



We are an Anglo-Catholic Parish in the
Diocese of Ottawa, celebrating 136 years of
worship and service: 1889-2025.



Please use this bulletin with:

Hymn Book



Fresco of the Nativity, Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337)

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 31 December 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Our Church stands on the unceded traditional territory of
the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation.

ORGAN PRELUDES

In dulci jubilo Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

Prelude on 'Greensleeves' Richard Purvis (1913-1994)

Prelude on 'Whence is that goodly fragrance'
Harrison Oxley (1933-2009)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

45 *Once in royal David's city* Irby
descant: David Willcocks

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

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 word was made flesh
And dwelt among us.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as this time born of a pure Virgin: grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit, through the same lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please stand

BIDDING CAROL

36 *Good Christians all, rejoice*

In Dulci Jubilo

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Read by John Curry

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

God rest you merry, gentlemen English traditional carol
arr. D. Willcocks

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18 Read by Colin Morency

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of
heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn,
saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and
hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I
will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as
the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the
sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his
enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth
be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

The holly and the ivy English Traditional carol
arr. H. Walford Davies

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6-7 Read by Marni Crossley

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon
them hath the light shined.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Ding dong! Merrily on high

16th c. French tune
harm. Charles Wood

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

Read by Barbara Schultz- DesBrisay

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem

English traditional tune
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
descant: Thomas Armstrong

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

Read by Kate Morency

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CAROL

There is no rose

Anonymous (c.1420)

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1: 18-23 Read by The Reverend Sony Jabouin

Saint Matthieu raconte l'arrivée au monde de Jésus

Voici quelle fut l'origine de Jésus Christ. Marie, sa mère, était accordée en mariage à Joseph; or, avant qu'ils aient habité ensemble, elle se trouva enceinte par le fait de l'Esprit Saint. Joseph, son époux, qui était un homme juste et ne voulait pas la diffamer publiquement, résolut de la répudier secrètement.

Il avait formé ce projet, et voici que l'ange du Seigneur lui apparut en songe, et dit : « Joseph, fils de David, ne crains pas de prendre chez toi Marie, ton épouse : ce qui a été engendré en elle vient de l'Esprit Saint, et elle enfantera un fils auquel tu donneras le nom de Jésus, car c'est lui qui sauvera son peuple de ses péchés. » Tout cela arriva pour que s'accomplisse ce que le Seigneur avait dit par le prophète : Voici que la vierge concevra et enfantera un fils auquel on donnera le nom d'Emmanuel, ce qui se traduit : « Dieu avec nous ».

Le célébrant : Évangile du Seigneur.

Le peuple : Louange à toi, Seigneur Jésus ! / Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CAROL

In the bleak mid-winter

Harold Darke

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Read by Jack Wilson

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CAROL

Torches

John Joubert

PROCESSIONAL CAROL TO THE CRÈCHE

40 *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Adeste Fideles

¹ 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!

² God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created: *O come ...*

³ See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too with thither
Bend our joyful footsteps: *O come ...*

⁶ Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God,
In the highest: *O come ...*

PRAYERS AT THE CRÈCHE

Officiant: And the word was made flesh

All: And dwelt among us.

Hail, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee; Blessèd art thou amongst women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

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

Officiant: O divine redeemer Jesus Christ, as we kneel before before Thy crib, we believe Thou art the God of infinite majesty, even though we do see Thee here as a helpless babe. We humbly adore and thank Thee for having so humbled thyself for our salvation as to will to be born in a stable. We thank Thee for all the sufferings Thy endured in Bethlehem—poverty, humility, tears, cold, and hardships.

Grant us thy grace to show Thee that tenderness which Thy Virgin Mother had toward Thee, and love Thee as she did. We long to praise Thee with the joy of the angels and kneel before Thee with the faith of St. Joseph and the simplicity of the shepherds. Joining these first worshippers at the manger, we offer Thee the love of our hearts and ask that Thou wouldst be born spiritually in our souls.

Give us, we pray thee, the virtues of thy blessed Nativity. Fill us with that spirit of renunciation, of poverty, of humility, which prompted Thee to assume the weakness of

our nature, and to be born amid destitution and suffering. Grant that from this day forward, we may in all things seek Thy greater glory, and may enjoy that peace promised to people of good will through Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

O Holy Mary, as we here adore thy divine Son, pray for all little children, that they may be protected from all harm and danger, and that they may grow in grace and in favour with God and man.

We pray thee, O Father, that the holy joy of Christmas may fill our minds with thoughts of peace, and our hearts with a sense of thy great love; hasten the time when war being done away, we may love as brethren, and bring in the reign of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

48 *Silent night, holy night!*

Stille Nacht

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Read by The Reverend Canon David Rath

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was

troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CAROL

Away in a manger

Traditional Normandy carol
arr. Reginald Jacques

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

59 *Infant holy, infant lowly*

Infant Holy

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 Read by The Reverend Canon George Kwari

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy spirit.

✠ The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, beginning at the first verse.

All: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the

Father,) full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

CAROL

Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing French traditional
arr. D. Willcocks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING HYMN

52 *What child is this*

Greensleeves

PRAYERS

For the New Year

Immortal Lord God, who inhabitest eternity, and has brought thy servants to the beginning of another year, pardon, we humbly beseech thee, our transgressions in the past, bless to us this New year, and graciously abide with us all the days of our life, , through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

For the Parish

O God, the Holy Ghost, sanctifier of the faithful, sanctify this parish by thine abiding presence. Bless those who minister in holy things including especially, rector Father Kwari. Enlighten the minds of thy people more and more with the light of thy everlasting Gospel. Bring erring souls to the knowledge of God our Saviour; and those who are walking in the way of life, keep steadfast until the end. Give patience to the sick and afflicted renew them in body and

soul. Guard from forgetfulness of thee those who are strong and prosperous. Increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace and make us all fruitful in good works; O blessed Spirit who with the Father and Son together we worship and glorify, one God, world without end. **Amen**

For Universities, Colleges and Schools

Almighty God, of whose only gift cometh wisdom and understanding, we beseech thee thy gracious favour to behold our universities, colleges and schools, that knowledge may be increased among us, and all good learning flourish and abound. Bless all who teach and all who learn; and grant that in humility of heart they may ever look unto thee, who are the fountain of all wisdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray.

Please kneel.

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 BLESSING

May Jesus who by his incarnation gathered into one thing earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN

37 *Hark! The herald angels sing* Mendelssohn
descant: D. Willcocks

**¹ Hark! The herald voices sing
Glory to the new-born 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 new-born 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 man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel: *Hark! ...***

**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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: *Hark!...***

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605

('This is the day that is so joyous')

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

NOTES AND NOTICES

A sincere welcome is extended to all our guests and everyone for joining us this evening.

An Anglican Church Calendar, published by St. Peter Publications and sponsored by the PBSC, is available from Wesley Warren at a cost of \$10.

Donations: Any donations received this evening will go to the Choral Foundation Fund (which supports Choral Scholarships for young singers in the choir, and other miscellaneous expenses of the Choral Programme) and to the Campus Ministry at Algonquin College. You will receive a tax receipt at year's end. Thank you.

This service is being live-streamed on YouTube.

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