

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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.

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

Presider: The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Homilist: The Reverend Matthew Waterman

Deacon of the Mass: The Reverend Jillian Ruch

Anointer: The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields • Sub-Deacon: David Grant

First Reader: Nancy Conn • Second Reader: Quentin Toderick

Intercessor: George McNeillie • Honorary Verger: Paul D. Seddon, ODT

*Communion Ministers: Stanley Baptiste, John Hopperton, Mary Hopperton,
Paul Seddon and Joanne Short*

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 and in loving memory of

Florence & Albert Seddon

Archdeacon Ian Grant

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: Missa Brevis by Walter MacNutt

Prelude

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 Fourth Candle – Love

Leader Light and love, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

The fourth candle is lit.

Isaiah assures us that a child shall be born, a sign of God's saving presence. Paul declares that in Jesus we are called to belong to God's beloved people. Matthew tells the story of Emmanuel, God with us, love made flesh in Mary's child. As we wait with love for the coming of Christ, we remember that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

People **Come, Lord Jesus, Love made flesh, and dwell among us.**

Leader Let us pray.

Silence

God of love, you draw near to us in Jesus, your Son, born of Mary. Fill our hearts with your compassion, and make us signs of your faithful love in the world, through him who is Emmanuel, God with us, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitur

All

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still
the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to us displayed.

From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.

O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.

Text: St. Ambrose, tr. John Mason Neale
Music: Melody Michael Praetorius; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward

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 of grace, give us the faith of Joseph to see the Spirit's work where the world sees only shame; to listen to the promise and to awaken to the cry of life renewed and love reborn; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Chant by I. A. Atkins

Choir Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted,
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.
Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

The Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Reader Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Thomas Bell



All O Key of David, come and free
Us from the Chains of Tyranny
We long for heaven's liberty!
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 1:18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Deacon

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

Homily

O Clavis David (Key of David) and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

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 Loving God, you came to Joseph in a dream and calmed his fear. Cast out fear from our hearts, fill us with your perfect love, and make us signs of your presence in the world, through Jesus Christ our Emmanuel.

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.

Donate to St. James Cathedral

by scanning or tapping
the QR code or visit

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



THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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

Offertory Hymn

Thomas Bell

All

O Wisdom, born of God alone,
Create within our hearts a throne
To welcome Christ, and Christ alone.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

O Holy Lord, O Adonai,
Your ancient law shall never die,
Fulfilled in Christ, whose reign is nigh.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

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

O Key of David, come and free
Us from the chains of tyranny;
We long for heaven's liberty!
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

O Morning Star, dispel the night,
Prepare our world to see your light,
With hope renewed and hearts aright.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

O King of Nations, come we pray
Heal all our strife; do not delay.
Reign in our hearts, forever stay.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

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

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 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: Es Ist Ein'Ros

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

Motet **The Angel Gabriel**

Arr. Jim Clements

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!

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. 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

All 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.

Tune: Woodlands

Text © 1962, Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-709278. All rights reserved.

Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

PRAYER CYCLE

*This week, please pray for:
The Anglican Church of Burundi
The Anglican Church Women (ACW) – Janice Hodgson, Diocesan President
Property Staff & Sextons*

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.

HYMN TEXTS ARE REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION UNDER ONE LICENSE # A-709278.

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION BIBLE: (NRSV) ANGLICIZED EDITION, COPYRIGHT 1989, 1995, DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. USED BY PERMISSION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. TEXTS FROM THE BOOK OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES ARE REPRODUCED WITH PERMISSION UNDER COPYRIGHT © 2004 BY THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCED UNDER LICENSE FROM ABC PUBLISHING, ANGLICAN BOOK CENTRE, A MINISTRY OF THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FROM ANGLICAN LITURGICAL LIBRARY. FURTHER COPYING IS PROHIBITED. MATERIAL FROM THE NEW ENGLISH HYMNAL © THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION OF ENGLISH TEXTS. REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE ARCHBISHOPS' COUNCIL. VI

