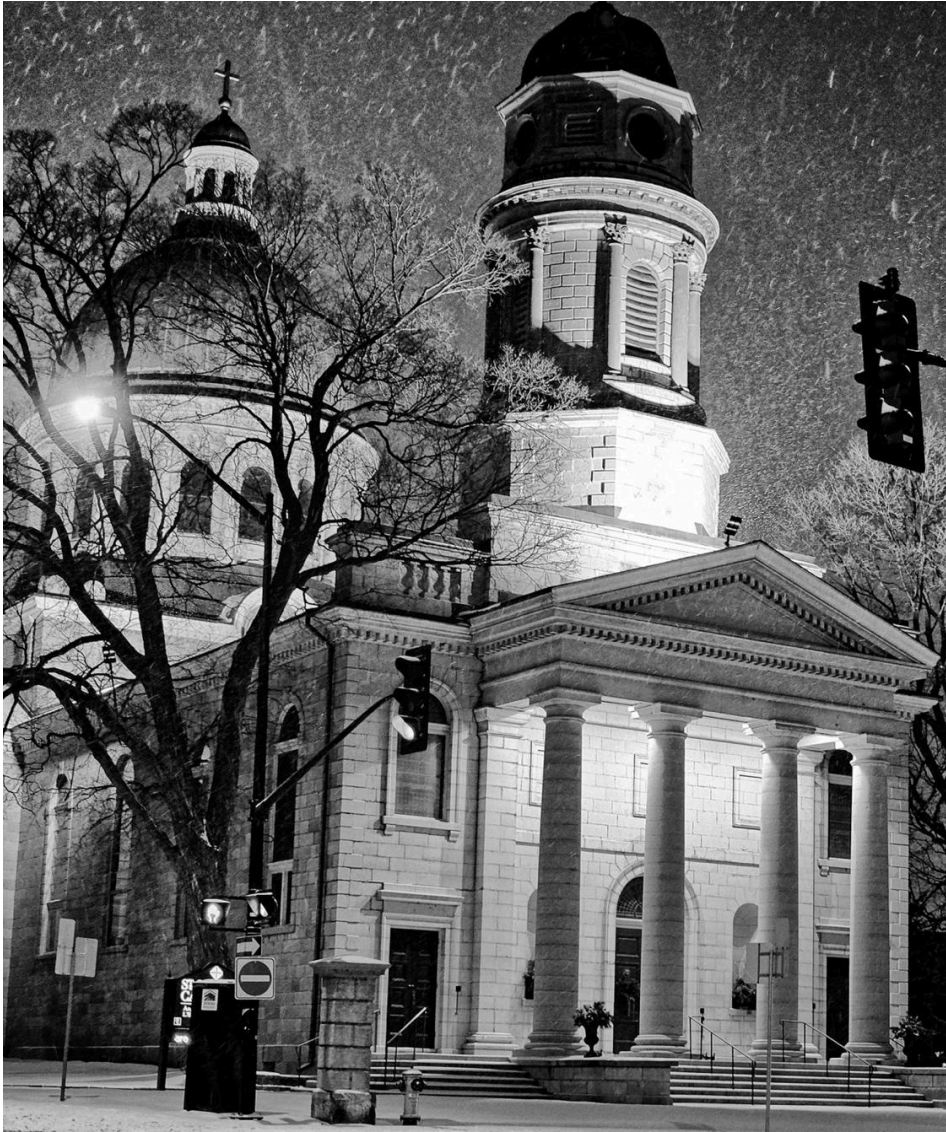


# THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT GEORGE



## Christmas Eve

Family Christmas Service

## ***Welcome*** TO ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

We are so glad that you have decided to worship with us on this most holy night! Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are always welcome here, and we hope to see you again soon.

We know that some wiggly worshippers may feel inclined to move around during the service. Please do not hesitate! There are activity bags available near the entrance – please help yourself. If you are in need, accessible washrooms are available by exiting through the door to the right of the Altar and heading down the hall. Please note that this service is being livestreamed.

We are so glad that you are here. Merry Christmas!

