



The First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025
Choral Evensong at 4:30pm

The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Liturgical Note:

In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

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



Want to stay informed about what is happening at your Cathedral?
Sign up for **E-Connections** on our website at www.stjamescathedral.ca
(scroll to the bottom of the page).

Questions? Speak to a sidesperson – the people wearing gold name tags.

Children & Families

Sunday School meets every week at the 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 and 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

Officiant & Homilist: The Reverend Matthew Waterman

Lector: Ruth Davis

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.

Please ensure that cell phones are muted.

Choral Evensong

Our practice at Evensong is to stand for the choir processions, the canticles, and the hymn; to sit for the Bible readings, the Psalms and the homily; and to kneel or sit for prayer. You are invited to assume postures that support your comfortable and prayerful engagement in this service.

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

Welcome

Introit **Psallite** *Michael Praetorius*
Choir Psallite unigenito Christo Dei filio
redemptori Domino, puerulo jacenti in praesepio.

Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippelein.
Alle lieben Engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein.

Singt und klingt Jesu Gottes Kind, und Marien Söhnelein!
unserm lieben Jesulein im Krippelein beim Öchslein und beim Eselein.

Ein kleines Kindelein liegt in dem Krippelein.
Alle lieben Engelein dienen dem Kindelein, und singen ihm fein.

Please stand when the organ plays.

Preces and Responses *Bernard Rose*

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips;
Choir And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us;
Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord;
Choir The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 34 *Chant by C. F. South*

Choir I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
My soul shall glory in the Lord;

let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look upon him and be radiant
and your faces shall not be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him
and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him.
Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
Lions may lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord
lack nothing that is good.
Come, my children, and listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is there who delights in life
and longs for days to enjoy good things?
Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.
The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them out of all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and will save those who are crushed in spirit.
Many are the troubles of the righteous;
from them all will the Lord deliver them.
He keeps all their bones,
so that not one of them is broken.

But evil shall slay the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants
and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 62:6-7, 10-12

Reader Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all
night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest,
and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned
throughout the earth. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way
for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an
ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.' They shall be called, 'The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City
Not Forsaken.'

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Magnificat

'Short' Service by Orlando Gibbons

Choir My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things;
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was
in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

Reader When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Reader Here ends the lesson.

Nunc Dimittis

‘Short’ Service by Orlando Gibbons

Choir Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Officiant I believe in God

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

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant Our Father

Choir who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant O Lord, save the King;

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant O Lord, save thy people;
Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

Officiant 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.

Choir Amen.

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

Choir Amen.

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

Choir Amen.

Anthem **Once, As I Remember**

Arr. Charles Wood

Choir Once, as I remember,
At the time of Yule,
After mid-December,
When it bloweth cool,
I o'erheard a Mother
Was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,'
La-lul-lay-lu, La-lul-lay-lu,
La-lul-lay-lu, Lul-lay la-lu.'

Near as man was able,
On my knee fell I,
In the Bethlehem stable
Where the babe did lie,
And the Virgin Mother
Was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,'
La-lul-lay-lu, La-lul-lay-lu,
La-lul-lay-lu, Lul-lay la-lu.'

Ox and ass around him,
Courtier-like, did stand:
Fair white linen bound him,
Spun by Mary's hand,
While the Virgin Mother
Was a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,'
La-lul-lay-lu, La-lul-lay-lu,
La-lul-lay-lu, Lul-lay la-lu.'

Ev'ry among and o'er us
Angel-quire 'gan sing
Antiphons in chorus
To the new-born King.
Then the Virgin Mother
Fell a-singing 'Sweet Jesu,'
La-lul-lay-lu, La-lul-lay-lu,
La-lul-lay-lu, Lul-lay la-lu.'

Homily

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

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

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



Hymn at the Collection

Tune: Fragrance

All Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour,
All For Love's Sake Becamest Poor,
Thrones For A Manger Didst Surrender
Sapphire-Paved Courts For Stable Floor.
Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour,
All For Love's Sake Becamest Poor.

Thou Who Art God Beyond All Praising,
All For Love's Sake Becamest Man;
Stooping So Low, But Sinners Raising
Heavenwards By Thine Eternal Plan.
Thou Who Art God Beyond All Praising,
All For Love's Sake Becamest Man.

Thou Who Art Love Beyond All Telling,
Saviour And King, We Worship Thee.
Immanuel, Within Us Dwelling,
Make Us What Thou Wouldst Have Us Be.
Thou Who Art Love Beyond All Telling,
Saviour And King, We Worship Thee.

Music: French Trad. Melody harmonized by Peter Moger©, words:© Omf International.
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Offertory Prayer

Officiant Let us pray.

Eternal God, at the birth of the Babe in Bethlehem heaven and earth rejoiced. Make these gifts a sign of your new life among us and may the Holy Child be born again in hope, peace, joy, and love, to the glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Prayers

A Prayer of Saint John Chrysostom

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

thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

People Amen.

The Grace

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

People Amen.

Final Response

Edward Woodall Naylor

Officiant The Lord be with you;

Choir And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

Choir Thanks be to God.

Postlude 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
and 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 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

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

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, 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/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

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/

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

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/

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.