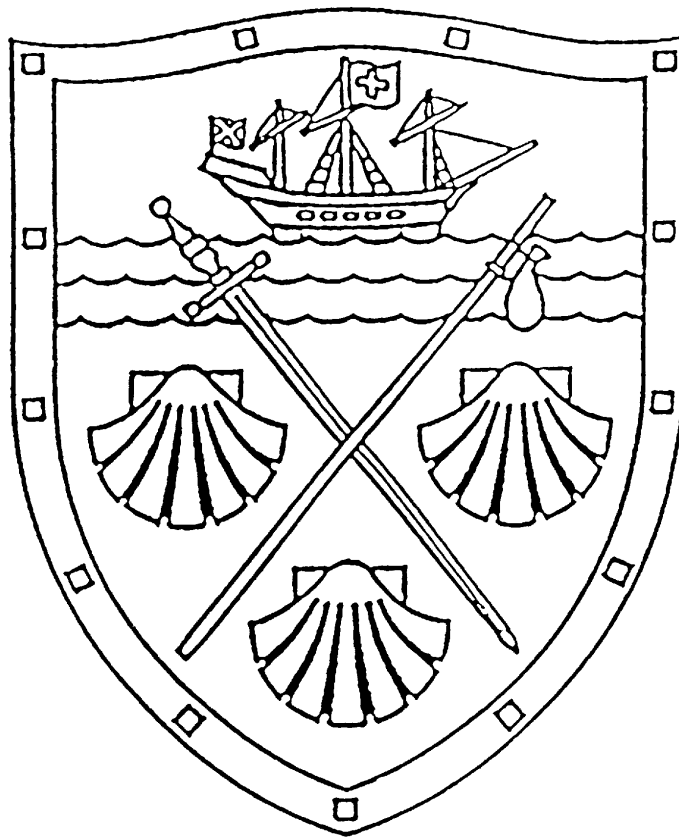


The Cathedral Church of St. James

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Sung Eucharist at 9:00am



*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Liturgical Note

In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Want to stay informed about what is happening at your Cathedral?
Sign up for **E-Connections** on our website at www.stjamescathedral.ca
(scroll to the bottom of the page).

Questions? Speak to a sidesperson – the people wearing gold name tags.

Children & Families

Sunday School meets every week at both the 9:00am and 11:00am services.
Please email Karyne Whalen at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca for more information.

Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible Washroom is located
at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.
Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

Coffee Hour

Join us in Snell Hall following the 9:00am & 11:00am services.

Parking

There are a variety of inexpensive parking lots available around the Cathedral.
Please see the leaflets at the back of the Cathedral or
online at stjamescathedral.ca/contact for more information.

Connect with the Cathedral

Visit our website at stjamescathedral.ca | Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stjamesto

*As this is a very public and open space please be aware of your personal belongings.
Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.*

Today at St. James

Presiding Celebrant & Homilist: The Reverend Canon Beth Benson

Reader & Intercessor: Mary Druce

Stewards: Irene Bailey & Elizabeth Hartman

Communion Ministers: Matt Jaeger & Carol Kysela

Honorary Verger: Paul D. Seddon, ODT

Director of Music & Organist: Thomas Bell • Associate Organist: Nathan Jeffery

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Jacob Wiens • Sung by The St. James Singers

The Flowers in the Cathedral are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for God's goodness and mercy.

Welcome! *We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning.*

Please ensure that cell phones are muted.

Please stand, sit or kneel as you feel comfortable during the service, including times of prayer.

Our music at this Eucharist is integral to our worship. Thank you all for your participation.

Everyone is most welcome to join us to prepare the music each Sunday at 8.15 a.m.

All that is needed is a willing heart to sing!

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Mass Setting: St. James Christmas Service - arr. by Mark Schweizer

Prelude Six Etudes en Forme de Canon No.1 - Non troppo vivace *Robert Schumann*
Quatre Esquisses No.4 - Allegretto *Robert Schumann*

Welcome & Announcements

Children are invited to gather at the Advent wreath before proceeding to the Library for Godly Play; they will return at the offertory.

Presider 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.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Fourth Candle - Love

Leader Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader Today the candles of **HOPE**, **PEACE** and **JOY** continue to burn in the Advent Wreath. On this the fourth Sunday in Advent, we will light the candle of **LOVE** as we continue to prepare ourselves for the joyful celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus shows us the way of love, for he is the love of God in human flesh. Jesus says to us, “*I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another*”.

