

Church of Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields



Feast of the Nativity: Christmas Eve
Saturday December 24, 2022

**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

Celebrant: The Rev'd Canon Maggie Helwig

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Prelude

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

***Response* Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

We invite those at home to light a candle, as able.

Hymn 123: *Once in royal David's city*

IRBY

- 1 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.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- 4 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

Greeting

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

***Response* And also with you.**

Land Acknowledgement

Celebrant Though people may be joining us from many regions, we acknowledge that the Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields stands on occupied land, the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit (an Anishnaabe people), the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat and Petun nations, land covered by the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt covenant. Treaty 13 and the Williams Treaty are also relevant to this territory.

We acknowledge that we have broken the treaties. We acknowledge the damage done by colonialism, and the role that our church has played in this, and we pledge ourselves to work for a future of justice and reconciliation.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant 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;
through Christ our Lord.

Response **Amen.**

Gloria

Hurd

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,
Cantor **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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.
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.

Cantor **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A period of silence is observed after each reading and the homily.

First Lesson: Isaiah 52.7-10

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98: *Cantate Domino*



- 1 SING TO the Lord a new song, /
or he has done mar-vel-lous things.
- 2 **With his right hand and his ho-ly arm /**
has he won for himself the vic-to-rý.
- 3 The Lord has made known his vic-to-ry; /
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the na-tiöns.

- 4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness**
 to the house of Is-ra-el, /
 and all the ends of the earth have seen the victo-ry of our Göd.
- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; /
 lift up your voice, re-joice, and sing.
- 6 **Sing to the Lord with the harp, /**
 with the harp and the voice of söng.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn /
 shout with joy before the King, the Lörd.
- 8 **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, /**
 the lands and those who dwell there-in.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, /
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
 when he comes to judge the ëarth.
- 10 **In righteousness shall he judge the world /**
 and the peo-ples with e[^]qui-t[^]y.

Epistle: Hebrews 1.1-12

Reader A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made 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 his Father, and he will be my 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 servants flames of fire.' But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre 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, 'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.'

Reader The word of the Lord.

***Response* Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 132: Of eternal Love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

- 1 Of eternal Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.
- 2 At his Word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.
- 3 O that birth for ever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.
- 4 This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.
- 5 O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.
- 6 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

Response **And also with you.**

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

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

Holy Gospel: John 1.1-14

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily Mtr Maggie Helwig

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, as we say,

Response **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

Bidding Humble Lord of the least and last,
Response **Comfort your people and bring new light.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant Most merciful God,
Response **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.

Response **Amen.**

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Response **And also with you.**

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory hymn 121: *O little town of Bethlehem*

FOREST GREEN

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.
- 3 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant 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.

Response **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

Cantor **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Preface of Christmas

Celebrant 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.

Sanctus and Benedictus

Proulx

Cantor **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,

***Response* we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant 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 children;
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.

***Response* Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Robinson

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
Cantor **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life;
and that life is the light of the world.
Response **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

Senchur

Cantor **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 peace.**

Hymn 119: *Silent night*

STILLE NACHT

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the saviour is born.

3 Silent night! Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.
 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 the Lord.

Response **Amen.**

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,
Response **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.**

Hymn 138: *Hark! the herald angels sing (verses 1 & 2)* MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
 peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
 Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
 late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
 pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

Blessing of the Christmas Crèche

Celebrant The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

Response **And we beheld his glory**

Celebrant The glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

Response **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

Celebrant Father, bless this crèche 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.

Response **Amen.**

Blessing

Celebrant 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 always.

Response **Amen.**

Closing hymn 138: *Hark! the herald angels sing* (verse 3) MENDELSSOHN

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Gloria, music: 'New Plainsong' David Hurd (1950-) © 1981 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Sanctus, music: 'Community Mass' Richard Proulx (1937-2010), © 1971, 1977 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Agnus Dei, music: Becket Gerald Senchur (1946-), © 1982 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer, music: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015).

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Hymn 123, text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895); alt.; music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

Hymn 132, text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-413?); trans. John Mason Neal (1818-1866), alt.; music: melody plainsong, Mode 8 (12th cent.? adapt. 'Piae Cantiones, 1582', harm. Healey Willan (1880-1968); harm. © Estate of Healey Willan.

Hymn 121, text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), alt.; music: melody English trad.; coll. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); harm. © Oxford University Press.

Hymn 119, text: Joseph Moht (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885); music: Melody Franz Xaver Grüber (1787-1863), alt.; harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Hymn 138, text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt.; music: Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847), adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915).

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including our other weekly activities,
our website is www.saintstephens.ca



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