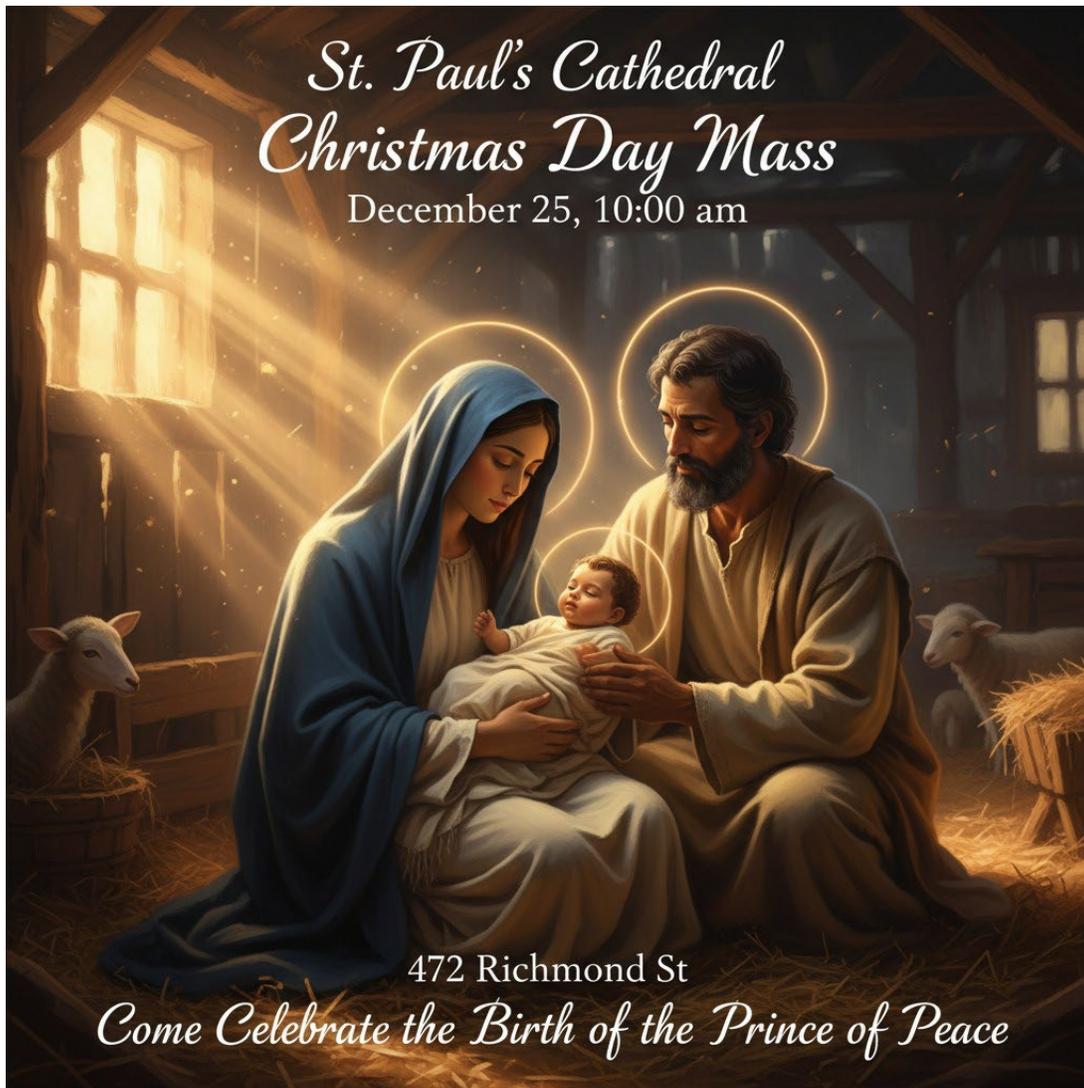


# The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th, 2025

*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** Once in Royal David's City

*Solo*

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.

*All*

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 and on high,  
when, like stars, his children crowned  
all in white shall gather round.**

### **The Gathering of the Community**

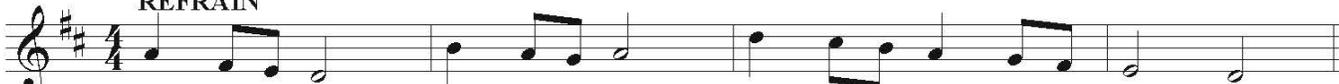
Presider From the Christ who was, who is and who is to come: Grace, Peace and Love  
be with you.

