

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR  
LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
Solemn Midnight Mass



December 24, 2023  
*ten o'clock in the evening*

Dear friends,

Welcome to St. John's, Shaughnessy! Whether you are here every Sunday or are visiting for the first time, we are delighted that you've joined us. We hope you will experience God's love and peace in our worship and in the presence of the gathered community.

The celebration of the Son of God coming among us—the incarnation—is one of the two holiest days of the year for Christians (the other being the celebration of his resurrection at Easter). The observance of Christmas Day can be traced at least to the mid-fourth century, and by the fifth century that observance had expanded to include the celebration of midnight mass. Christmas masses have since come to be one of the most beloved services of the year for Christians.

However, Christmas is about more than the nativity story. This day, and the season that follows (the “twelve days of Christmas”) are a time to remind ourselves of the holy mystery that the Almighty, transcendent God became finite and human. “The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.” (John 1:14) Christ came into our world to bring God closer to us, so that we might respond with deeper love of God and of our neighbours.

Although millennia have passed since the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, he still invites us to draw near to him today. It is our hope that tonight, you will find such closeness to God in the prayers, readings, and music of this service. We also invite all baptized persons to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, in which we believe Christ still draws near to us through the tangible elements of bread and wine. If for any reason you prefer not to receive communion, we encourage you to come forward for a blessing, drawing near to the altar and to one another.

May this Christmas bring you closer to those you cherish, and to the God whose love gives us abundant life and peace which passes all understanding.

Merry Christmas,

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas, Rector

*We acknowledge our presence is on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples, and we pray that we may live more deeply into the calls to action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.*

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

PRELUDE *Organ and String Quartet*

*The Prelude concludes with the following carol, offered by the Choir.*

CAROL *Once in Royal David's City* Arr. Willcocks (1919-2015)

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.

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.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high, when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

*A brief silence is kept.*

*Please stand as the procession enters the church.*

## **THE ENTRANCE RITE**

INTROIT *Dominus dixit ad me* Plainsong (Mode II)

*The Lord said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Why do the heathen so furiously rage together: and why do the people imagine a vain thing? Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen. The Lord said unto me . . .*

## THE SOLEMN PROCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

The Twenty-fifth Day of December, when ages beyond number had run their course from the creation of the world, when God in the beginning created heaven and earth, and formed man in his own likeness; when century upon century had passed since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood, as a sign of covenant and peace; in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith, came out of Ur of the Chaldees; in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Moses in the Exodus from Egypt; around the thousandth year since David was anointed King; in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; in the year seven hundred and fifty-two since the foundation of the City of Rome; in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavian Augustus, the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to consecrate the world by his most loving presence, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and when nine months had passed since his conception, was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah, and was made man: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

## THE PROCESSION AND BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Let us go forth in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

# THE STATION AT THE CRÈCHE

*Priest*

The Word was made flesh, alleluia, allelu - ia.

*People*

And dwelt among us, alleluia, allelu - ia.

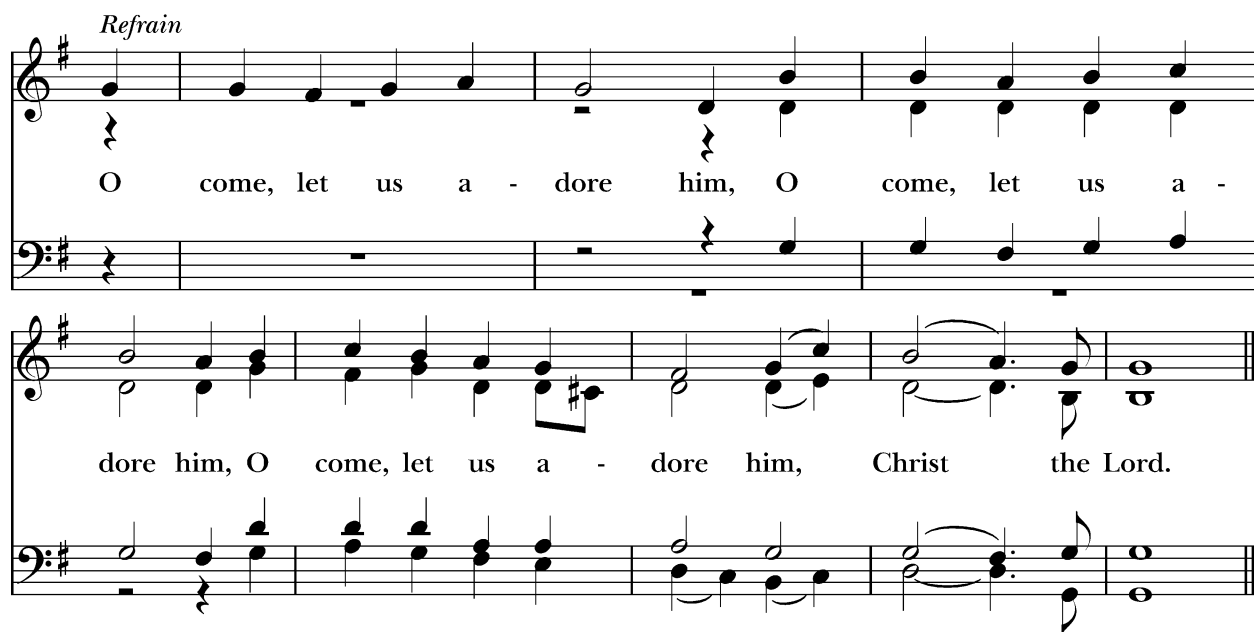
Eternal Father, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Bless, we pray, this Crèche that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