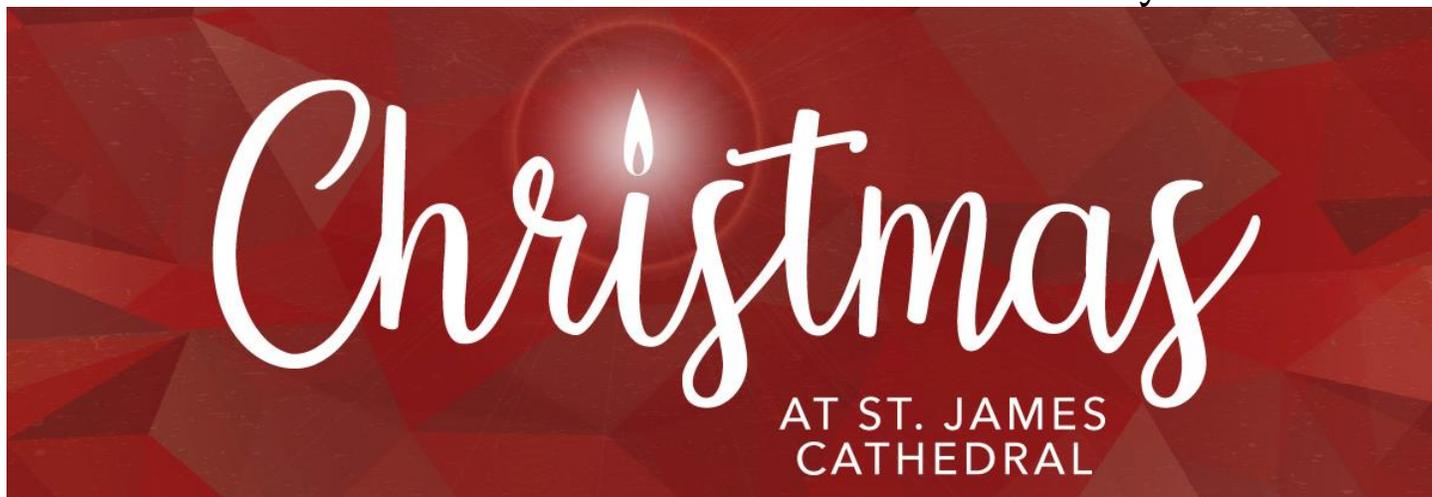
ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL-CONNECTIONS - Sunday, December 21, 2025

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.

2026 Offering Envelopes are available for pick-up today in the West Aisle.

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. Everyone is invited. Join us with your 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

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.

Make a Special Year-End Gift

Ways to give

Your support is important to us.

We are grateful for your generous support throughout the year.

Please make a special end-of-year gift. 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:



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



Volunteer with us: On Boxing Day (Dec. 26), and in the New Year (Jan. 2). Shifts will run between 9:00am & 5:30pm.

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 at St. Bartholomew's Church by donating nonperishable food items in the red bin located at the King Street entrance of the Cathedral.

Donations will be accepted until Dec. 31.

Thank you for your generosity and support!

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, Jan. 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!

Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 11:00am: Join us for Scripture Circle in the New Year

Our Scripture Circle meets each Wednesday at 11:00am to discuss and reflect on the Bible passages we heard the previous Sunday. This group is open to all and is a wonderful way to deepen our understanding of God's word together in community. If you have any questions, please contact the Rev. Matthew Waterman at mwaterman@stjamescathedral.ca.

Sunday, Jan. 11 at 4:30pm: Installation of Canons

Canon Kristen Pitts will be installed as Canon Missioner with the newly appointed Honorary Canons of the Cathedral. All are invited.

Sunday, January 18 at 4:30pm: Memorial Evensong for Giles Bryant

Giles Bryant, Director of Music at St. James Cathedral 1979-1999, profoundly influenced the lives of many in our community. We will honour his life and work. Reception follows.

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

The York York welcomes Will Postma, CEO of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), as the guest speaker. No RSVP. Info: stjamescathedral.ca/community/york-group

Friday, Jan. 30 at 6:00pm: Family Fun Night

Bring your whole family for an evening of fun and games for all ages. Dinner is provided. Free and open to all. Theme: The Great LEGO Build Off. No experience required.

Details: stjamescathedral.ca/familyfunnight/

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK

Online Morning Prayer at 8:30am

will not be offered from Dec. 24 - Jan. 1
and will resume on Jan. 2, 2026
via the Cathedral YouTube channel.

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm

will not be offered from Dec. 24 - Dec. 26
and will resume on Dec. 27 in the Cathedral
- St. George's Chapel.

Cathedral Centre will be closed from Dec. 24 at 3:00pm and reopen on Jan. 2.

The Cathedral will be closed on Dec. 26 and reopen on Saturday, Dec. 27.

The Drop-In will be celebrating the New Year on Friday, Jan. 2 at 1:00pm.

Services: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Readings for December 24:

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

Readings for December 25:

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

St. James Cemetery: Seasonal Wreath program, Pre-planning services & Plots available.

The Cemetery office will be closed on Dec. 24 at noon, Dec. 25-28, reopening on Dec. 29, and will be closed on Dec. 31 at noon and Jan. 1, reopening on Jan. 2.

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

Online Morning Prayer:

Join our clergy and fellow members of the Cathedral for Morning Prayer in our **Zoom Chapel**. To access, please scan the QR code.

For more information, visit: stjamescathedral.ca/morningprayer/



Tuesday: Organ Recitals will resume on Jan. 13.

Wednesday: Scripture Circle will resume on Jan. 7.

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

Saturday: Children's Community Choir Rehearsals 9:30am-10:30am resume on Jan. 10.

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