

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Choral Eucharist at 11:00am

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, 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 11:00am service.

Please email Karyne Whalen at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca for more information.

For more information on our Children's Community Choir,
please email Director Cara Halpin at chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca

Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible all-gender 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

Please join us at Snell Hall following the 9:00am & 11:00am service.

Parking

There are a range of affordable 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.

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*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

Presider: The Reverend Lynn Braye

Homilist: The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Deacon of the Mass: The Reverend Jillian Ruch

Anointer: The Reverend Canon Douglas Graydon • Sub-Deacon: Leslie Laing

First Reader: Tina Conlon • Second Reader: Debra Solomon

Intercessor: Don Solomon, ODT • Honorary Verger: Paul D. Seddon, ODT

Communion Ministers: Aidan Hopperton, John Hopperton, Leslie Laing

Gordon Robison & Paul D. Seddon, ODT

Director of Music & Organist: Thomas Bell • Associate Organist: Jean-Paul Feo

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee

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 this morning.

Please ensure that cell phones are muted.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Our practice during this liturgy is to stand when we sing and during the proclamation of the Gospel, sit for other Scripture readings (including the Psalm) and the Homily, and stand, sit, or kneel for prayer. These are guidelines and we invite you to assume a posture that is most comfortable for you during the service.

Music of the Mass: Belfast Centenary Eucharist by Philip Stopford

Prelude II. Idylle, from Organ Sonata in C major, Op. 165 *Josef Gabriel Rheinberger*

Welcome & Announcements

Children are invited to gather around the Advent wreath before proceeding to the Library for Sunday School; 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 with thy spirit.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Third Candle - Joy

Leader Light and joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Leader The candles of hope and peace continue to burn in the Advent Wreath. Today we light the second candle, the candle of **JOY**.

The third candle is lit.

Isaiah tells of the desert blooming, the blind seeing, the lame leaping for joy. When John the Baptist wonders if Jesus is the One, the answer comes in deeds of healing and good news for the poor. This is the joy of God's kingdom breaking in. As we rejoice in the nearness of Christ's coming, we join with creation in singing for joy.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, our Joy and our Song.**

Leader Let us pray.

Silence

God of joy, you lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. By your Spirit, open our eyes to your presence, and gladden our hearts as we wait for the coming of Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Crüger

All

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.
To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

Text: James Montgomery, alt.
Music: Melody Johann Crüger; adapt. William Henry Monk

Presider

Almighty God,

People

unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Choir

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

Collect of the Day

Presider

Let us pray.

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

People

Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Isaiah 35

Reader The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:4-9

Chant by E.G. Monk

Choir Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.
The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;

he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Reader Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Thomas Bell



All O Root of Jesse, promised one,
The prophets told of God's own Son.
Fulfilled in Christ; come quickly, come.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

O God with us, Emmanuel,
The day Christ comes, none can foretell.
So live in hope: all shall be well.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Deacon When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are

cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Deacon The Gospel of Christ. *People* Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Homily *O Radix Jesse (Branch of Jesse), standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.*

The Nicene Creed

Merbecke

Presider I believe in one God

All **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Presider In hope and expectation, let us pray to the Lord who comes to set his people free saying, “Christ who comes to set us free, hear our prayer.”

Silence

Intercessor Christ who comes to set us free,

People **hear our prayer.**

At the conclusion of the prayers.

Presider O God of patience and steadfast love, strengthen us by your Spirit to wait with joy, to live in hope, and to follow faithfully in the way of Jesus Christ, who is our coming Lord.

People **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty God,

All **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

We offer each other a sign of peace.

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THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Offertory Hymn

Tune: Tempus Adest Floridum

All

When the King shall come again
all his power revealing,
splendour shall announce his reign,
life and joy and healing;
earth no longer in decay,
hope no more frustrated;
this is God's redemption day
longingly awaited.

In the desert, trees take root,
fresh from his creation;
plants and flowers and sweetest fruit
join the celebration;
rivers spring up from the earth,
barren lands adorning.
Valleys, this is your new birth;
mountains, greet the morning!

Strengthen feeble hands and knees;
fainting hearts, be cheerful!
God, who comes for such as these,
seeks and saves the fearful.
Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues
sing away their weeping;
blind eyes, see the lifeless ones
walking, running, leaping!

There God's highway shall be seen
where no roaring lion,
nothing evil or unclean,
walks the road to Zion:
ransomed people homeward bound
all your praises voicing,
see your Lord with glory crowned,
share in his rejoicing!