4 See how the shep-herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
 5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —  
 6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em brace — thee, with love and awe;  
 6 Je - sus, to thee — be — glo - ry given;

4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
 6 Word of the Fa - ther, now - in flesh ap - pear - ing;

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

I bring you good news of great joy:  
**A Saviour has been born to you!**

Unto us, a child is born. Unto us, a Son is given.  
**Come, let us adore him.**

#### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### THE KYRIE *Missa Brevis No. 2 in F*

J. Haydn (1732-1809)

*Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

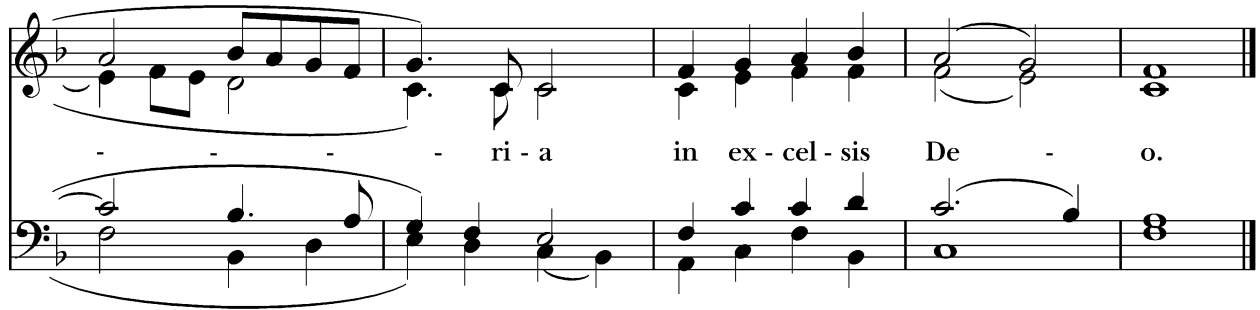
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -





## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

*A reading from the Prophet Isaiah*

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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth.

*A reading from the letter to Titus*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is given  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 as love im - parts to hu - man hearts the bles - sings of God's heaven!  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shi - neth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prai - ses sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The Cantor sings the acclamation, then all repeat.*

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

*Cantor* 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. Alleluia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

*Please be seated.*

THE SERMON

The Rev. Terry Shields Dirbas

*Please stand as you are able.*

THE NICENE CREED

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joining our voices with all in heaven and on earth praising the Word made flesh in Jesus, let us pray for the world to which Christ comes, the Church whom Christ calls, and all people in need whom Christ loves.

Wonderful Counselor, in the fullness of time you became one of us and your wisdom from on high came down to make a home among us. On this holy night establish and uphold our world with your justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, when the time had been fulfilled, you came down from heaven and became one with your creation by taking on our humanity. Enable and empower your Church to embrace your beloved humanity in its many and varied expressions.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, when all was in readiness, you became flesh and blood to heal and redeem the world. May the light of Christ banish the darkness of global conflicts and strife, that the nations may rejoice in your light.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, at the moment of your birth the night sky rang out with the song of the angels. Preserve the earth, that peace might extend to every living creature.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Word of life, on the night of your birth you hallowed all time and all flesh. Expand the vision of this faith community to recognize and welcome your holy face in every human being, and to acknowledge your sacred presence in every living thing.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Emmanuel, God with us, in every time and place the voices of saints and angels together proclaim the good news of great joy which is for all people. Blend our voices with theirs, and at the last day assemble us all around your heavenly throne to forever sing a joyful song to you.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

Come to us, O God, and make your home with us, in us, and through us for the sake of the One whose birth the angels sing and the shepherds proclaim, Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with signs of God's peace.*

THE OFFERTORY

*As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity. A QR code is provided for those who prefer to donate online. During the collection, a hymn is sung.*



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

*Finale from Symphonie Gothique*

C.M. Widor (1844-1937)



1 Good Chris - tians all, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and  
 2 Good Chris - tians all, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and  
 3 Good Chris - tians all, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and

voice! Lis - ten now to what we say: Je - sus Christ is  
 voice! Hear the news of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was  
 voice! Now you need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was

born to - day; ox and ass be - fore him bow and he is in the  
 born for this; he has o - pened heav - en's door and we are blessed for  
 born to save: come at his most gra - cious call to find sal - va - tion,

