



Choral Evensong & Presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

**The Naming of Jesus
January 1, 2026 at 3:30pm**

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

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

<i>Officiant</i>	The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields <i>Vicar of St. James Cathedral & Sub-Dean of Toronto</i>
<i>Homilist</i>	The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil <i>Bishop of Toronto</i>
<i>Suffragan Bishops</i>	The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson
<i>Welcome</i>	The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance <i>Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto</i>
<i>Bishop's Chaplain & Honorary Verger</i>	Paul Seddon, ODT
<i>Readers</i>	Michael Royce Lisa Luciani-Turner
<i>Intercessor</i>	The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts <i>Canon Missioner of St. James Cathedral</i>
<i>Music Director & Organist</i>	Thomas Bell
<i>Associate Organist</i>	Jean-Paul Feo
<i>Sung by</i>	Members of the Choir of St. James Cathedral
<i>The Bells of Old York</i>	The Cathedral Guild of Change Ringers
<i>Tower Captain</i>	The Reverend Jillian Ruch

Land Acknowledgement

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 Niigaanigichigami / 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.

2:45pm FESTIVE MUSIC FOR BRASS QUINTET

*Welcome! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today.
Please ensure that cell phones are muted.*

3:30pm CHORAL EVENSONG

Welcome

Introit Alleluia

Philip Stopford

Please stand.

Processional 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.*

Preces and Responses

Smith

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

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

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

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

Please be seated.

Chant by Frederick Ouseley

Psalm 148

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.

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

Genesis 17:1-12a, 15-16

Reader

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old.

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Herbert Sumsion in G

Magnificat

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.

Please be seated.

Matthew 1:18-25

Second Lesson

Reader

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.

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Nunc Dimittis

Herbert Sumson in G

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.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Please kneel or be seated.

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant Our Father

All **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;

People **And grant us thy salvation.**

Officiant O Lord, save the King;

People **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Officiant Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

People **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Officiant O Lord, save thy people;

People **And bless thine inheritance.**

Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord;
People **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us;
People **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The Collects

Officiant Eternal One, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **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.

People **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.

People **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Carl Davis

Anthem

Choir **Rise Up Shepherd**
There's a star in the East on Christmas morn;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Refrain

Follow, follow; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Follow the Star of Bethlehem; Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

Leave your sheep, leave your sheep, and leave your lambs;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
Leave your ewes and your rams, leave your ewes and rams;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. *Refrain*

If you take good heed to the angel's words;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow;
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds;
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. *Refrain*

Homily

Please stand.

Hymn at the Collection

Tune: Londonderry Air

All O Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still, amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.

O Christ the same, the friend of sinners sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon Your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
O Prince of Life, in all Your saving power,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks for this the present hour.

O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: Traditional Irish melody
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Offertory Prayer

Presider 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. Amen.

Presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

The following have been appointed to the Order:

Paul Aitcheson	Catherine (Cathie) Figueira	Dawn Mercer
Kathleen (Kathy) Barnes	Olive Joy Freemantle	Alice Marlene Paulsen
Jennifer Bellis	John Hipwell	Gail Payne
Christine Blair	Wendy Hunter	Jillian Reeves
Jacqueline (Jacky) Brama	Margaret Jocz	Mary Ridgley
Ian Campbell	Teresa Johnson	Michael Royce
Brian Chandler	Catherine King	Florence Schwerdtner
Debbie Christie Morgan	Mary Larson	John Small
Ann Copeland	Gordon Launchbury	Marion Stephens
Charles (Charlie) Cutts	Michelle Loftus	Pansy Stewart
Samson Davis	Lisa Luciani-Turner	Darlene Trumper
Sadie Essue-Heaven	Joyce MacKeen	

Prayers

Officiant As we welcome a new year of grace, let us pray with one heart and voice to the Lord of all the ages, saying, “Lord whose mercy is great, hear our prayer.”

Silence

Intercessor Lord whose mercy is great,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Please adopt a posture of prayer.

