



# **The First Sunday after Christmas**

*December 28, 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.*

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### 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.*



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Want to stay informed about what is happening at your Cathedral?  
Sign up for **E-Connections** on our website at [www.stjamescathedral.ca](http://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](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

**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](http://stjamescathedral.ca/contact) for more information.

### 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.*

## Today at St. James

*Presider: The Reverend Canon Beth Benson*

*Homilist: The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance*

*Deacon of the Mass: The Reverend Jo-Anne Billinger*

*Anointer: David Grant • Sub-Deacon: Paul Seddon*

*First Reader: Joanne Short • Second Reader: Jacqui Hance*

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

*Communion Ministers: Aidan Hopperton, Mary Hopperton, Billie-Anne Robinson  
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*

*Dr. Rachel Thaysil Mathew Eappen*

*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: Mass for the Quiet Hour by George Oldroyd*

**Prelude** II. Andante religioso, from Organ Sonata  
in B-flat, Op. 65, No. 4

*Felix Mendelssohn*

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Hymn

Tune: Regent Square

*All* Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill the eternal throne,  
gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:  
*Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Author: James Montgomery (1816)

*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.**

*Presider* Almighty God,  
*All* 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.

*During the Gloria, children are invited to gather at the Chancel Steps before proceeding to the Library in the Cathedral Centre for Sunday School; they will return at the Offertory.*

### Gloria

*Merbecke*

<i>Presider</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Merbecke</i>
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*Glo-ry be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will to-wards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we wor-ship thee, we glo-ri-fy thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glo-ry. O Lord God, heav-en-ly King, God the Fa-ther al-migh-ty, O Lord, the on-ly be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer. Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us. For thou on-ly art ho-ly, thou on-ly art the Lord; thou on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,*



art most high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

## Collect of the Day

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### The First Reading

*Isaiah 63:7-9*

*Reader* I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely'; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

### Psalm 148

*Chant by Walter Parratt*

*Choir*

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you his angels;

praise him, all his host

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you stars of light.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for he commanded and they were created.

He made them fast for ever and ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps;  
 Fire and hail, snow and mist,  
 tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;  
 Mountains and all hills,  
 fruit trees and all cedars;  
 Wild beasts and all cattle,  
 creeping things and birds on the wing;  
 Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers of the world;  
 Young men and women, old and young together;  
 let them praise the name of the Lord.  
 For his name only is exalted,  
 his splendour above earth and heaven.  
 He has raised up the horn of his people  
 and praise for all his faithful servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near him.  
 Alleluia.

## The Second Reading

*Hebrews 2:10-18*

*Reader* It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

*Sussex Carol*

**People** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Choir* Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

**People** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## The Holy Gospel

*Matthew 2:13-23*

*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 after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

*Deacon* The Gospel of Christ.

**People** **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## Homily

### 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* Rejoicing in the Word made flesh and the light that shines in the darkness, let us bring our prayers before the God who dwells among us, saying, “Christ, Light of the world, hear our prayer.”

*Silence*

*Intercessor* Christ, Light of the world,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*At the conclusion of the prayers.*

*Presider* Holy God, in the birth of Jesus you have drawn near to us with grace and truth. Hear our prayers and make us one with him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*People* **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Presider* Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*All* Almighty God,  
**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* Good King Wenceslas look'd out, on the Feast of Stephen,  
when the snow lay round about, deep, and crisp, and even:  
brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.

“Hither page and stand by me, if thou know’st it, telling:  
yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”  
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain;  
right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

“Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine-logs hither;  
thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”  
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together;  
through the rude wind’s wild lament, and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;  
fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.”  
“Mark my footsteps, my good page; tread thou in them boldly;  
thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth and rank possessing,  
ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Text: John Mason Neale, alt.  
Music: Melody Piaë Cantiones, 1582

## **Prayer over the Gifts**

*Presider* God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share  
in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask 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.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this  
time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man

of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin.

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* Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who 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; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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 ye all, of this; 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 Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

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

**Presider** And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with 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-against 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** Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**All** Therefore, let us keep the feast.

