

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Choral Evensong at 4:30pm

*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, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. 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.

For more information, visit our website by clicking the QR code on the right.



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 the 9:00am & 11:00am service.
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 service.

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

Officiant & Homilist: The Reverend Canon Dr. Alison Falby

Cathedral Clergy: The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance

First Reader: Ruth Davis • Second Reader: Denise Byard

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

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Jean-Paul Feo

Sung by the Choir of St. James Cathedral

The flowers in the Cathedral are given to the glory of God.

Welcome! We are glad you have joined us for worship.

Please ensure that cell phones are muted.

Choral Evensong

Our practice at Evensong is to stand for the procession and recession of the choir, and the canticles, to sing, sit for the Scripture readings (including the Psalm) and the Homily, and kneel or sit for prayer. These are guidelines and we invite you to assume a posture that is most comfortable for you during the service.

Prelude

Welcome

Please remain seated.

Introit **In the Stillness of a Church**

Choir

In the stillness of a church where candles glow,
In the softness of a fall of fresh white snow,
In the brightness of the stars that shine this night,
In the calmness of a pool of healing light,
In the clearness of a choir that softly sings,
In the oneness of a hush of angels' wings,
In the mildness of a night by stable bare,
In the quietness of a lull near cradle fair,
There's a patience as we wait for a new morn,
And the presence of a child soon to be born.

Sally Beamish

Please stand when the organ plays.

Preces and Responses

Herbert Sumsion

Officiant

O Lord, open thou our lips;

Choir

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us;

Choir

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant

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.

Officiant

Praise ye the Lord;

Choir

The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 147

Choir

Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God,
how joyful to honour him with praise.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up all their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
his wisdom is beyond all telling.

The Lord lifts up the poor,
but casts down the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make music to our God upon the lyre;

Who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth;

Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains
and green plants to serve our needs.

He gives the beasts their food
and the young ravens when they cry.

He takes no pleasure in the power of a horse,
no delight in human strength;

But the Lord delights in those who fear him,
who put their trust in his steadfast love.

Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blest your children within you.

He has established peace in your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends forth his command to the earth
and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool
and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread;

who can endure his frost?
He sends forth his word and melts them;
he blows with his wind and the waters flow.
He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israel.
He has not dealt so with any other nation;
they do not know his laws.
Alleluia.

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.

First Lesson

2 Samuel 7:18-29

Reader

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and said, ‘Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And yet this was a small thing in your eyes, O Lord God; you have spoken also of your servant’s house for a great while to come. May this be instruction for the people, O Lord God! And what more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Lord God! Because of your promise, and according to your own heart, you have wrought all this greatness, so that your servant may know it. Therefore you are great, O Lord God; for there is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears. Who is like your people, like Israel? Is there another nation on earth whose God went to redeem it as a people, and to make a name for himself, doing great and awesome things for them, by driving out before his people nations and their gods? And you established your people Israel for yourself to be your people for ever; and you, O Lord, became their God. And now, O Lord God, as for the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, confirm it for ever; do as you have promised. Thus your name will be magnified for ever in the saying, “The Lord of hosts is God over Israel”; and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, “I will build you a house”; therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. And now, O Lord God, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant; now therefore may it please you to bless the house of your servant, so that it may continue for ever before you; for you, O Lord God,

have spoken, and with your blessing shall the house of your servant be blessed for ever.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Magnificat

Evening Service in G by C. V. Stanford

Choir

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
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.

Second Lesson

Please be seated.

Luke 1:39-56

Reader

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the

Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Evening Service in G by C. V. Stanford

Choir Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
 according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
 which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
 and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

 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.

Apostles' Creed

Officiant I believe in God
All **the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Please kneel.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant Our Father

Choir 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 them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the King;

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people;

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou O Lord.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Officiant God of promise, you look with favour on the lowly, you scatter the proud and you fill the hungry. May we, like Mary, respond to your call and be obedient to your will; through Jesus Christ who is to come.

Choir Amen.

Officiant O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Choir Amen.

Officiant Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Choir Amen.

Please be seated.

Arr. Jim Clements

Anthem **The Angel Gabriel**

Choir The angel Gabriel from heaven came
With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame
All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be
All generations laud and honour thee
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head
To me be as it pleaseth God she said
My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Homily

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

Donate to St. James Cathedral
by scanning or tapping
the QR code or visit

st-james-cathedral | [CharityProfile](#) | [Donate Online \(canadahelps.org\)](http://DonateOnline.canadahelps.org)



Please stand.