People **Lord, kindle your love in our hearts.**

The fourth candle is lit.

Leader Let us pray:

People **Teach us to love, O God of Love. As we prepare for our celebration of the birth of your Son, fill our hearts with his love for you, our families, our neighbours, your church and the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, Jesus, our Saviour. Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Pied-de-port

Heavenly message, brought by an angel,
coming to lift the hopes of the earth;
bringing to Mary humble and lowly,
God's invitation to give the Christ birth.

Refrain

Mary we hail you, full of God's favour,
Blessed are you, and blessed your son;
He will be called the child of the highest,
Saviour of all, the holy one.

Mary replied to Gabriel's message,
"I am the servant, maid of the Lord.
Let it be done just as you have spoken.
My soul rejoices in God's saving word." *Refrain*

In the beginning, when God had spoken,
Through God's own Word all things came to be;
Now by that Word, embodied through Mary,
God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see. *Refrain*

Text: Paul Gibson©
Music: Melody Basque Trad.; harm Patrick Wedd (1948)©

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome your Christ into our midst.

People Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

The First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11

Reader Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.'

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of

Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 89

Tune: Winchester Old

All **O Lord, I will forever sing
about Your Faithfulness;
So every generation knows
the love by which You bless.**

**And I will tell how wonderful
and steadfast Your love,
How faithful You have shown Yourself
from heaven up above.**

**For You declared a covenant,
a promise You revealed;
You swore this word to David, Lord,
a solemn pledge You sealed**

**You told him that his lineage
would sit upon his throne,
Throughout the ages yet to come,
preserved by You alone.**

**O Lord, the heavens show Your works,
exalting You with praise,
Attesting to Your faithfulness
to those who keep Your ways.**

The Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Reader Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Veni Emmanuel

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cantor I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to his word.

People **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gospeller
er In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and

the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Apostles’ Creed

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

All **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

Presider In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, we await your coming!”

Pause

Intercessor Lord Jesus,

People **We await your coming!**

At the conclusion of the prayers.

Presider Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

People **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider 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

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.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

We offer each other a sign of peace, as you feel comfortable.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Donate to St. James Cathedral
by scanning or tapping
the QR code or visit
stjamescathedral-mobile.plenty.com



THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

An offering will now be taken to support the life and ministry of the Cathedral.

Offertory Hymn

Tune: Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealèd
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; translated by Roby Furley Davis;
Music: Plainsong Melody; adapt. Piae Cantiones, 1582.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider 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.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and
might, heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, 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 Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider With this bread and cup, we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

People **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

People **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Presider All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel. Word of God incarnate. Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

The 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 Breaking of the Bread

Presider God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei



O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly Child, who takes the
sin of the world a - way; Have mer - cy on us, lamb so
mild, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.
This, this is your bo - dy giv'n, your pre - cious
blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat, for we are
one in the babe, the son of Ma - - ry.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Gluten-free hosts are available upon request.

It is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine for health reasons.

If you choose not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Simply cross your hands over your chest to indicate this to the priest.

Communion Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

"I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:
a blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People **Amen.**

Presider 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

Presider Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Woodlands

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
 his holy name—the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
 Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
 proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
 the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
 Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
 to children’s children and for evermore!

Text: Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-56); para. Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: Walter Greatorex.
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Dismissal

Presider Let us go to the world in peace and loving service.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude In Dir ist Freude

J.S. Bach

| PRAYER CYCLE | PASTORAL CARE |
|--|---|
| <p><i>This week, please pray for: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; Susan Johnson, National Bishop, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Children’s ministry in the Diocese and the Scripture Circle</i></p> | <p>If you know anyone who would benefit from a call from our pastoral care team, please be in touch with our Sub-Dean & Vicar, The Rev’d Canon Dr. Stephen Fields: sfields@stjamescathedral.ca; 416-364-7865, ext. *235 or The Reverend Canon Beth Benson: bbenson@stjamescathedral.ca, 416-364-7865, ext. *237</p> |

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The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson

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Sub-Dean & Vicar

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Interim Associate Priest

The Reverend Canon Beth Benson

Vicar of St. Bartholomew, Regent Park

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Pastoral Associate

The Reverend David Bryan Hoopes, OHC

Music Director & Organist

Thomas Bell

Honorary Verger

Paul D. Seddon, ODT