Intercessor Triune God, grant us your gracious, guiding presence as we prepare to enter the new year. As we join Christians of every time who have awaited Jesus' return, lead us into this new time, confident that your promises will be fulfilled. Lord whose mercy is great,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Prince of Peace, healer and reconciler, heal the divisions in your Church and among the peoples of the world. Enable us to work for the unity for which you prayed. Be with us on our ecumenical journey, and with those sisters and brothers who surround us in the great cloud of witnesses. Lord whose mercy is great,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Spirit of Truth, call us to repentance at the beginning of this new year. Forgive us for past unfaithfulness, silence in the face of injustice and inaction amid suffering. Move us from the desire to hoard our wealth toward faithful stewardship. Help us to share your gifts with those who cry out for daily bread. Lord whose mercy is great,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit, God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your Church forward from an empty cross and tomb down through the ages. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant us faith to move ahead. Be our companion in this year of grace. Lord whose mercy is great,

People Hear our prayer.

Concluding Collect

Officiant God of all ages, release us from fear. Lead us forward, even as you have led your people from the beginning. Be our companion as we walk unexplored paths into an unknown future. Open us to new possibilities. Renew our hope. Grant us faith to move ahead. Let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts, and giving light to our minds so that we may pass the coming year with faith and in joyful obedience to your will; through him who is the alpha and omega, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Blessing

Bishop May Almighty God, who sent the Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

People Amen.

Bishop May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Saviour's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

People Amen.

Bishop May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God's peace and favour.

People Amen.

Bishop And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People

Amen.

Hymn

Tune: Lobe den Herren

All

Thanks be to God for his blessings which daily surround us;
glory to Christ the Redeemer who sought us and found us,
who from the grave rose, the almighty to save,
breaking the fetters that bound us.

Thanks be to God for the years that are yet in his keeping,
trusting each day to the care of a Father unsleeping,
on to the end, Christ our companion and friend,
joy at the last for our weeping.

Thanks be to God who has called us and daily defends us,
who with the Son and the Spirit unchanging befriends us;
now in that Name, Jesus for ever the same,
forth to his service he sends us.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith; Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665, alt.
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Postlude

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Diocesan Events in 2026

January

Installation of Canons – Sunday, January 11 – 4:30 pm (*St. James Cathedral*)

February

Diocesan Black History Service – Sunday, February 1, 4:30pm –
(*St. James Cathedral*) “Bob Marley Mass”

Preacher: The Right Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri

Clergy PreLenten Day – Tuesday, February 10 (*St. James Cathedral*)
(*in-person & livestreamed*)

Speaker: Dr Kristen Deede Johnson, Principal of Wycliffe College

Property Resources Workshop – Wednesday, February 18 – 4-5:30 pm (*Online*)

March

Community of Deacons Retreat – Friday, March 13 – Saturday, March 14
(*SSJD Convent*)

Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Ordination Vows – Tuesday, March 31 –
10:30 am (*St. James Cathedral*)

April

Youth Leaders Theology Day – Saturday, April 25

Diocesan Confirmation Service – Sunday, April 26 – 4:30 pm (*St. James Cathedral*)

May

Volunteer Conference – Friday, May 1 – Saturday, May 2 (*Hockley Valley Resort*)

Ordination of Transitional Deacons – Sunday, May 3 – 4:30 pm
(*St. James Cathedral*)

Property Resources Workshop – Wednesday, May 13 – 4-5:30 pm (*Online*)

Diocesan Clergy Conference – Monday, May 25 – Wednesday, May 27
(*Trent University*)

Speaker: Dr Paolo Ueti, Diocese of Brasilia

September

ReCharge – Diocesan Youth Retreat – Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20 (*Medeba*)

Property Resources Workshops – Wednesday, September 23 – 4-5:30 pm (*Online*)

October

Outreach Conference – Saturday, October 17

November

Children’s Ministry Conference – Saturday, November 7
(*Bayview Glen Alliance Church, Toronto*)

Property Resources Workshops – Wednesday, November 18 – 4-5:30 pm (*Online*)

The Bishop’s Company Dinner – Friday, November 20
(*Sheraton Parkway Toronto North*)

Other dates for 2026, and further details on the above events, will be announced as they are determined.



The Cathedral Church of St. James

Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada

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Bishop of Toronto

The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil

Suffragan Bishops

The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw

The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson

Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto

The Very Reverend Dr. Stephen Hance

Sub-Dean & Vicar

The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Canon Missioner

The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Assistant Curate

The Reverend Matthew Waterman

Vicar of St. Bartholomew, Regent Park

The Reverend Dr. Walter Hannam

Director of Music & Organist

Thomas Bell

Children's Community Choir Director

Cara Halpin

Children, Youth, and Family Minister

Karyne Whalen

Honorary Verger

Paul D. Seddon, ODT