Tune: Es Ist Ein'Ros

Hymn at the Collection

All Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Saviour,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Text; St. 1-2, German (15th cent.); tr. Theodore Baker. St. 3, Friedrich Layritz; tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth.
Music: Melody Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Koln, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius

Offertory Prayer

Dean Let us pray.

God our Redeemer, with joyful expectation we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and we offer these gifts to be used in your service. Fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love, and enable us to receive every gift from you as a foretaste of the glorious gift of your Son Jesus Christ as he comes to us in all of your fullness. To you, for him, and through your Spirit, be our grateful praise.

People **Amen.**

Prayers

Please kneel.

A Prayer of Saint John Chrysostom

Officiant Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

People **Amen.**

The Grace

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

People **Amen.**

Please stand.

Final Response

Edward Woodall Naylor

Officiant The Lord be with you;

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PRAYER CYCLE	PASTORAL CARE
<p><i>This week, please pray for: The Church of the Province of Uganda; The Anglican Church Women (ACW) – Enid Corbett, Diocesan President and The Cathedral Council</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 and The Reverend Matthew Waterman: mwaterman@stjamescathedral.ca, 416-364-7865, ext. 254</p>

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ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL CONNECTIONS - Sunday, December 22, 2024

Sunday Children's Program: Invite the little ones to the 9:00am & 11:00am services.

Coffee Hour: Following the 9:00am & the 11:00am services in Snell Hall.

Thank you to Canon Beth: Join us today after the 11:00am service in Snell Hall.

2025 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up today in the West Aisle.



Let's celebrate together the miracle of the Incarnation when the blessings of hope, peace, joy, and love came to us in the child of Bethlehem. Everyone is invited. Join us with your family, friends and invite your neighbours!

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

4:00pm: Festive Organ Recital*

4:30pm: Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols*

7:30pm: Choral Eucharist*

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

8:00am: Said Eucharist

9:00am: Sung Eucharist*

11:00am: Choral Eucharist*

*Services will also be live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto

Sunday, January 5, 2025 at 4:30pm:

Epiphany Lessons and Carols with the Chalking of the Doors

Join us for this beautiful service of readings and carols as we worship in the footsteps of the wise men and celebrate the Epiphany. The choral music, congregational carols, and readings will trace the story of the wise men and the early ministry of Jesus. We will also dedicate the building through the ancient ceremony of the chalking of the doors, blessing the cathedral and all who will enter during the coming year. This is a beautiful way to mark the beginning of the New Year. The service will begin with an organ recital at 4:00pm.

All are most welcome!

Sunday, February 2 at 4:30pm: Matthew's Ordination

Good news! Deacon Matthew Waterman will be ordained a priest on Sunday, February 2 (The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord) at 4:30pm in the Cathedral. More details to come.

Today after the 11:00am service: Thank you to Canon Beth



Join us at Coffee Hour to honour Canon Beth Benson for her wonderful ministry at St. James Cathedral. We are grateful for all she has done for our congregation over the past years and for her warm and gracious presence. If you wish to contribute to the farewell gift, donate online, by envelope on the Offertory Plate indicating “*Tribute Gift for Canon Beth*”, by transfer to bookkeeper@stjamescathedral.ca Please note: This gift is non-receiptable.

Make a special year-end gift

We are grateful for your generous support throughout the year. Please make a special end-of-year gift in four different ways. To receive a tax receipt for 2024, please donate by Dec 31.

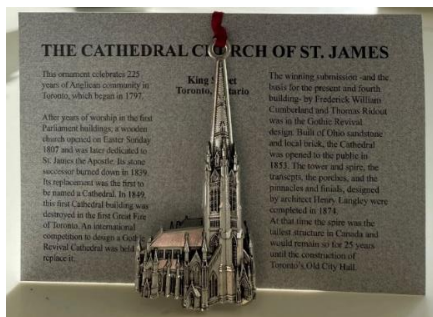


E-Transfer: to gifts@stjamescathedral.ca If you require a tax receipt, please provide name and address in the message. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more in 2025.

Online: stjamescathedral.ca/donate/give-online/

In-person: Drop off an offering to the secure mailbox which is mounted in the Church Street vestibule at the entrance of the doors at 65 Church Street by December 31.

If you'd like to speak with someone directly about ways to give, please contact us at 416-364-7865 or email Serena at sli@stjamescathedral.ca.



Christmas gifts: Pewter Cathedral Ornaments

Ornaments come in a bag with a ribbon and a cathedral history card. Get yours at \$25 each at the front desk from 9:00am to 3:00pm until tomorrow December 23.

