



The Bishop's Levee

The Naming of Jesus

January 1, 2026

Holy Eucharist at 12:15pm

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

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

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.



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.

*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.*

Participants

Presider: The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

Homilist: The Venerable John Anderson

Deacon: The Reverend Denise Byard

Reader: The Reverend Canon Beth Benson

Intercessor: Canon Mary Conliffe

*Communion Ministers: The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance, David Grant,
The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts and The Reverend Matthew Waterman*

Director of Music & Organist: Thomas Bell

Associate Organist: Jean-Paul Feo

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee

Happy New Year!

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.

Presider 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.

Presider Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

People **May all the earth be filled with God's glory.**

Presider Alleluia! When the fullness of time was come,

People **God sent the Son, born of a woman, so that we might become God's children. Alleluia!**

Presider God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

People **so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend.**

Presider Almighty God,

All **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria

The St. James Christmas Service

Glo - ry be to God on high, To all peo-ple,
Je - sus Christ we now de-clare Lamb of God and
Prais-es to the Ho - ly One, Prais-es sing in

peace on earth. An-gels, shep-herds draw - ing nigh, join to cel - e - brate his birth.
 Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'n a - bove.
 high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er and the Son, and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.

Glo - - - - - ri - a,

in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De - - - o!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we give thanks for your incarnate Son, whose name is our salvation. Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

The Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Reader Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and

became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:15-21

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reader 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. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

The Apostles’ Creed

Presider Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the**

resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Presider On this Feast Day, when we remember the Holy Name by which salvation is known, let us offer our prayers with hope for the year that has dawned, saying, “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

Intercessor God of new beginnings, you have entrusted to your Church the name that is above every name. Bless our Bishops, Andrew, Riscylla, and Kevin, all clergy and lay leaders, and every community in this Diocese. As we step into a new year, renew our commitment to follow Jesus with humility, courage, and compassion. Strengthen us in our mission to proclaim good news, to seek justice, and to serve in love. Lord, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Eternal God, you hold all times and seasons in your hands. Bless the days ahead of us. Give us eyes to see your presence, hearts to trust your goodness, and hands ready to serve. Make this year a time of continued renewal in our Diocese: renewed faith, renewed imagination, renewed unity in Christ’s name. Lord, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of truth and compassion, bless this land of Canada and the communities of our Diocese. As a new year begins, deepen our commitment to truth-telling, reconciliation, and right relationship with Indigenous Peoples. Strengthen all who work for the dignity, safety, and well-being of their neighbours. Lord, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Jesus, whose name means “God saves,” draw near to all who feel forgotten or afraid. We pray for the poor, the unhoused, the isolated, and the displaced; for those struggling with illness, anxiety, addiction, or grief; and for all who long for your healing. Lord, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor God of everlasting life, we remember before you those who have died in the past year, trusting that they rest in the power of your holy Name. Comfort those who mourn and keep us faithful until we, too, are gathered into your light. Lord, in your mercy,

People **hear our prayer.**

Presider Holy God, receive the prayers we offer this day. By the power of the Name of Jesus, the name of mercy, hope, and salvation, make us signs of your grace in the world you so love.

People **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

All Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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: O Waly, Waly

All The God of all eternity,
Unbound by space yet always near,
Is present where his people meet
To celebrate the coming year.

What shall we offer God today -
Our dreams of what we cannot see,
Or, with eyes fastened to the past,
Our dread of what is yet to be?

God does not share our doubts or fears,
Nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:
The one who fashioned heaven and earth
Makes all things new and ushers change.

Let faith or fortune rise or fall,
Let dreams and dread both have their day;
Those whom God loves walk unafraid
With Christ their Guide and Christ their way.

God grant that we, in this new year,
May show the world the Kingdom's face,
And let our work and worship thrive
As signs of hope and means of grace.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Gracious God, the name of Jesus brings salvation to the world. In all we offer you this day, may we honour him, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus & Benedictus

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

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.**

Silence

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

- *All are welcome to receive the Holy Sacrament or a blessing.*
- *Communion will be administered at two stations on the pavement*
- *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.*

Communion Hymn

Tune: Joyous Light

All Holy Child within the manger,
long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to every stranger,
come as hope for every fear.
As you lived to heal the broken,
greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken,
teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story--
how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory
wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,
come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion
kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger,
lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger
how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living
give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving
and our spirits strong and true.

Word and Music: Marty Haugen

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.
Father, you have fed us heavenly food in the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that we, sharing in this mystery, may turn always to that name which is above all others, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Doxology

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 and Dismissal

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 now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

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

People **Thanks be to God.**