

# ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



## CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10.15 am

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### PRELUDE

*Noël «Or dites-nous Marie» (Alexis Chauvet)*

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN 118

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

### GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Dear friends, we gather this morning on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Nation, and we recognize the continuing presence of First Nations, Métis and Inuit in this region.

**May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.**

Here let heaven and earth embrace;  
**here may God's people find home.**

### THE COLLECT

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

### THE FIRST READING

*Isaiah 62:6-12*

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. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

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.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 97



A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

The Lord is King; let the earth rejoice;  
let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O Lord.

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.

Light has sprung up for the righteous,  
and joyful gladness for those who are true-hearted.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy Name.

## THE SECOND READING

*Titus 3:4-7*

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

# GRADUAL HYMN 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

## HOMILY

## HYMN 126

*Away in a Manger*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God,  
**in whom is power and compassion.**

**We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe,  
set solar systems dancing into space, shaped molecules and mountains,  
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.**

**God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;  
God's love embodies the tenderness of a mother and father,  
encouraging and caring for each one of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;  
a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.  
He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil,  
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,  
forgave his enemies and changed lives.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us,  
opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness.  
Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE PEACE**

Peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN 148**

*See Amid the Winter's Snow*

### **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

May God be with you.  
**And also with you.**

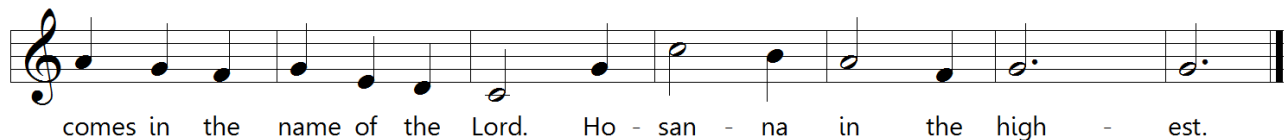
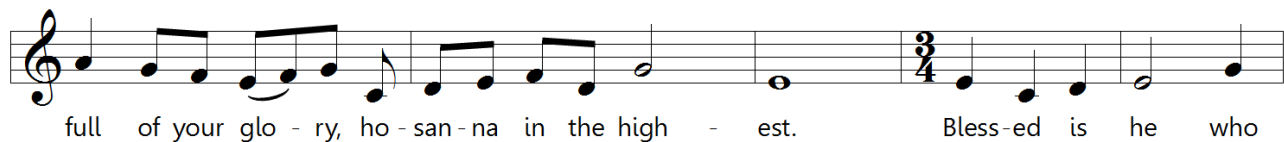
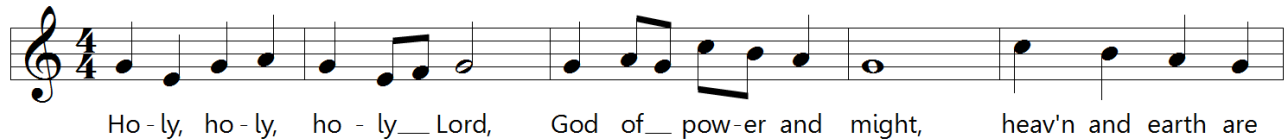
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our Creator.  
**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We love you, Holy God. We love you for the feast that is life: friendships and laughter, intimacy and trust, moments of discovering deep truth, hidden potentials we never knew we had, and beauty – serene beauty and rugged beauty, the world you have crafted and the words, the sounds, the colours with which people reflect and explore life.

We love you, holy God, for not leaving us alone, because in Jesus you became tangible: hands touched him, tears touched him, generosity touched him. And he has touched us. That is why we are here.

That is why across time and eternity we sing because we cannot keep silent:



God, we have been gathered by you, caught in your net, summoned to your table.

It was on a night when old, familiar stories were retold, that Jesus and his friends engaged in the sacred meal which Jews call Passover.

During that meal, rich in food and in memory, Jesus took a piece of bread. After he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'This is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later in the meal, he took a cup of wine, and having given thanks over it, he gave it to his disciples with the words, 'In this cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink it, all of you, to remember me.'

As we open ourselves to your generous hospitality, God, let your Spirit move among us ✕ and be present in the food we share so that this bread and wine become for us the living presence of Jesus.

Open our eyes to see him, our ears to hear him, our hands to hold him, our hearts to receive him, our souls to cherish him. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:



Our Fa - ther in heav'n, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly  
bread, for - give us our sins, as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the  
king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Silence is kept.*

As Jesus broke bread,  
**we break this bread.**

As Jesus took wine,  
**we take this cup.**

As his first disciples shared communion in an upstairs room,  
**we share these gifts and feed on them in our hearts with love and gratitude.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION

*Noël provençal (Marcel Grandjany)*

*Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

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.  
**Amen.**

Generous God,

**in our world some hunger for food, and others for meaning;  
you have blessed this place and time, where we have been fed in many ways;  
bless us now, as we go on – sharing food for the journey,  
finding companions on the way. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Now go from here – may the Creator go with you, Christ companion you, the Spirit enliven you, and the Trinity bless you, ✠ so that you may know God's presence today and every day. **Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.*

**While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.**

*Go, tell it on the mountain...*

**The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth!**

*Go, tell it on the mountain...*

**Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.**

*Go, tell it on the mountain...*

# DISMISSAL

Go, in love and new life!

**Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

*Noël grand jeu et duo (Louis-Nicolas Daquin)*

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*Presider & Preacher*  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

The Reverend Canon Beth Bretzlaff  
Dr Gordon Johnston

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Prayers of the Day: *The Book of Alternative Services* © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition*, © 1989, 1995, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Psalm Music by Gordon Johnston © 2011. Eucharistic Liturgy: *Iona Abbey Worship Book* © 2016 The Iona Community, published by Wild Goose Publications (Permission for use given by the Bishop of Ottawa, January 2019).

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