### **LEADING THE SERVICE**

The Very Rev. Douglas Michael  
*Dean & Rector*

The Venerable Bob Hales  
*Honorary Associate Priest*

Brad Barbeau  
*Director of Music*

### **ASSISTING WITH THE SERVICE**

The Rev. Dr. Reagan Gale, *lay minister & intercessor*  
Clara McIntire, *reader*                      Derek Falkner & Gerald Courage, *servers*  
Derek Falkner & Peter McCubbin, *livestream technicians*                      Jane Kirkpatrick, *verger*  
Doug & Sylvia Green, Ken Whatley & Jane Baldwin, *sidespeople*

### **DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO LOVES TO SING?**

Our Choristers are an essential part of our worshipping community, having the opportunity to perform amazing music during services and special events. The program has been designed to provide a thorough music education to the choristers. While the joy of singing together is the focus, choristers learn sight singing, music theory, and history, and weekly rehearsals include an hour of singing alongside the (adult) Cathedral Choir. Learning about teamwork, commitment, and most importantly, building self-confidence are also benefits of the programme.

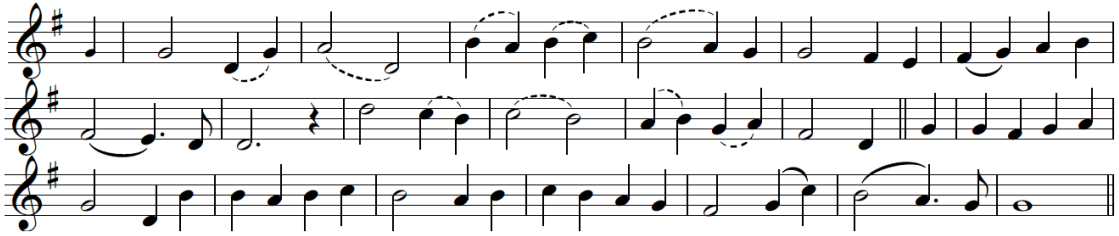
If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/music](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/music).

# The Gathering of the Community

## Organ Prelude

*The people's responses are in bold.*

**Gathering Hymn** | Sung by all, standing as able.



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,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

2 God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

3 Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*Adeste Fideles*

*J. F. Wade (c.1711-1786), trans.: F. Oakley, W. T. Brooke et al;*

*The people are seated.*

## Welcome & Announcements

*The people stand as able at the invitation of the Celebrant.*

## The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Celebrant* Joy to the world!

***People* The Lord has come!**

*The central candle is lit.*

*Celebrant* Jesus is the light of the world.

***People* A light no darkness can ever extinguish.**

## Candle Lighting Hymn | Sung by all.



Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.

*Angel Voices*

E. G. Monk 1819-1900

2. Now the candles tell their story  
of this Christmas Eve.  
Those who waited for God's glory:  
Now God's Joy receive.  
Christ is with us: loving, giving,  
Promising he'll never leave.

Mark Earey

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## The Opening Acclamation

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

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*People* 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.

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the Highest

*People* 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.

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.

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

*Celebrant* 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.

*The people are seated. All children and their grown-ups, as they wish, are invited to join the Dean on the chancel steps.*

# The Proclamation of *the* Word

## The Journey to the Manger | Luke 2: 1-5

*St. Luke tells why Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem:*

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.

## Congregational Carol | Sung by all, remaining seated.

*During the singing of the Carol the animals, Mary and Joseph are placed in the Crèche*



O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep And dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

3 How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him ,still  
The dear Christ enters in.

2 O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God the king,  
And peace to all on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary;  
And, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

## **The Birth of Christ** | Luke 2: 6-7

*St. Luke tells us about the birth of Jesus:*

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.

## **Congregational Carol** | Sung by all, remaining seated.

*During the singing of this Carol, the figure of the Christ Child is placed in the Crèche*



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.

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

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

*Away in a Manger*

*Attributed to Martin Luther*

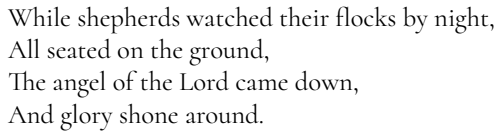
## **The Angel's Message** | Luke 2: 8-16

*St. Luke tells about the Angel's message to the shepherds.*

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.

