-45*        The Reverend Pat Henderson

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be.

*We pray in hopeful silence as we wait and wonder.*

## **Benediction**

*by Richard Becher*

Follow, where the spirit of Hope leads you  
Listen, as the child of Peace cries for you  
Rejoice, as the love of God embraces you  
and go now with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in your hearts  
and the blessing of Creator, Child and Spirit, Father, Son  
and Holy Spirit forever be with you.  
All **Amen.**

## **Post Communion Hymn It Came Upon Midnight Clear**

Noel  
CP 141

Trad. English Melody, adapt. Sullivan  
1842 - 1900

1. It came u - pon the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,

5 from an - gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:

10 "Peace on the earth, to all good will from heaven's most gra-cious king!"

15 The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 1, 5, 10, and 15 indicating the start of each line. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

2     **Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world;  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel-sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

3     **For lo! the days are hastening on  
By prophets seen of old  
When with the ever circling years  
Shall come the time foretold;  
When the new heaven and earth  
shall own the Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

## **Dismissal**

The Deacon dismisses the congregation in these or similar words:

Deacon     Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia.  
People     **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude    Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her  
              J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)

Notes for the Postlude:

The final voluntary in our series of Advent Chorale Prelude voluntaries. Back to the same chorale (hymn tune) we had from Advent 2, Vom Himmel Hoch ("From Highest heaven, I come to tell"), Bach lays out the tune of this chorale very clearly at the beginning, using each new phrase of the chorale as an opportunity to create a mini fugue. This piece is in the older 'stile-antico' style - this style (regularly) elicits Bach into writing many thickly textured contrapuntal parts - such as is the case here, where the pedals become the 5th part!

In contrast Bach's chorale prelude on this hymn from 2 weeks ago that focussed more on the rejoicing of the angels darting around the sky, this is a stately band of angels with trumpets. The piece finishes with the final phrase of the chorale thundering out in the pedals, reaching the lowest note on the organ, as if to signify God coming down to earth.

### **Coffee Hour**

After the service please join us for coffee and cold drinks.  
Youth Group meets in the Guild Room.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Diocese of Huron Chain of Prayer** – Today we pray for the Parishes of St. Matthew's, Windsor; Trivitt Memorial, Exeter; St. George's, Goderich; Christ Church, Port Albert.

**Bible Study and Soup** – Wednesdays @ 11am will commence on January 7, 2026.

**Wednesday Mid-Week Eucharist @ 12:15pm** - You are all invited to join us on any of them of your choosing.



## **Christmas Services at St. Paul's**

*Christmas Eve – December 24*

*4:00pm / 7:00pm / 11:00pm*

*Christmas Day – December 25*

*10:00am*

*New Year's Eve*

*11:00pm*

### **Today's Liturgical Leaders**

Celebrant – The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George

Preacher – The Venerable Sam Thomas

Gospeller – The Reverend Pat Henderson

Organist & Director of Music – Laurence Williams

Servers – Stephanie Allen, Tristian Fair, Doug Campbell, Clark Home

Lay Administrants – Doug Campbell, Carolyn Doyle

Greeters – Joan Rolleston, Marilyn Papple

Welcome Ministers – Elyshia Johynn, Doreen Kyomugisha

Bell Ringer

Live Stream – Jade Vajna

Children's Ministry – Heather Clark

Warden – Jim Ferguson

**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 Reverend Dr. Dawn Davis**

Director of Faith Formation

**The Reverend Pat Henderson**

Deacon

**The Reverend Canon Marian Haggerty**

Honorary Assistant Emeritus

**The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls**

Honorary Assistant

**The Reverend Dr. Joshua Samuel**

Resident Theologian

**Laurence Williams**

Organist & Director of Music

**Gord Rolleston**

Church Warden

**Jim Ferguson**

Church Warden

**Doreen Kyomugisha**

Deputy Church Warden

**Heather Clark**

Children's Ministry

**Carrie Fieldhouse**

Parish Coordinator

# ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

## Christmas Schedule

### **December 24 - Christmas Eve**

4 PM – Children's Christmas Mass

7 PM – Christmas with String Orchestra

11 PM – Traditional Candlelight

Midnight Mass

### **December 25 - Christmas Day**

10 AM – Nativity Mass

### **December 31 - New Year's Eve**

11 PM — New Year Mass