Give an elegant and beautiful gift to your family, friends, and neighbours.

This is the perfect ornament for any Christmas tree!

Wednesday, January 1, 2025: New Year's Day & Bishop's Levee:



12:15pm: Said Eucharist

1:30pm-2:45pm: Receiving Line and Reception.

2:45pm: Festive Music with brass quintet*

3:30pm: Choral Evensong with the presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto*

*Services will also be live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto
All are welcome!

January 8-February 23: Scripture Circle - Epiphany Encounter with Christ

Join us during Epiphany on Wednesdays at 11:00am and Sundays following the 11:00am service for a Scripture Circle series designed for newcomers to the Cathedral and for established members looking to encounter Christ afresh.

We will look at the mysterious and symbolic description of Jesus in Revelation 1.12-16 and learn about how Jesus continues to minister to us and among us today.

The World Day of Prayer 2025 is coming to St. James Cathedral



The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement with an annual prayer service that gathers Christians worldwide for a time of learning, prayer, and fellowship.

Preparation begins soon and you are invited!

WDP Festival Day: January 11, 2025 from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church on 1585 Yonge Street, Toronto. Registration begins at 9:00am.

More info: wdpcanada.ca

World Day of Prayer hosted by St. James Cathedral on March 8, 2025 at 2:00pm. More information to come.

January 22 at 2:00pm: York Group event with the Refugee Committee



The York Group warmly invites you to join us for a speaker event in the Cathedral Centre with Rebecca McTaggart, Co-Chairperson of the St. James and Community Refugee Committee. Come and hear about some of the individuals currently being assisted through this important and life-changing work. No RSVP needed.

Sunday, March 9, 2025: Vestry Meeting

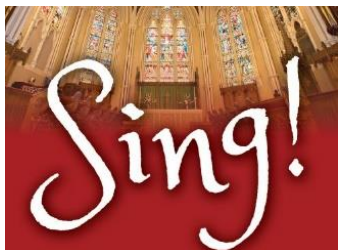


Our 2024 Vestry Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2025 in Snell Hall chaired by our Dean the Very Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hance. There will be one combined service at 10:00am and the Vestry meeting will follow after the service.

More information will come. Stay tuned.

This is a message from The Wardens.

Sing with us!



The Choir of St. James Cathedral welcomes applications for singers with musical experience. If you would like to join one of our choirs or know of others who would like to, contact Thomas Bell, Director of Music at tbell@stjamescathedral.ca, who would be delighted to hear from you.

All voices are welcome!

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Online Morning Prayer at 8:30am

will stop on Tuesday, December 24, and resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025 via the Cathedral YouTube channel

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm

will stop on Tuesday, December 24, and resume on Friday, December 27 in the Cathedral - St. George's Chapel.

Cathedral Centre will be closed from Dec. 24 at 3:00pm until Jan. 1. Regular hours will resume on Jan. 2.

The Cathedral will be closed on Dec. 26 and re-open on Dec. 27 for regular services.

The Drop-In will be celebrating New Year on Friday, Dec. 27 at 1:00pm.

Services: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Readings for December 24:

Christmas Eve

Is-9:2-7

Ps-96

Tit-2:11-14

Lk 2:1-20

Readings for December 25:

Christmas Day

Is 61:10-62:3

Ps 98

Heb-1:1-4

Jn-1:1-14

St. James Cemetery: Pre-planning services/Plots available.

The Cemetery office will be closed on Dec 25, 26, and Jan 1.

The Cemetery Gates hours stay the same from 8:00am to 5:00pm, seven days a week.

Contact: 416-964-9194 / cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca / www.stjamescemetery.ca

Add a special touch of remembrance for the season to honor your loved one!



Joining the Seasonal Wreath program at St. James Cemetery & Crematorium is one of the best ways to express your appreciation to your loved ones and all the faithful departed. Book your beautiful wreath in advance. For more information call 416-964-9194, visit stjamescemetery.ca, or email cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca

Preplan your funeral and cemetery services



Preplanning gives you peace of mind and the opportunity to make your wishes known. Cathedral clergy are available to assist with funeral plans and our cemetery staff would be pleased to help you preplan your interment and other cemetery services. Protect yourself from future inflationary increases, too. For more information: Contact the Vicar at sfields@stjamescathedral.ca or George Vrozos our Cemetery Manager.

Stay connected: Are you receiving our online weekly newsletter?

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