*During this singing of this carol, the figures of the Shepherds are placed in the Crèche*



2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and humankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:

Winchester Old  
Thomas Este's *Psalter* 1592

## The Blessing of the Crèche

Let us pray.

Eternal God, 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.

## Children's Story

## The Prayers

*Intercessor*

In Joy and humility let us pray to our creator, saying:  
“Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer”.

Eternal God, creator of all. You are above all, through all, and with all. Help us to reverence your creation, this planet earth, its creatures – and your people in every land.

*People*

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

*Intercessor*

Eternal God, you come to us in your Spirit. You speak words of wisdom in prophets and teachers. You came to us in Jesus. He was born into a human family. He taught us your Way, of self-giving and service, of living in good will and peace with all people. Renew in us the Way of Christ Jesus.

*People*

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

*Intercessor*

Remember O Lord family and friends. Remember those with burdens and cares. Remember all those who are victims of warfare, violence, prejudice, and fear.

*People*

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

*Intercessor*

Eternal God, you raised Jesus, Mary and Joseph to the heavenly life. You raise your saints and all who seek after you. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may be true Children of God – and with all your family in heaven and on earth celebrate the grace and hope in Christ.

*People*

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

## Confession & Absolution

*Celebrant*

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

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant*

*All*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

*Celebrant*

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

*Celebrant*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.



People

And also with you.

# The Holy Communion

Eucharistic Prayer: Church of Wales, #7

*During this singing of this carol, an offering is received to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. If you are able, please consider making a gift as the plate is passed or by visiting [www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/give](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.ca/give). Thank you.*

**Offertory Carol** | Sung by all, standing as able.



What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping,  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where oxen now are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

*Greensleeves*  
English traditional melody

William Chatterton Dix 1837-1898  
and editors of *New English Hymnal* 1986

## The Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* 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

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

It is always right, wherever we are, to thank you and to praise you, God our Father and King for ever, through Jesus Christ, your Son.

Through him you made us and the whole universe. When your Holy Spirit came to Mary, Jesus was born as one of us. He loved us so much that he died for us; on the first Easter Day, you raised him to life; and death and evil were conquered for ever. At Pentecost, you gave the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, to help us to live as your children.

So here on earth, with the angels and archangels and with everyone in heaven we praise your name and sing:

**Sanctus & Benedictus** | Sung by all.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: 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 of your glory: 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.

*Celebrant*

Father in heaven, listen to the prayer we make in Jesus' name; through the Holy Spirit's power, gentle as a dove, may this bread and this wine be for us Jesus' body and blood. Father, we remember when Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died, he took the bread; he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take this and eat it – this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said: All of you drink from this cup, because this is my blood – the new promise of God's love. Do this every time you drink it to remember me. Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say:

*People*

**Christ has died. Christ is rise. Christ will come in glory.**

*Celebrant*

Father, as we remember your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again, we offer you these and all the gifts you freely give to us.

Send your Holy Spirit to be with us and all who share this bread and drink from this cup. Help us to trust you, bring us closer together and welcome us, with all your people, into Jesus' glorious kingdom. All honour and glory belong to you, Father, through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

*People*

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant*

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

*People*

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

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

*People*

**God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

## **The Communion**

*Celebrant*

The gifts of God for the People of God.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion in this Church. Please move to the rail at the direction of the ushers. You may receive the bread in open and outstretched hands, responding: "Amen." Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister. If you prefer to not receive wine from the common cup, you may simply touch the base of the chalice, again responding: "Amen." Should you wish to receive a blessing, please indicate that to the priest by crossing your arms over your chest.*

## **The Prayer After Communion**

*Celebrant*

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 people stand as able.*

*Celebrant*

Glory to God,

*People*

**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**

*Celebrant*

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. And so make haste to love, and be swift to be kind; And may the

God who travels with us, the God of pilgrimage, the God of Hope, bless, care and keep you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace. Proclaim the Good News!

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Closing Carol** | Sung by all, standing as able.



Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come

Offspring of a Virgin's womb!  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

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 us all from earth,  
Born to give them second birth:

*F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt.: by W. H. Cummings (1831-1915)*

*C. Wesley (1707-1788) et al*

**The Cathedral Church of Saint George**

[www.stgeorgescathedral.ca](http://www.stgeorgescathedral.ca)