All **And also with you.**

# Gloria (Mass of St. Thomas)

David Thorne

**REFRAIN**



Glo - ry to God. Glo - ry to God. Glo - ry to God in the High - est.

**VERSE 1**



Glo - ry to God in the High - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

**VERSE 2**



Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are

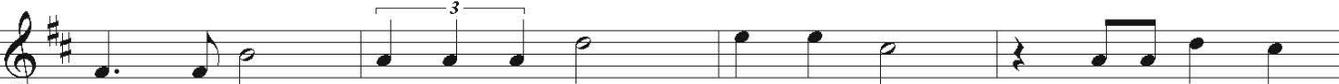


sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**VERSE 3**



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly one, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the most high, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

## The Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray. (silence)

O God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

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 Isaiah: Reader: Allan Nagata

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.**

## **Psalm**

**A Reading** from Paul's letter to Titus: Reader: Mary Ann McDowell

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 2:1-20*

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. Suddenly  
         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."**

**Homily**      The Very Reverend Dr. Kevin George

*Please be seated*

**The Nicene Creed**      *Please stand*

Presider      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 Hazil Malone

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.)

The Word becomes flesh and dwells among us, bringing life, love, and joy to a weary world. Gracious God, use our lips and our lives to proclaim the good news of your coming. Hear us O God.

People      **Your mercy is great.**

Leader      The earth rejoices, and the coastlands are glad on the day of your birth. Bring life to barren wastelands, healing where we have caused harm, and bold hearts to respond to creation's call for justice. Hear us, O God.

People      **Your mercy is great.**

Leader      Righteousness and justice are your foundation, O Holy One. Fill world leaders with your zeal for righteousness and your love for any who are marginalized and oppressed. Hear us, O God.

People      **Your mercy is great.**

Leader The heavens proclaim your glory and announce that we have ben made your own people. Keep watch over all who are spending this holy day alone, alienated, or ill, especially Ann & Ellis, Marg, George, Phyllis, Fabian, Jill, Leeanne, Ethan, Patricia, Sophia, Leigh, Joyce, Stanley, Vaughan, Rick, Anna. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader Light dawns for the righteous and joy visits the upright in heart. Fortify us with your grace and fill us with zeal to proclaim the news of your birth to those who long for love. Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

Leader From the nurturing darkness of the womb to the tender night of the tomb, you enfold us in your love. We remember with affection those who have died and now rest in your eternal embrace. 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

Presider 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.*

Presider 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.**

Presider 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*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn** The First Nowell

**1 The first nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

*Refrain*

**Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

*Refrain*

**3 And by the light of the same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

*Refrain*

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

*Refrain*

5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Refrain*

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought.

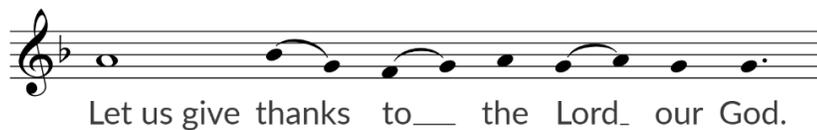
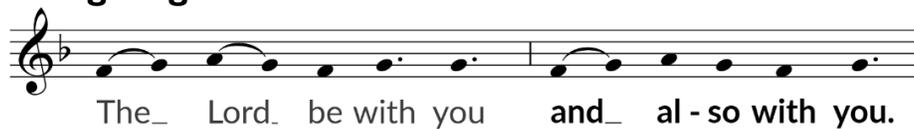
*Refrain*

### Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving



Presider 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.

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.

Presider 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.

AMEN  
CP 737

Franz Schubert  
1797-1828

People

A - men, a - men, 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.

DEUTSCHE MESSE  
CP 747

Franz Schubert  
1797-1828

Organ:



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bea - rer of our sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dee - mer, re -

dee - mer of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.

## The Communion

**Presider** 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.

**Gluten-free** communion wafers are available.

Please indicate your wish to the administrant at The Choir will sing a **Communion Anthem**  
Communion.

## **Communion Hymn** 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 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.  
*Refrain*

**3** The wise men went where the baby was born,  
the wise men went where the baby was born,  
the wise men went where the baby was born,  
and they say that his name was Jesus  
*Refrain*

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

Presider Let us pray.  
Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always  
follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People **Amen.**

## **Doxology**

Presdier 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    In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729  
              By J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## **Liturgical Leaders**

Celebrant and Preacher – The 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 – Doug Campbell, Lois Gosney

Greeter – Lois Gosney

Live Stream – Olakunle Aoko

Children's Ministry – Heather Clark

## *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