# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST



## **CHRISTMAS EVE**

DECEMBER 24, 2025 9:00 PM



2345 Alta Vista Dr. Ottawa, ON K1H 7M6 613.733.0336 www.stthomasaltavista.ca

## **CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL – 2025**

# The Christmas Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory for the lives of the following, by their loved ones.

Gerald & Bruce Arnold

Margaret Harrison

Donald Joseph Horton

Walter Charles Morgan

Florence Jane Morgan

Gerry Green

The Haynes Family

Eleanor Lucas

Lionel Cutting

Maureen Smith

Mollie & Lloyd Askwith

Carol G. Kauk

Julia Wright

Mabel & Wilson Leach

Jo & Thomas Tyson

Jeffrey Orange

Frank Allevato

Stella & Maria Allevato

Lorne & Marjorie Petticrew

Mabel Danson

William Danson

Arnold Smith

Gloria Smith

Carol Fawcett

Don Whillans

Cora McInerney

John Parks

Alice & Earle Rourke

Pamala Harvey

Elisabeth McGregor

Florence L. Cheesman

John (Jack) W. Cheesman

John E. Cheesman

Sylvia Wacey

William (Bill) L. Wacey

Mary Falls

Oz & Betty Muma

Lillian Bianca Ramalingam

Keith Flegg

Chip Sangster

Gwen & George Greenhough

Basil, Mary & Judy-Anne Teekasingh





## **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

Prelude: O Holy Night ~ A. Adam/W.Stickles

#### Welcome

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

Dear friends, we gather on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory. **May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.** 

May we always seek to respect the histories, spiritualities and cultures of First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

May we walk together the path of reconciliation and right relations.

**Opening Hymn:** 123 Once in Royal David's City (vs.1 solo vs.2-3 congregation)

Text Cecil Frances Alexander, Music Henry John Gauntlett @ Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,

when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

Reading at the Crèche: Luke 2:1-20

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

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.

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

#### Prayer at the Crèche

Dear friends, as we gather this night to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray God's blessing on this manger.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation, you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. In his incarnation he embraced our poverty: there was no room for him in the inn, yet he came as a light shining in the darkness, bringing joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**.

## Hymn: 118 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text and Music John Francis Wade, tr. Frederick Oakley © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 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;

#### Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God of God, Light of Light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten not created: [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest: [Refrain]

4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; [Refrain]

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

#### **Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.** 

## **Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, 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.

#### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### The Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you, our Saviour,
that we may reflect Your love,
through You and our eternal God and Holy Spirit. Amen.
Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) adapted.

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 (Marcia Foster)

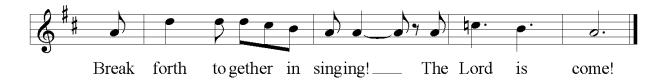
A reading from the Book of Isaiah

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 shout for joy, for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth; shout together for joy, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### Psalm 98



Setting: Gordon Johnston

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, \*for he has done marvellous things.2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*has he won for himself the victory. R

3 The Lord has made known his victory; \*
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.
4 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. **R** 

5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \* lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \* with the harp and the voice of song. **R** 

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \* shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \* the lands and those who dwell therein. **R** 

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*
and the peoples with equity **R**

**Epistle:** Hebrews 1:1-4 (Andrea Allevato)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.** 

## Gradual Hymn: 132 Of Eternal Love Begotten (vs. 1-3, 6)

Text Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, tr. John Mason Neale, Music plainsong, Mode 8, adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582 © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Of eternal love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

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 for ever 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.

6 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be, honour, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore.

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-14

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Sermon

**Anthem:** Candlelight Carol ~ John Rutter

#### The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith, as we say
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.

The Prayers of the People (Andrea Teekasingh)

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

#### **Confession and Absolution**

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,
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.

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

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

## The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn: 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text Charles Wesley, Music Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, adapt. William Hayman Cummings © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

#### Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate Deity, pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! [Refrain]

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings, Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

## The Prayer over the Gifts

Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor
to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be a blessing for others.
With the trees of the field,
with all earth and heaven,

we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**. Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt

#### The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer 3)

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Hymn 732) 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.

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, 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 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 say,

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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread #6

We break the bread of life,
And that life is the light of the world.
God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Holy Communion Gluten free wafers available

## **Communion Hymn:** 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text Phillips Brooks, Music English trad. © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## Communion Hymn: 119 Silent Night

Text Joseph Mohr, tr. John Freeman Young, Music Franz Xaver Gruber © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight: glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia, Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour is born!

3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

**Anthem after Communion:** Sizalelwe Indodana - Victor C. Johnson (translation of the text: Unto us a child is born, his name is Jesus, He has come to help the world)

## **Prayer after Communion**

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, so that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.** Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

## **THE SENDING OF THE COMMUNITY**

#### **Announcements**

### **Doxology**

Glory to God,
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.

#### **Blessing**

Closing Hymn: 154 Joy to the World

Text Isaac Watts, Music William Holford, adapt. George Frideric Handel @ Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns: let us glad songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as our sin is found,

far as our sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Variations on In Dulci Jubilo (excerpt) ~ Denis Bédard

Thanks to Tom Sear, piano & percussion, John Hong, clarinet, Celina Hawkins, oboe, for sharing the gift of music with us today.

# 9:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST (BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES)

Presider: Rev Maria Nightingale

Preacher: Rev Tim Kehoe

**Duty Warden:** Serge Choquette

**Server:** Kirk Michaelis, Howard Foster **Sidespersons:** Kim and Stephen Parks **Readers:** Marcia Foster, Andrea Allevato

Intercessor: Andrea Teekasingh

Lay Administrators: Babs Dunstan, Karen Scott

Livestream Operator: Alex Ala-Kantti

Altar Guild: Renee Premakanthan, Marlyne Zawadi

#### **CONTACT LIST**

**Rector**: The Reverend Tim Kehoe 613-355-0816 (cell) <a href="mailto:revtimkehoe@gmail.com">revtimkehoe@gmail.com</a>

**Associate:** The Reverend Maria Nightingale 905-802-1904 <u>revmnightingale@gmail.com</u> **Secretary/Administrator:** Wendy Hook 613-733-0336 <u>stthomasparishottawa@gmail.com</u>

Director of Music: Kurt Ala-Kantti 613-733-0336; kurt@harmoniachoir.com

**Organist**: Denise Hawkins

**Assistant Organist**: Richard Frith

Churchwardens:

Cathy Munroe 613-301-5442 <a href="mailto:cathymunroe1@gmail.com">cathymunroe1@gmail.com</a> Jean Jordan 613-523-4165 ijmj jeanjordan@rogers.com

Catherine Smith (Deputy) 613-733-5555 <u>catherinecsmith@gmail.com</u> Derwyn Sangster (Deputy) 613-733-9345 <u>d.sangster@rogers.com</u>

Treasurer: Gwen Levesque 613-299-3846 (cell) <a href="mailto:gwenlevesque@sympatico.ca">gwenlevesque@sympatico.ca</a>
Envelope Secretary: Flo Cheesman 613-733-0336 <a href="mailto:stthomasenv@outlook.com">stthomasenv@outlook.com</a>
Donation Options: <a href="mailto:https://www.stthomaseltavista.ca/pages/donate-online">https://www.stthomaseltavista.ca/pages/donate-online</a>

Parish Directory Coordinator: Els Salisbury 613-828-6828 els.salisbury@rogers.com

The church office will be closed from December 25th to January 4th. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Tim Kehoe or Rev. Maria Nightingale.