Text: Christopher Idle
Music: Melody *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
Tune: Tempus Adest Floridum
Text: Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188
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Prayer over the Gifts

Presider God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Presider It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things.

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 with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

Sanctus & Benedictus

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Presider All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, who didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the body and blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

People **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

Presider And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this holy communion may worthily receive the most precious body and blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one

body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Merbecke

Presider And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

Presider *All*

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be thy name, thy king-dom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our dai-ly bread,
And for-give us our tres-pass-es, as we for-give them that tres-pass a-gainst us.
And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil.
For thine is the king-dom, the pow-er and the glo-ry, for-ev-er and ev-er. A - men.

Silence

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

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

- *All are welcome to receive the Holy Sacrament or a blessing.*
- *Please approach the High Altar in **single file and fill the altar rail from the right side.** Exit through the door by the organ.*
- *Gluten-free hosts are available upon request at the Lady Chapel.*
- *It is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine for health reasons.*
- *You are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing by crossing your hands over your chest.*
- *Prayers for healing and anointing are available at the Baptistry.*

Communion Hymn

Tune: Picardy

All Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
 and with fear and trembling stand;
 ponder nothing earthly-minded,
 for, with blessing in his hand,
 Christ our God to us approacheth,
 our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
 as of old on earth he stood,
 Lord of lords, in human vesture,
 in the body and the blood,
 he will give to all the faithful
 his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
 spreads its vanguard on the way,
 as the Light of light descendeth
 from the realms of endless day,
 that the powers of hell may vanish
 as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,
 cherubim with sleepless eye,
 veil their faces to the presence,
 as with ceaseless voice they cry,
 “Alleluia, alleluia,
 alleluia, Lord most high!”

Text: The Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie
 Music: French carol

Motet
Choir

How Beautiful Upon the Mountains

John Stainer

How beautiful upon the mountains: are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings.

That publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good: that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Sion thy God reigneth.

The watchmen shall lift up the voice: with the voice together shall they sing.

For they shall see eye to eye: when the Lord shall bring again Sion.

Break forth into joy: sing together ye waste places of Jerusalem.

For the Lord hath comforted His people: He hath redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord hath made bare His holy arm: in the eyes of all the nations.

And all the ends of the earth: shall see the salvation of our God.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever.

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. 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: Helmsley

All

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving, shall the true Messiah see.

Now redemption, long expected, see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected, thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! See the day of God appear!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
O, come quickly! O, come quickly! O, come quickly!
Hallelujah! Come, Lord, come!

Text: John Cennick, Charles Wesley, Martin Mada, alt.
Music: Melody attrib. Thomas Olivers and Martin Madan.

Dismissal

Deacon

Followers of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world that God loves.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

PRAYER CYCLE

This week, please pray for:

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; Tecumseth Deanery and Scripture Circle

PASTORAL CARE

If you know someone who would appreciate a call from our pastoral care team, please email pastoral@stjamescathedral.ca or call 416-364-7865, press 1 to leave a message.

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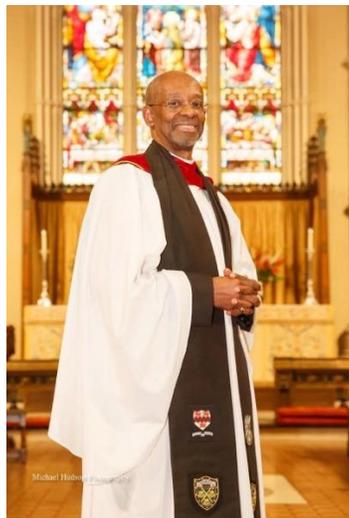
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ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL-CONNECTIONS - Sunday, December 14, 2025

Regular services at 8:00am, 9:00am (*Worship Together*), 11:00am, and 4:30pm.

Children & Families: Sunday school at 11:00am. **Coffee Hour:** After 9:00am & 11:00am.

Notice of Retirement



We announce the retirement of our Vicar and Sub Dean, The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields, from full-time ministry, effective June 30, 2026. Ordained in 1981, he has served the church in New York, Barbados, and Toronto, including here at St. James Cathedral since 2021. His ministry has been marked by a deep commitment to proclaiming Christ, advocating for the poor and marginalized, and challenging the Church to confront racism. We give thanks for his ministry and for all who have shared in his journey, as he looks forward to continuing to serve the Church as God calls after a time of rest. His final Sunday of full-time service at the Cathedral will be May 31, 2026, the 45th anniversary of his ordination to Diaconate.

