

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY

December, 25th 2024 at 10:15 am

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You are welcome to participate in smudging as you enter the church to worship. Smudging is a sign of purification and peace offered to anyone who would like to participate. When the weather is too difficult to offer smudging outdoors – and at any time that you are in the church building, dry smudge is available. The sacred medicines – tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar – are provided as you enter the church. Rub the medicines in your hands and place them in the shell bowl; after use these will be respectfully burned. St John's is grateful to Indigenous members of our community for offering smudging.

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### PRELUDE

*Pastorale Domenico Zipoli*

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 123** *Once in Royal David's City*

*"Irby"*

### WELCOME

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this day on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation.

**May we always dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

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. **Amen.**



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

## **THE SECOND READING**

*Hebrews 1:1-12*

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.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN 121**     *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*"Forest Green"*

## **THE GOSPEL**

*John 1:1-14*

May God 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.

Long ago, in the time before all days, before the creation of all things, the one who is known as the Word was there face to face with the Great Spirit. This Word fully represents Creator and shows us who he is and what he is like. He has always been there from the beginning, for the Word and Creator are one and the

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.

*NRSV*

same. Through the Word all things came into being, and not one thing exists that he did not create. Creator's life shined out from the Word, giving light to all human beings. This is the true Light that comes to all the peoples of the world and shines on everyone.

The Light shines into the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it or put it out. Into the wilderness of the Land of Promise (Judea) came a man named Gift of Goodwill (John). He was sent by the Great Spirit to tell what he knew about the Light so everyone could believe. He was not the Light but came to speak the truth about the Light. The true Light that shines on all people was coming into the darkness of this world. He came down into this world, and even though he made all things, the world did not recognize him. Even his own tribe did not welcome or honor him. But all who welcome and trust him receive their birthright as children of the Great Spirit. They are born in a new way, not from a human father's plans or desires, but born from above—by the Great Spirit. Creator's Word became a flesh-and-blood human being and pitched his sacred tent among us, living as one of us. We looked upon his great beauty and saw how honorable he was, the kind of honor held only by this one Son who fully represents his Father—full of his great kindness and truth.

*First Nations Version*

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**SERMON**

*The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer*

## THE APOSTLES CREED

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERTORY HYMN 154 *Joy to the world*

*"Antioch"*

*The collection plates are passed through the congregation during the hymn. Financial gifts support the presence and ministries of St John's including Sunday worship and our many community initiatives. Your support is welcome but not required to participate in the life of this community. You may choose to place a gift on the plate or give it to a greeter and the conclusion of the service.*

*If you already give financial support to St John's by other means – such as monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or QR Code – you are invited to place a small card on the plate (called a "PAR Chit"). PAR Chits are found at back of the church beside the nametags.*



### DONATIONS

## THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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. **Amen.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts 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; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

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Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heaven and earth are  
 full of your glo-ry. — Ho- san - na in the high - est. — Bless ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. — Ho- san - na in the highest, — ho- san - na in the high - est.

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;**

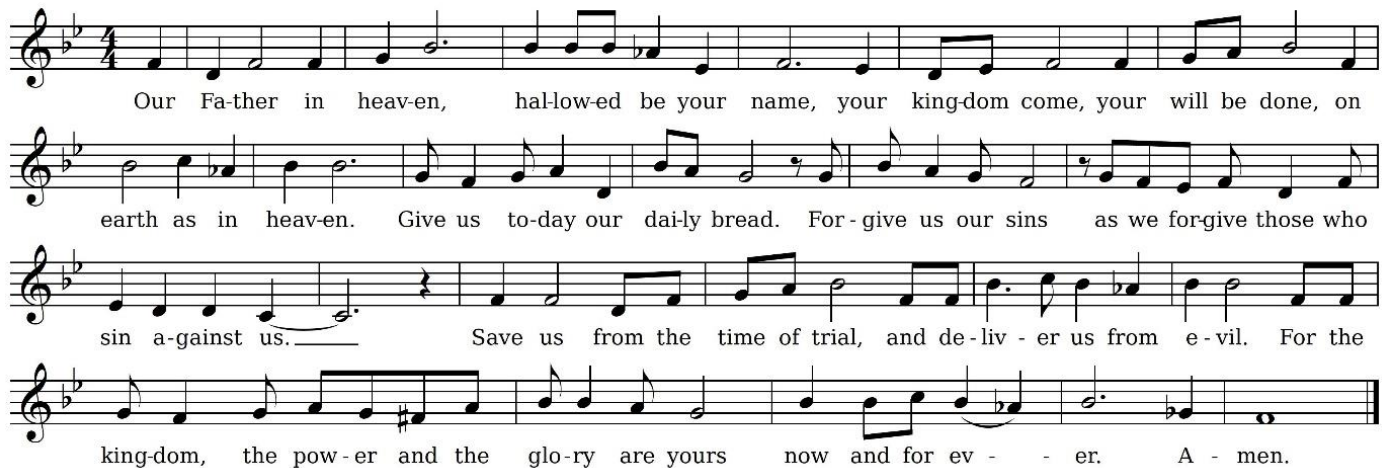
and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

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

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we forgive those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv - er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry are yours now and for ev - - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION

*All are welcome to come forward to participate in the Eucharist. Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**Amen.**

## 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

**RECESSIONAL HYMN 143**    *Angels from the realms of glory*                      *"Regent Square"*

### DISMISSAL

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

### POSTLUDE

*Sonata in D major - Domenico Scarlatti*

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*Preacher*  
*Presider*  
*Gospeller*  
*Interim Director of Music*  
*Lead Warden*  
*Crucifer*  
*Server*  
*Intercessor*  
*Readers*  
*Cantor*  
*Communion Assistants*  
*Sidespeople*  
*Tower Bell*  
*Altar Guild*  
*Smudging*  
*Audio Tech & Lock up Duty*

The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer  
The Reverend Christina Guest  
Kimberly Johnson  
Tom Annand  
Barbara Dransch  
Chris Chiavatti  
Wendy McCutcheon and Nkundwe Scout Mwangomba  
Jamie Tomlinson  
Jean Bosco Nkurunziza and Bill Broughton  
Wayne Teal  
Allen Nakyejjwe and Jamie Tomlinson  
Bea Roberston and Bill Broughton  
Jim Cummings  
Vicki Milnes and Barbara Dransch  
Kimberly Johnson  
Detlef Dransch

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