



St. James Caledon East
Service of Holy Communion

December 24th, 2024
7:30 pm

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome!
We hope you feel at home.

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

Processional: **“Once in Royal David’s City”** Blue 123
 Verse 1, Solo
 Verse 2 & 3 Congregation joins in singing

Welcome

Celebrant: Christ has brought us out of darkness.
People: **to live in his marvelous light.**

Celebrant: We have come together in the presence of God to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world; to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Please be seated.

Read by: Diane Allengame and Jim Farmer

Reader: People of God sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s peace.

People: **Amen!**

Reader: Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s light.

People: **Amen!**

Reader: One with us, yet born to save. He will show us the way to God. Lord, bring us today into Christ’s love.

People: **Amen!**

Reader: As we light this wreath, let us sing to God, who sent his Son, Emmanuel, to be God with us.

Opening Hymn:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs 1, 2, 3

Blue 118

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Gospel Proclamation

*Please stand if you are comfortable doing so
(Luke 2:1-20)*

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 1

Blue 120

Gospeler: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Gospeler: 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.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs. 2

Blue 120

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.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 3

Blue 120

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!’

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 4

Blue 120

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. 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.

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 1

Blue 120

Message

The Rev. Michelle Jones

MERRY CHRISTMAS SONG!

Who said counting in Bethlehem?
Ceasar said counting in Bethlehem.
Who said no room at the inn?
Innkeeper said no room at the inn.

counting in, room at inn

Merry Christmas, merry Christmas, Merry Christmas everyone!

Who was watching flocks by night?
Shepherds were watching flocks by night.
Who sang songs by the heavenly light?
Angels sang songs by the heavenly light.

*flocks by night, heavenly light,
counting in, room at inn*

Who brought incense, gold and myrrh?
Wise men brought incense, gold and myrrh.
Who held her baby close to her?
Mary held her baby close to her.

*gold and myrrh, close to her
flocks by night, heavenly light,
counting in, room at inn*

Who is God's own special Son?
Jesus is God's own special Son.
Who brings peace to everyone?
Jesus brings peace to everyone.

*special Son, everyone,
gold and myrrh, close to her
flocks by night, heavenly light,
counting in, room at inn*

Prayers of the People

Leader: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

The Peace

Please stand

Green 192

Leader: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: "The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy" Blue 128

Celebration of the Eucharist

remain standing

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Word made flesh, light of the world, in your incarnation
you embraced our poverty.

By your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

All: **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.**

Please stand, sit, or kneel as is your preference

Celebrant: Creator of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is His story.

All: **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to the table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is His story.

All: **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Jesus blessed you, Holy God, for the food. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine. He took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

All: **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Therefore, with this bread and this cup, we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you and present to us and all the world.
This is our story.

All: **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to 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. 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 forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the World.

All: **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Celebrant: Come, you holy ones, receive this holy food, the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, knowing in your hearts that you are made in God's image and that God alone, in Christ, has made you worthy to receive these gifts, and be healed.

Holy Communion

~ All are welcome at Christ's table ~

Gluten free wafers are available. Please indicate your desire for this option by bringing your order of service with you to the communion rail.

If you wish only to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. If you have mobility issues, feel free to remain in your seat. Simply inform the sidesperson that you wish Holy Communion or a blessing to be brought to you.

Communion Carols

Blue 117, 125, 126, 135

Prayer after Communion

Please stand if you are comfortable doing so

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

All: O Christ, Light of all lights, Star of all stars, dweller within these human homes of ours, open our wandering minds and hesitant hearts so your endless goodness radiates more completely in us. We welcome you again and again, with gratitude and trust, not only in this Christmas season of remembrance and celebration but all through the New Year that awaits us.

A Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May the God of the annunciation bless you, inviting you daily to awaken to the God-life within You.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May the God of Joseph's dreams bless you, stirring your spirit to trust the many ways that Mystery whispers to you.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: May the God of journeying bless you; guiding and protecting you as you travel the inner and outer roads of your life.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: May the God of desert wilderness bless you, bringing courage when you experience bleak, intense searching and struggle.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: May the God at the tomb of resurrection bless you with faith, assuring your faith and trust that all shall be well.

All: **Amen.**

Story of Silent Night

read by Diane Allengame

"Silent Night"

Blue 119

**As the band plays, the congregation is invited to leave quietly*

Thank you to the Musicians:

Sharon Mulder - Shane Wieler - David Finch - Janice Reed -
Jonathan Sorokan - Joanne Redhead - Mary Judge -

Announcements:

Services:

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dec 24 | Christmas Eve Service | 7:30 pm |
| Dec 28 | Regular Service | 10:00 am |
| Jan 4 | Regular Service | 10:00 am |

The Little Food Cupboard This month the following items are required for the families in our community: shelf stable milks (almond milk, oat milk, coconut milk), juice boxes, jams, peanut butter, crackers, snacks, cake mixes, canned meats, and pasta sauce. Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

Vestry Reports Just a reminder that our annual Vesty is soon approaching. Please submit your completed report to Grace at your earliest convenience. Having the reports completed ahead of time makes such a difference in preparing the full report. Thank you!

Consider a special Christmas Gift to St. James Church

St. James' Church depends on parishioners' offerings to cover a substantial portion of its expenses. Thanks to all who generously support our parish.

~Send an e-transfer to treasurer@stjamescaledoneast.ca

~Move to Pre-Authorized giving. Form available on the 'Donate' page of website

~Mail your cheque or arrange a time to drop it off at the office



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