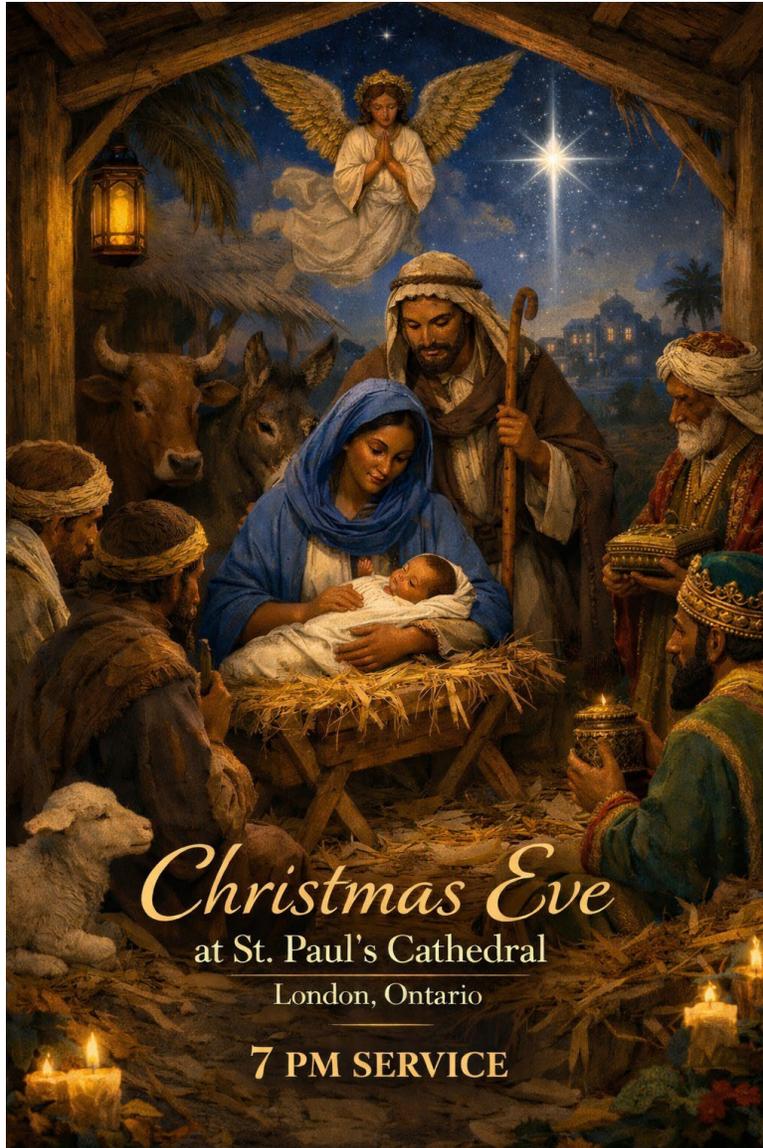


CHRISTMAS EVE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

7:00pm

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 | CANADA



SUNG EUCHARIST (Book of Alternative Services)

Please stand when clergy and choir enter.

Opening Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful

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:
O come, let us adore Him, (3x)
Christ the Lord.

2 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, (3x)
Christ the Lord.

The Gathering of the Community

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

All **And also with you.**

Blessing of the Christmas Creche

All **O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see
the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose
womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!**

Bishop The Word was made flesh

All **And dwelt among us.**

Bishop Let us pray, (silence)

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the
holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred
birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby
humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Baby Jesus is placed in the Creche.

Processional Hymn *Continued*

3 See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

4 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.

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Bishop Tonight the Advent season ends. We wait no longer. That great event for which we waited has happened. God's promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled. Christ Jesus is born. We light the Christ candle with praise to our God who brings joy to the world.

All **Amen.**

The Christmas Candle is lit.

Bishop Tonight we light the final candle, the Christ candle, for Christ is born anew amongst us.

All **Our Advent waiting is complete, yet our yearning for justice is but re-kindled, as we continue to work and wait. God of reconciliation, source of all life, may we seek Christ with the wonder and curiosity of a child.**

May we find Christ flowing through your beloved waters and healing your beloved land.

And may we wait on Christ, the reconciler of nations and peoples, whose reign of justice will never end. Amen.

Choral Gloria sung to the 'Missa Brevis' (short mass)
setting by Wolfgang Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.
Laudámus te, benedícimus te,
adorámus te, glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam
tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.

*Glory to God in the highest,
All 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.*

Dómine Fili Unigénite, Iesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi, miserére nobis;
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
súscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserére nobis.

*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.*

Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus, Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spíritu:
in glória Dei Patris. Amen.

*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

Bishop Let us pray. (silence)
 Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light.
 As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the
 splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive
 and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
People **Amen.**

Candles are extinguished and lights will be turned back on.

