



*We give thanks to God for your presence with us on this most holy night.*

**THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD  
CHRISTMAS EVE A.D. 2020 - 8:00 P.M.**

*You can call in to the service by telephone:  
Canada: +1 (647) 497-9391  
Access Code: 676-650-141*

*Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened,  
which the Lord has made known to us. (Luke 2:4)*

**OPENING CAROL:            ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

**Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ, her little child.**

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Tonight we re-light the candle of hope recalling God's promise to send a Saviour.

**Tonight we re-light the candle of preparation as we remember the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord."**

We also re-light the pink candle of joy as our hearts are filled with the expectation of His coming.

**And we re-light the candle of peace as we celebrate the announcement of the coming King and the greatness of God's love revealed through the Christ child.**

On this most holy night we light the Christ Candle, as we rejoice that the promise of God has been fulfilled in the coming of the Baby born in a manger.

**Gracious and Mighty King, we celebrate your goodness to us as we join the triumph and Joy of Christmas. As your love has been revealed in all its fullness, we pray that love may abound in our hearts. Grant us the Spirit of Christ, that we may live in the fullness of his life every day; in His name we pray. Amen.**

### **CAROL: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created:  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest.  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## **GREETING:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **THE COLLECT FOR PURITY:**

Almighty God,

**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; though Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **GLORY TO GOD:**

Glory to God in the highest,

**And peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS:**

**Almighty God, who gave us your only Son to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin, grant that we, who are born again in him and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS**

### **THE FIRST READING:**

**ISAIAH 52:7-10**

*Read by Cobina Price-Jones.*

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of him who brings good news,

who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,

who publishes salvation,

who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”  
The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God. (ESV)

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**CAROL:     SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD ABIDING**

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
tell us, when the seraph bright  
greeted you with wondrous tiding,  
what you saw and heard that night.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**PSALM:     #98**

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.  
The LORD has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!**

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!  
Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together  
before the LORD, for he comes  
to judge the earth. *Alleluia! Alleluia!*  
He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity. *Alleluia!* (ESV)**

**CAROL:        SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELD ABIDING**

**Choristers on high were singing  
Jesus and his virgin birth,  
heavenly bells the while a-ringing,  
“Peace, good will to all on earth.”**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**THE SECOND READING:        HEBREWS 1: 1-12**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.” But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them

up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.” (ESV)

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL CAROL:        THE FIRST NOWELL**

**The First Noel, the Angels 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL:        JOHN 1: 1-14**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (ESV)

The Gospel of Christ.

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

**GRADUAL CAROL:        THE FIRST NOWELL**

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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

**THE SERMON:                THE REV. CHRIS DOW**

**ANTHEM:                        HAVE YOURSELF A BLESSED LITTLE CHRISTMAS**

**THE NICENE CREED:**

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. (*Silence*)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**INTERCESSIONS:**

*Led by Diane Allengame.*

## **THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:**

Christ the Light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us then turn to the light and confess our sins against God and one another.

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.**

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. **Amen.**

## **THE PEACE:**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his Name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERTORY:**

### **O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

*You may wish to make a donation to St. James by e-mail money transfer or through Canada Helps. Click the 'Donate' button on the top right-hand corner of our website.*

*Brothers and sisters, you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you through his poverty might become rich.*

*(2 Corinthians 8. 9)*

**Blessed are you, LORD God of Israel, forever and ever. All that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.**

*(1 Chron. 29:10, 11, 14)*

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**we remember his death,**

**we proclaim his resurrection,**

**we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father 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. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD:**

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

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

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

### **AGNES DEI (LAMB OF GOD)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us your peace.**

### **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:**

Thank you for joining us today via livestream. While those gathered in-person are receiving Communion, you may wish to do the following:

Reflect on the past week and on your relationships.

- What good things have I received from God?
- Where have I fallen short?
- What might I do tomorrow and this upcoming week?

You may wish to say or pray:

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You may wish to read and meditate on the Scripture lessons read earlier in the service.

To make your Spiritual Communion, say the following prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen. (Prayer of St Richard of Chichester)

You might then add one or more of the following prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all

your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendor of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Glory to God, 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.**

### **CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL: SILENT NIGHT**

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

Almighty God, whose love has poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE BLESSING:**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**Thank you to**

Diane Allengame, Intercessor & Photographer

Claire Olorenshaw, Chancel Guild

Cobina Price-Jones, Reader

Joanne Redhead, Sharon Mulder & Mary Judge, Musicians

David Finch, Gordon Morton & Neil Price-Jones, Sound & Video Crew

Todd Hillhouse & Chris Mackey, Lighting & Christmas Tree

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK:**

**Those in Need:** Hal & Barb, Shireen & Irik, Anne, June, Marjorie, Muriel, Lois, Pam, Ross & Joan, Stan & Edna, Laurie, Caleigh, Rachael, Carey, Liz, Paul.

**The World:** Our government, public health authorities, frontline health care workers, those receiving and administering vaccines.



**Incumbent: Rev. Chris Dow**

Parish Administrator: Ruth Sowrey [stjamesoffice6025@gmail.com](mailto:stjamesoffice6025@gmail.com) 905-584-9635

Rector's Warden: David Finch

People's Warden: Claire Olorenshaw

Choir Director: Joanne Redhead

Organist: Mary Judge