Our Merry Moments service returns



We're delighted to once again offer these 30-min Advent and Christmas services filled with beloved carols, readings, and a short homily. These joy-filled gatherings are perfect for anyone, and especially those who may not usually attend church or prefer a shorter service. This service is offered multiple times to accommodate a variety of schedules:

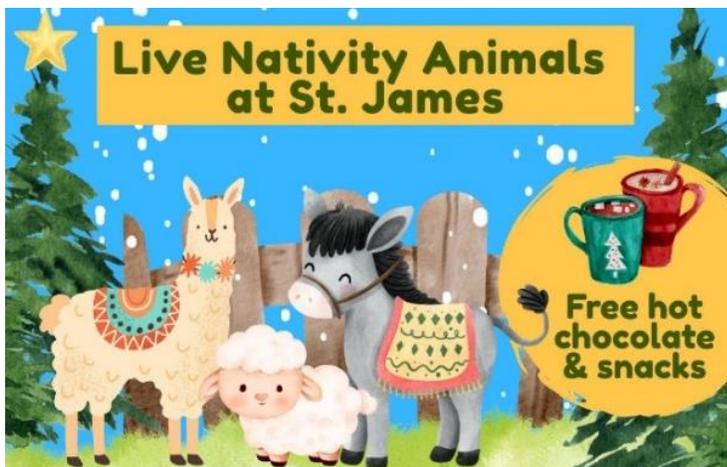
Dec. 16: 4:00pm (in person & online) & 6:00pm

Dec. 18: 1:00pm & 5:30pm

Dec. 20: 10:30am (see below) & 1:00pm

The 10:30am service on Dec. 20 will be led by our Children's Community Choir. After the service, head out to the West Lawn for a Live Nativity Animal Petting Zoo from 11:00am to 1:00pm, complete with hot chocolate and snacks for everyone.

This is a family-friendly event for the whole community, so bring your friends and neighbours to share in the joy and spirit of Christmas!



Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30pm:

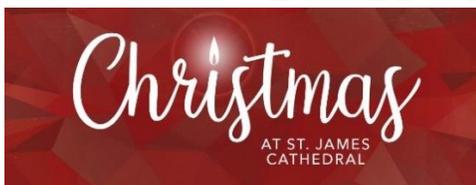
***La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen played by Rashaan Allwood**



La Nativité du Seigneur
by Olivier Messiaen

Nine musical meditations on the birth of Jesus are interspersed with poems and Bible readings. *La Nativité* is of the most startlingly original works ever created for the organ. Olivier Messiaen, a deeply devout musician, conceived a series of nine musical tableaux which reflect not only upon the actual events of the nativity – the shepherds, the wise men – but the profound implications of these events for us today. The organ portrays the story in music, which ranges from quiet, timeless introspection to shattering excitement. Biblical readings and poems by George Herbert, W.H. Auden, Malcolm Guite, Tennyson, and others will intersperse the musical reflections. Donations are welcome to support the work of the St. James and Community Refugee Committee.

Dec. 24 & 25: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day



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. Join us with family, friends, and invite your neighbours!

Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve

4:00pm: Festive Organ Recital*

4:30pm: Lessons & Carols*

7:30pm: Choral Eucharist*

Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day

8:00am: Said Eucharist

10:30am: Choral Eucharist*

*Also live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto

Share the Joy: Ways to support our Drop-In program this Christmas!



Volunteer with us:

On Christmas (Dec. 19)

Boxing Day (Dec. 26)

New Year (Jan. 2). Shifts will run between 9:00am to 5:30pm. Come spread some holiday cheer!

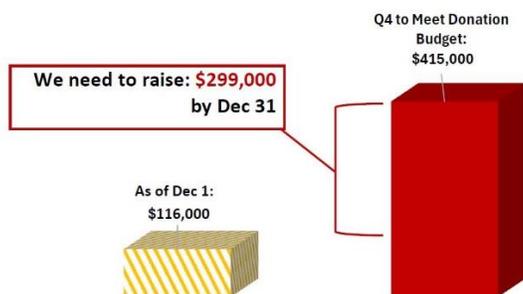
For details or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Biasi – Outreach Manager at 416 364-7865 Ext. 222 or kbiasi@stjamescathedral.ca

On behalf of the Drop-In program, thank you for the ongoing support and care you show at this time and throughout the year. Your generosity helps make the Drop-In a welcoming, safe, and caring community for all our neighbours and volunteers.

