



*December 20, 2025 at 10:30am  
with the Children's Community Choir*

*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.*

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Welcome to Merry Moments! We are so excited to share these moments with you as we celebrate Christmas together.

St. James Cathedral is here to serve all the people of Toronto. We do this through services and events, concerts and lectures, through the work of our Friday Drop-In and our Refugee Committee.

Please do come again. You can follow us through our website and social media presence, or join us for a service on any Sunday as follows:

**8:00am Said Eucharist** *Simple Communion service in traditional language*

**9:00am Worship Together** *All-ages Communion service with music*

**11:00am Choral Eucharist** *Sensory-rich Communion service with the Cathedral Choir*

**4:30pm Choral Evensong** *Meditative prayer service with the Cathedral Choir*

**Live-streaming on the Cathedral's YouTube channel**

[www.youtube.com/@StJamesCathedralToronto/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@StJamesCathedralToronto/streams)

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### Children & Families

Sunday School meets every week at the 11:00am service.

Please email Karyne Whalen at [kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca) for more information.

For more information on our Children's Community Choir, please email Director Cara Halpin at [chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca)

### Accessibility

**An All-Gender 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.

### Connect with the Cathedral

Visit our website at [stjamescathedral.ca](http://stjamescathedral.ca) | Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/stjamesto](https://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.*

# THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

*Our practice during this liturgy is to sit for Scripture readings 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.*

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Opening Sentence

*Please stand.*

*Officiant* I bring you good news of great joy: a Saviour has been born to you.

*People* **To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**

*Officiant* He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

*People* **We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

## Carol **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*All* 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.

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: St. 1-3, 5 John Francis Wade; St. 4 Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; Music: Melody attrib. John Francis Wade, alt.

*Please be seated.*

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

## **The First Reading**

*Reader* The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Children's Community Choir**

### **Donkey Riding**

*Choir* Were you ever in Quebec stowing timber on a deck,  
Where there's a king with a golden crown,  
Riding on a donkey?

*Refrain*

*Hey, ho! Away we go!*

*Donkey riding, donkey riding.*

*Hey, ho! Away we go!*

*Riding on a donkey.*

Were you ever off the Horn, where it's always fine and warm,  
Seeing the lion and the Unicorn,  
Riding on a donkey. *Refrain*

Were you ever in Cardiff Bay, where the folks all shout "Hurray!"  
Here comes John with his three months pay,  
Riding on a donkey. *Refrain*

## **Children's Community Choir**

### **Do You Hear the Shepherd?**

*Choir Refrain:*  
*Do you hear the shepherd?*  
*Calling clear and strong?*  
*Do you hear the shepherd?*  
*Do you hear the song?*

One by one, he calls each by name:  
All are in his sight.  
His clear song quiets all our fear  
through the cold and dark of night. *Refrain*

When he speaks, our hearts leap with joy,  
For we know the shepherd's voice.  
As we walk through the narrow gate,  
our trusting hearts rejoice. *Refrain*

### **The Second Reading**

*Luke 2:8-20*

*Reader* In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Reader*  
*People*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Carol**  
*Choir*

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child  
Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

*All*

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Homily**

**Carol**

**Hark, the Herald Angels Sing**

*Please stand.*

*All*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King."*

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 as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

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 each child of earth, born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

## **The Prayers**

*Please adopt a posture of prayer.*

*Officiant* In joy and humility, let us pray to the Creator of the universe, saying, "Hear us Lord, and grant us peace."

*People* Source of Life, we thank you for your gift to the world in the form of the Christ-child; in receiving this gift, may we lead lives filled with meaning, compassion, and grace and spend our days in loving service. Hear us Lord,  
**And grant us peace.**

*Officiant* Source of power and peace, cause us to strive for peace and reconciliation in our daily lives and may all the nations live in peace and harmony. Hear us Lord,

*People* **And grant us peace.**

*Officiant* Source of all comfort, who brought good news to the Shepherds, give us hope through the difficult times we face each day, and may we know your love for us in the depths of our hearts. Hear us Lord,

*People* **And grant us peace.**

*Officiant* Source of blessing, visit every home and place of residence in this and every land, and bless them with your love, mercy, and peace as you blessed the home of Mary and Joseph. Hear us Lord,

*People* **And grant us peace.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Officiant* Let us pray as our Saviour taught us.

*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.**

*Officiant* God sent messengers to bring to shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth.

*People* **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

*Officiant* We have heard the story of God's own Son.

*People* **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

*Officiant* May God fill us with joy and the desire to bring this good news to others today.

*People* **Amen. We thank you, Lord.**

**Carol Joy to the World**

*Please stand.*

*All* Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive the King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as our sin is found, far as our sin is found,  
far as, far as our sin is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## **Postlude**

*Officiant: The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts (Canon Missioner)*

*Homilist: The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields (Vicar)*

***Please join us with the Nativity Animals from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the West Lawn.***

***Nativity Animal petting zoo with hot chocolate and snacks are available!***

***Happy Christmas!***

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