

CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN IN-THE-FIELDS

103 Bellevue Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2N8

Sung Eucharist: Sunday @ 11 o'clock am

Plain Eucharist: TBA

Bible Study & Meditation: Tuesdays @ 7:30pm

The Right Reverend Philip Poole: Area Bishop

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Church of the Most Holy Martyr St. Stephen in-the-Fields



Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord The First Eucharist of Christmas

At Magn.
Ant. 1. g 2

H Odi-e * Chrí-stus ná-tus est : hód-i-e Salvá-
tor appáru- it : hód-i-e in térra cánunt Ange-li, laetán-
tur Archánge-li : hód-i-e exsúl-tant jústi, di-céntes :
Gló-ri- a in excélsis Dé- o, alle-lú-ia. E u o u a e.

December 24th, 2011
SUNG EUCHARIST AT 8 O'CLOCK PM

*I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2.10–11*

Organ Prelude

Entrance *(please stand while the sanctuary party enters)*

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Celebrant: Today, this Christmas Eve as darkness falls, we remember the holy birth that brought us light. We rejoice that God has come to us. We are struck with wonder at this newborn babe reaching out hands toward his Mother; for these are the hands that set the stars in their place and formed us out of clay to be in his likeness. The One who made this human body now comes to share its mortality, to save it from the nothingness of death and glorify it as his own for ever. We light the candles on the Advent wreath, to remember those who saw Christ coming and were filled with the same joyful expectation that now fills our hearts.

(The Christ candle is lit)

V: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world: no darkness can quench this light; no night shall cover it.

R: Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

The Blessing of the Christmas Creche

Celebrant: Father, bless this creche and keep before our eyes this Christmas the image of your eternal Son, let this crib recall that Jesus is one with you as God, and yet came to be one with us as the child laid in the manger. Let his mind be in us, and let our hearts be lifted up to contemplate the glory that is your divine humanity. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Hymn: 102 “Once in royal David's city”

Irby

V: The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

R: And we beheld His glory

V: The Glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

R: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Let us Pray.

Almighty and everliving God, You have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Hymn: 83 “O Come all ye Faithful”

Adeste Fideles

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

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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.**

Kyrie: *(hymn book S86)*

David Hurd

Hymn: 96 “Angels we have heard on high”

Dies est laetitiae

Collect

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 splendour 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**

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

Psalm 96

- 1 O sing to the LORD a **new** song / sing to the **LORD**, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD, bless his **name** / tell of his salva-**tion** from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the **na**-tions / his marvelous works among **all** the peo-ples.
- 4 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be **praised** / he is to be re-**vered** ab-ove all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the peoples are **i**-dols / but the LORD **made** the hea-vens.

6 Honor and majesty are be-**fore** him / strength and beauty are in his **san**-ctu-a-ry.

7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the **peo**-ples, / ascribe to the LORD **glo**-ry and strength.

8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his **name** / bring an offering, and **come** in-to his courts.

9 Worship the LORD in holy **splen**-dor / tremble be-**fore** him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The LORD is **king!** / The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the **peo- ples** with eq-uity."

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth re-**joice** / let the sea roar, and **all** that fills it;

12 let the field exult, and everything **in** it / Then shall all the trees of the **fo**-rest sing for joy

13 before the LORD; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the **earth**. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the **peo**-ples with his truth.

The Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

Gradual Hymn: 82 "Of the Father's love begotten"

Divinum Mysterium

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

*Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St. Luke*

All: 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 Savior, 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 favors!" 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.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily: The Reverend David Bryan Hoopes

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker 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. 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
A Litany for Christmastide

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe,
saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Confession and Absolution

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

(Silence is kept.)

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: 87 “ Hark the herald angels sing”

Forest Green

Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels . . . etc.

Sanctus: (*hymn book S130 or separate sheet*)

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.

Celebrant: 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.**

(Lord's Prayer: MacNeil Robinson)

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us let us 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 those who 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: 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.

Agnus Dei (*hymn book S164 or separate sheet*)

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Celebrant: All your works praise you, O Lord.

All: And your faithful servants bless you.

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
May we, who share his body, live his risen life; we, who drink his cup, ring life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so that we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Hymn: 100 “Joy to the World”

Antioch

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Organ

Christmastide Services

December 25th: Nativity of our Lord Sung Eucharist @ 11am

January 1st: Feast of the Holy Name Sung Eucharist @ 11am

Archbishop's Levee at St. James Cathedral 2:30 followed by Evensong @ 4pm

January 8th: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord Sung Eucharist @ 11am

*Thank You for joining our celebration this evening. We invite you to consider worshipping
with us regularly and wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.*