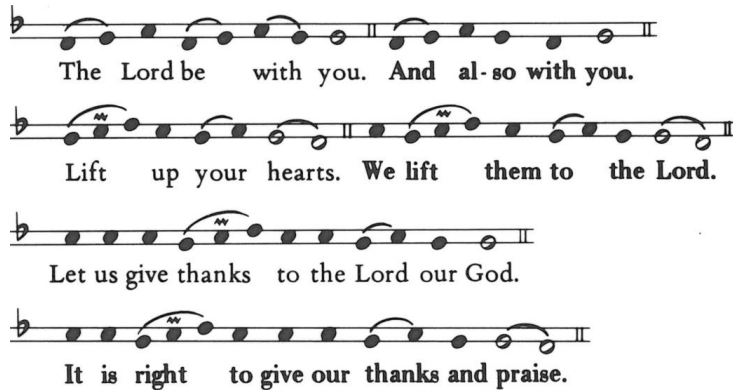
man - ger now! Christ is born to - day; Christ is born to - day!  
 ev - er - more! Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.  
 one and all! Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save!

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### 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



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 our thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendour of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day, and, beholding your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your name, as we sing,

### THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *Missa Brevis No. 2 in F*

J. Haydn

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*The Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power; your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Saviour. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfil your purpose he gave himself up to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfilment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end: at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Father, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favour with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to say,

**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. And 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated 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.**

#### THE FRACTION ANTHEM *Missa Brevis No. 2 in F*

J. Haydn

*O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Have mercy on us. O Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. Grant us peace.*

## THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, you may indicate that desire by crossing your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come forward, please ask a sidesperson to have Communion brought to you.*

## ANTHEM AT THE COMMUNION

*What Sweeter Music*

J. Rutter (b. 1945)

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

When children would reach for their stockings  
And open the presents they found  
The lights on the tree would shine bright in their eyes  
Reflecting the love all around

He leaned with his head on the window  
Watching evergreen bend in the snow  
Remembering Christmas the way it had been  
So many seasons ago

This year there's no one to open the gifts  
No reason for trimming the tree  
And just as a tear made its way to the floor  
He heard voices outside start to sing

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Carolers sang as he opened the door  
Faces of friends in the crowd  
And all of the shadows of lonely reminders  
Driven away by the sound

Capo 1

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight: glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light rad - iant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in  
 heav - enly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia, Christ the  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.  
 Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Please stand as you are able.*

#### THE 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 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.**

#### THE BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Saviour's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favour. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth! The Sav - iour reigns: let us glad  
 3 No more let wrongs and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive the King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

room, and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the  
 flow far as our sin is found, far as our  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders

and heaven and na - ture sing,

na - ture sing, and heaven and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.  
 of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

and heaven and na - ture sing,



THE DISMISSAL

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

VOLUNTARY    *Toccata sur "Il est né, le divin Enfant"*

D. Bédard (b. 1950)



The flowers on the Altar  
and the poinsettias throughout the sanctuary  
are given to the Glory of God  
and in Celebration of the Birth of the Christ Child.

In loving memory of my parents:  
Charles Namby Wynn Woodward and Rosemary Jukes Devlin,  
dedicated by Robyn Patricia Woodward.

With thanks for all our blessings, and hope for our world,  
from the Potter Family.

A dedication to Pat and Peter Downes  
in memory of many past warm and joyous family Christmases,  
from Judith Downes

In memory of our parents and loved family members,  
from Jane & John Macintyre.

In loving memory of  
John Holmen and Lawrence Whytehead,  
from Catherine Holman.

With deep gratitude for my St. John's family,  
from Karin Fulcher.



In thanksgiving for such a wonderful, warm parish community  
and for the love of Christ that binds us together,  
from Andrew and Marilyn.

With gratitude for the lives of  
Dr. Charles Stewart & Ann Stewart;  
Dr. John Belgrave & Carmen Belgrave;  
and in thanksgiving for our grandson Jeremiah,  
given by Patrick Stewart & Joan Belgrave-Stewart.

To Beth and Barrie Haynes, Bea and Garvin Dezell,  
William and Elsie Syson and George and Eleanor Baldwin,  
from Michael and Jennifer Dezell.

In loving memory of my family and friends,  
given by Vi Parker and family.

In loving memory of my friend, soulmate and wife, Beatrice Rudersdorfer,  
your husband and lover, Reinhard Rudersdorfer.

Desiree will be always in my heart and mind forever,  
from Lydia MacGillavry.

## ST. JOHN'S, SHAUGHNESSY STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

*Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to our mailing list, so that we may let you know about upcoming events.*

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The Reverend Dr. Marilyn Hames, *Honorary Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Karin Fulcher, *Honorary Deacon*  
The Reverend Pitman Potter, *Honorary Deacon*  
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