## 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

Polish Carol (W Zlobie Lezy)

*All* Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing, noëls ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed (1885–1933).

Music: Melody Polish trad.; harm. David Hugh Jones (1900–1983).

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## Motet **In The Bleak Mid-winter**

*Harold Darke*

*Choir* In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Presider* Let us pray.  
Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life  
always follow the way of your Son. This we ask 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* May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten  
your hearts with holiness; 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: The First Nowell

*All* The first nowell, the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
who has made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood salvation bought.

*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

Text: English trad.; Music: Melody English trad, alt.

## Dismissal

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

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

**Postlude** Choral-Improvisation "In dulci jubilo", Op. 75 No. 2 *Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

## PRAYER CYCLE

*This week, please pray for:  
The Anglican Church of Canada; The Cast the Net Calls  
the administrative managers and staff of the Cathedral*

## PASTORAL CARE

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

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## **ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL-CONNECTIONS - Sunday, December 28, 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.

### **Merry Christmas from Dean Stephen Hance**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. I have found myself drawn to this verse from John chapter 1 in my preparation for Christmas this year. Partly it's the literal darkness of this time of year. Partly it's the darkness of the world around us. So much bad news, sometimes it's tempting to give up hope. The Nativity story is realistic about the darkness. Evil rulers, inhospitable innkeepers, and an attempted killing that leads to the massacre of the innocents. But the story also insists that in the coming of the Christ-child, light breaks in. It's a light which shines within us, and upon us, and which we are called to reflect in our world, and because of it, we have hope after all. May you know God's light in your life this Christmas time, and be empowered to share that light with those around you.

### **Special Children & Youth Activity Next Sunday**

Next Sunday we will celebrate Epiphany, which commemorates the Magi's journey to honour the infant Jesus. As part of the festivities, children and youth are invited to find 3 stars hidden in the Cathedral. Those who find all 3 will receive a prize. Join in the fun!

### **Share the Joy this Christmas!**

**Volunteering with the Drop-In:** Extra hands needed for New Year's (Jan. 2). Shifts between 9:00am-5:30pm. Info: Kathy Biasi 416-364-7865 ext. 222 or [kbiasi@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:kbiasi@stjamescathedral.ca)

### **Epiphany Home Blessings**

To request a visit from a member of the clergy and a lay pastoral visitor for a home blessing and chalking of your door, please email [pastoral@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto:pastoral@stjamescathedral.ca)

### **Make a Special Year-End Gift**

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. Easy ways to give:

1. **E-Transfer:** to [gifts@stjamescathedral.ca](mailto: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/](http://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/giveonline](http://stjamescathedral.ca/donate/giveonline)  
or scan our QR code:



## **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: Epiphany Lessons & Carols with the Chalking of the Doors**

Join us at 4:30pm for a beautiful service of readings, hymns, and choral music.

The service begins with an organ recital at 4:00pm. All are welcome!

## **Saturdays from 9:30am: Children's Community Choir (Resuming Jan. 10)**

Singers from ages 8-16 of all faiths and backgrounds are welcome! Rehearsals from 9:30am to 10:30am, and no fee or audition is required. Details: [stjamescathedral.ca/childrenschoir](http://stjamescathedral.ca/childrenschoir)

## **Saturday, Jan. 10, 10:00am - 11:30am: Community Playdate**

Bring your children and enjoy coffee on us while the kids play together. Free and open to all, so invite your neighbours! Details: [stjamescathedral.ca/playdate/](http://stjamescathedral.ca/playdate/)

## **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, Jan. 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](http://stjamescathedral.ca/community/york-group)

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

Bring your whole family for an evening of fun for all ages. Dinner is provided. Free and open to all. Theme: The Great LEGO Build Off. Details: [stjamescathedral.ca/familyfunnight/](http://stjamescathedral.ca/familyfunnight/)

## **SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK**

### **Online Morning Prayer at 8:30am**

will resume on Jan. 2, 2026, on YouTube.

### **Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm**

Monday to Saturday - St. George's Chapel.

**The Cathedral** is open Mon-Sat from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

**Cathedral Centre** will reopen on Jan. 2.