St. Bartholomew's Food Drive: Thank you for your support

If you can, please support the food program by donating nonperishable food items in the red bin located at the King Street entrance of the Cathedral. Donations accepted until Dec. 31.

'Tis the Giving Season!



Your generosity fuels the Cathedral's mission. As we approach year-end, donations are 26% below target, and we need \$299,000 by December 31 to reach our annual budget. Be part of the mission.

Give today! Every gift matters. Donate by December 31 to receive a 2025 tax receipt.

Choose one of the following easy ways to give:

1. **E-Transfer:** to gifts@stjamescathedral.ca, include name and address for tax receipt. Tax receipts will be issued for gifts of \$20 or more in 2026.
2. **Give Online:** www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-james-cathedral/
3. **In-Person:** Drop off your donation in the secure mailbox, mounted in the vestibule at the 65 Church Street entrance doors.
4. **Other Ways to Give,** please visit:
stjamescathedral.ca/donate/give-online
or scan our QR code:



LOOKING AHEAD

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

12:15pm: Eucharist and carols

1:30pm-2:45pm: Receiving Line and Reception with the ringing of the Bells of Old York

2:45pm: Festive Music for Brass Quintet

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

Sunday, Jan. 4 at 4:30pm:

Epiphany Lessons and Carols with the Chalking of the Doors

Join us for a beautiful Epiphany service of readings, hymns, and choral music as we follow the journey of the wise men and reflect on the early ministry of Jesus. We will also bless the cathedral and all who will enter in the coming year through the ancient ceremony of the chalking of the doors. The service begins with an organ recital at 4:00pm. All are welcome!

Monday, Jan. 19 at 2:00pm: The York Group and Will Postma

We are delighted to welcome Will Postma, CEO of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), as our guest speaker. Come enjoy an afternoon of learning and fellowship. No RSVP.

Info: stjamescathedral.ca/community/york-group

THIS WEEK AT THE CATHEDRAL

Morning Prayer – online only at 8:30am

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm

Monday to Saturday via the Cathedral YouTube channel Monday to Saturday in St. George's Chapel.

Visit us: The Cathedral is open Monday-Saturday from 10:00am–3:00pm
The Cathedral Centre offices are open Monday-Friday from 9:00am–4:00pm

Online Morning Prayer:

Join our clergy and fellow members of the Cathedral from Monday to Friday for Morning Prayer in our **Zoom Chapel**.

To access, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/MPatSJC> or scan the QR code. For more information, visit: stjamescathedral.ca/morningprayer/



Tuesday: Organ Recital in the Cathedral at 1:00pm. Free admission, donations welcome

Wednesday: Scripture Circle gathers this week in the Cathedral Centre at 11:00am and will resume on Jan. 7.

Friday: Drop-In from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. We welcome our guests for a nutritious meal

Dec. 19 at 7:30pm: *La Nativité du Seigneur* by Olivier Messiaen played by Rashaan Allwood.

Saturday: Children's Community Choir Rehearsal from 9:30am to 10:30am on Dec. 20, and resuming on Jan. 10, 2026

St. James Cemetery: Seasonal Wreath program, Pre-planning services & Plots available.
Info: 416-964-9194, cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca or visit stjamescemetery.ca

Sunday Services – Dec. 21, 2025

8:00am: Said Eucharist

9:00am: Worship Together*

11:00am: Choral Eucharist*

4:30pm: Christmas Lessons & Carols*

*Live-streamed on the Cathedral YouTube channel at youtube.com/stjamescathedraltoronto

Readings for

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10–16

Psalms 80:1–7, 16–18

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

The Cathedral Church of St. James exists today through the gifts of time, talent, and treasure of both past and present members of the Cathedral community.

Scan to Donate



Thank you for your support!
St. James Cathedral,
a symbol of God's presence
and love in the city.

Do you get our online weekly newsletter? Sign up today at stjamescathedral.ca

St. James Cathedral: (416)364-7865 / info@stjamescathedral.ca

Facebook/Instagram: @stjamesto / **YouTube:** stjamescathedraltoronto

St. James Cemetery: (416)964-9194 / stjamescemetery.ca / cemetery@stjamescathedral.ca