

# **ORDER OF SERVICE**

## **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**



**NATIVITY OF THE LORD**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2025, 4:00PM**

**St.Thomas**  
THE APOSTLE

2345 Alta Vista Dr.  
Ottawa, ON K1H 7M6  
613.733.0336  
[www.stthomasaltavista.ca](http://www.stthomasaltavista.ca)

# **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

*Children are invited to choose a costume at the back of the church to wear during the service if they wish.*

## **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: 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]

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle / Advent Wreath Lighting**

We give thanks for the light of Christ,  
shining in the lives of all God's people.

With the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah,  
we watch and wait for the coming of Christ  
who will bring light and peace to all the world.

With John the Baptist, we cry out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare, the way of the Lord!  
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice  
for the Mighty One has done great things for us.  
How holy is God's name!

With Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,  
we tell the story of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem,  
who came to save us and is coming again in glory.

With the choirs of angels we sing;  
"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!"

### **Advent Song**

Text African trad. Music African; arr. John L. Bell © 1990 WGRG, The Iona Community (Scotland). CCLI License #1826689

He came down that we may have hope/peace/joy/love/life x3  
Hallelujah for evermore!

### **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 of the Day**

Almighty God,  
as we prepare with joy  
to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child,  
embrace the earth with your glory  
and be for us a living hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen!**

Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004)

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **Interactive Storytelling: The Birth of Jesus**

#### **Hymn: 119 Silent Night (vs 1, 3)**

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.

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.

## **Hymn: 128 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (vs 1, 2)**

Text and music West Indian carol; adapt. Edric Conner, arr. John Barnard © Public Domain CCLI License #1826689

1 The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they say that his name was Jesus.

*Refrain:*

He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
O yes, believer! O yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom!

2 The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
And proclaim him the Saviour Jesus.

## **The Prayers of the People** led by Elizabeth Bartlett & Breanna Gibbons

When you hear “Lord Jesus,” please respond to the prayers by saying,  
“hear our prayer.”

Jesus, whose mother was Mary and whose adopted father was Joseph, we  
pray for our families.

Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in an animal’s feeding place in a stable: we pray for those  
who are without shelter, and for those who are refugees.

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:  
we pray for all of creation.

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:  
we pray for all the people of the world,  
and especially for those who are leaders.

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel, God-with-us:  
we pray for all those in need  
of comfort and healing.

Lord Jesus,

**hear our prayer.**

Thank you God for listening to our prayers.

Please answer them in the way  
that You know is best for us.

**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**

Source of light and gladness,  
accept all we offer on this joyful feast.  
May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours;  
for he is Lord now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

It is always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator, loving and faithful,  
holy and strong.  
You made us and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live amongst us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
He died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:  
**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.**

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you. This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For the honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
One God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, we pray together in a way Jesus taught us to pray,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily  
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the  
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

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**

**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 are available*

## **Communion Hymn: 126 Away in a Manger**

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus – look down from on high  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Father of all,  
tonight you have united earth and heaven  
in sending your Son to take our human nature.  
May we who have tasted heavenly things  
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE SENDING OF THE COMMUNITY**

### **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**

May the God of the angels, who sang of Christ's birth,  
bring joy to your hearts this day and always.  
May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you,

fill your life with love and peace.

May Emmanuel, God with us,

be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations.

And the blessing of almighty God: Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit be with you all, now and ever more. **Amen.**

Adapted from a Christmas Blessing by Rev. Thomas Weitzel on re:Worship blog <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/christmas-blessing.html>

## **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**

**4:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST  
(BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES)**

**Presiders:** Rev Tim Kehoe, Rev Maria Nightingale

**Duty Warden:** Karen Scott

**Sidespersons:** Bev Muma

**Lay Administrators:** Bill Danson, Babs Dunstan

**Altar Guild:** Renee Premakanthan, Marlyne Zawadi

**CONTACT LIST**

**Rector:** The Reverend Tim Kehoe 613-355-0816 (cell) [revtimkehoe@gmail.com](mailto:revtimkehoe@gmail.com)

**Associate:** The Reverend Maria Nightingale 905-802-1904 [revmnightingale@gmail.com](mailto:revmnightingale@gmail.com)

**Secretary/Administrator:** Wendy Hook 613-733-0336 [stthomasparishottawa@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasparishottawa@gmail.com)

**Director of Music:** Kurt Ala-Kantti 613-733-0336; [kurt@harmoniachoir.com](mailto:kurt@harmoniachoir.com)

**Organist:** Denise Hawkins

**Assistant Organist:** Richard Frith

**Churchwardens:**

Cathy Munroe 613-301-5442 [cathymunroe1@gmail.com](mailto:cathymunroe1@gmail.com)

Jean Jordan 613-523-4165 [ijmj\\_jeanjordan@rogers.com](mailto:ijmj_jeanjordan@rogers.com)

Catherine Smith (Deputy) 613-733-5555 [catherinecsmith@gmail.com](mailto:catherinecsmith@gmail.com)

Derwyn Sangster (Deputy) 613-733-9345 [d.sangster@rogers.com](mailto:d.sangster@rogers.com)

**Treasurer:** Gwen Levesque 613-299-3846 (cell); [gwenlevesque@sympatico.ca](mailto:gwenlevesque@sympatico.ca)

**Envelope Secretary:** Flo Cheesman 613-733-0336 [stthomasenv@outlook.com](mailto:stthomasenv@outlook.com)

**Donation Options:** <https://www.stthomasaltavista.ca/pages/donate-online>

**Parish Directory Coordinator:** Els Salisbury 613-828-6828 [els.salisbury@rogers.com](mailto:els.salisbury@rogers.com)

In the event of a **pastoral emergency** please contact Fr Tim or Rev Maria. For other enquiries, please call Wendy at the office.