Congregation be seated for the Proclamation of the Word.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

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

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah:

Reader: Rhonda Burt

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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (*Isaiah 9:2-7*)

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus:

Reader: Obiageli Oraghalum

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. (*Titus 2:11-14*)

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn While Shepherds Watched

1 **While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.**

2 **"Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.**

**3 "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:**

**4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."**

Holy Gospel *Luke :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**

Sequence Hymn *Continued*

**5 Thus spoke the angel: then forthwith
 appeared a shining throng
 of angels praising God, who thus
 addressed their joyful song:**

**6 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 to those on whom his favor rests
 goodwill shall never cease.
 goodwill shall never cease."**

Homily The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George

Please be seated

The Nicene Creed *Please stand*

Bishop 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 Led by Marilyn Papple

Leader Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need. I invite you to take a comfortable posture: standing or sitting for the Prayers of the People.

(A brief silence.)

Gathering God, you bring your people from every corner of the earth together before the manger that you have made a throne. Unite the church in love as we rejoice in the news of your coming. Hear us O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Creating God, you brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Join our voices with the roaring seas, the exulting fields, and the trees of the forest singing for joy on this holy night. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Transforming God, the world trembles amid violence and war. Empower our hands, feet, and hearts with your Spirit to shatter the rod of the oppressor and turn swords into plowshares. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Shepherding God, you lead us to your love in the face of our neighbour. Send us into the world to find your Word made flesh in one another, especially those who are sick or struggling, especially Ann & Ellis, Marg, George, Phyllis, Fabian, Jill, Leeanne, Ethan, Patricia, Sophia, Carolyn, Leigh, Joyce, Vaughan, Stanley. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Nurturing God, you dwell with us in humble places. Sustain housing and clothing ministries in this community, that all find shelter and warmth. We pray especially for youth seeking safety and care. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Abiding God, you remain at the side of all the departed. Grant all who mourn hope in the resurrection and peace in Christ Jesus. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Gracious God, we lift up the community of St. Paul's, clergy and all ministry leaders entrusted with holy work. May Your Holy Spirit guide us in faithfulness, that all who enter this sacred space may encounter the redeeming love of Christ Jesus. Let our witness extend beyond these walls, bearing Your light to the world.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

Silence is kept.

Bishop 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.**

Bishop 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*

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

- 1** It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
From heaven's all-gracious King" –
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

- 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** But with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And we amid our wars hears not
The words of peace they bring;
Oh listen now and still your strife
And hear the angels sing!

- 4** 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.

Prayer over the Gifts

Bishop 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.
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._

Bishop Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the lory of your name.

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might, -
5 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.
9 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
13 sa - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bishop

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

Organ: All sing:

A - men, A - men, A - men.

Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All **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 choir will sing the **Agnus Dei**
sung to the 'Missa Brevis' (short mass) setting by Wolfgang Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: Miserere nobis
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us

The Communion

Bishop 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.**

Choir *Dona nobis pacem.*
Grant us peace.

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

Communion Anthems

Silent Night by Franz Gruber (1818)

O Holy Night by Adolphe Adam (1847)

Communion Hymn See Amid the Winter's Snow

- 1** See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years!
Refrain
Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
- 2** Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim.
Refrain
- 3** Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?
Refrain
- 4** "As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing 'Peace on earth'
told us of the Saviour's birth."
Refrain
- 5** Sacred infant, all divine,
what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
Refrain

Prayer after Communion (*silence is kept*) Please stand

Bishop Let us pray.
 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.

People **Amen.**

Doxology

Bishop 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.**

Closing Announcements and Blessing

Post Communion Hymn Hark The Herald Angels Sing

- 1 **Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn 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 host proclaim,
 “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**
 Refrain
 **Hark! The herald angels sing,
 “Glory to the newborn King.”**
- 2 **Christ, by the 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***

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.**

Postlude

Tonight's Liturgical Leaders

Dean of Huron & Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral – The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George
Celebrant – The Right Reverend Todd Townshend
Preacher – The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George
Gospeller – The Reverend Pat Henderson
Organist & Director of Music – Laurence Williams
Associate Organist – Olakunle Aoko
Servers – Tristian Fair, Doug Campbell, Clark Home, Victor Onebunne
Lay Administrants – Peter Hockin, Doug Campbell
Greeters – Lois Gosney, Obiageli Oraghalum
Bell Ringer
Live Stream – Olakunle Aoko
Children's Ministry – Heather Clark
Warden – Doreen Kyomugisha

Christmas Flowers 2025

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;*
- † *daughter Susan, son Tom, and husband Joe Haggerty given by The Rev'd Marian Haggerty;*
- † *Denise Joan Lyon given by Pauline Lyon Evans and grandsons Matthew, Andrew, & Christopher;*
- † *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;*
- † *Vera & Hay Shum given by the Shum Family;*

And also in memory of loved ones given by...

- † *Jan Gard and Holly Shevchuk*
- † *Janet Horton*
- † *John & Nancy Shipston*
- † *Keith & Lynn Watson*
- † *Nancy Wells*

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.*

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, Jim Ferguson

Church Wardens

Doreen Kyomugisha

Deputy Church Warden

Heather Clark

Children's Ministry

Carrie Fieldhouse

Parish Coordinator