



**Monday December 25, 2023**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Holy Communion - 10:30 am**  
**St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge**



**Welcome & Service Information**

If you are a visitor, we appreciate your time and presence with us. Relax, you are among caring people. It is our wish that the music and inspired readings will bring hope, peace, joy and encouragement to you at the great news of God's amazing love.

To congregants/ parishioners, it's always wonderful to see you in worship, and we are grateful for your presence.

A warm St. Paul's welcome and blessings to all on this special, holy night.

**Following could be some helpful thoughts:**

- Participate in the service as you feel comfortable.
- There is an activities table at the back. If you and/ or your youngster wish to spend time there, at any time during the service, please feel free to do so.
- During times of prayer, please assume the prayer posture (kneel, sit, stand) that you are comfortable with.
- We have an Open Communion. That means that you do not have to be a member of this church, the Anglican Church, or any church at all; everyone is welcome to share the meal at God's Table of unconditional, liberating love.
- If you wish to receive communion, just follow people as they walk up to the Altar railing. If it is difficult due to physical concerns, for you to come to the Altar please signal to a greeter, and the server will come to you.
- If you do not wish to drink from the Common Cup, you can touch its base.
- If you do not want communion, you are welcome to come to the Altar for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and the server will know.
- Personal hearing devices are available. Please speak with a greeter.
- Also important, the washroom is on this floor in the hallway.

*Know that we are blessed to have you with us for this service.  
We trust that the time spent together in worship and community  
will also be a blessing to you.*

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## **Welcome**

## **Opening Hymn**

*Joy to the World*

**CP 154**

## **The Greeting**

**p.185**

## **The Collect**

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **First Reading - 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. The Son Is Superior to Angels. 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.' (NSRVA)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God

## **The Gospel Reading - John 1:1-14**

**Reader:** The Lord be with you

**People:** And also with you

**Reader:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**People:** Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!—came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten. The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. *(The Message)*

**Reader:** The Gospel of Christ

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

## **Reflection – *The Reverend Randy Williams***

**The Nicene Creed** p.188

**The Prayers of the People**

**Confession, Absolution** p.191

**The Peace**

**The Celebration of the Eucharist**

**Offertory Hymn** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* CP 120

**Prayer over the Gifts**

God of Peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you. May all we offer you today renew us as members of your household. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

**Eucharist Prayer 3** p.198

**The Lord's Prayer** p.211

**The Communion**

**Prayer after Communion**

Parent of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

— *Author Unknown*

**Closing Hymn**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**CP 138**

**Dismissal**

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, magic to a world steeped in realism. Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts. Go and spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.

**Thanks be to God.**

In appreciation:

- Stuart for the music ministry in this church.
- Mariana for her ministry of dance in presenting *The Shepherds* so creatively,
- the Altar Guild for your continued amazing work over the year, but specifically for Christmas
  - Evelyn our Office Administrator for her work throughout the year, but especially we recognise her during high holy seasons such as Christmas in producing Orders of Service
  - to all of you. Our worship experience tonight could not have happened if you were not here.

Prayers and wishes for a blessed Christmas.  
Rev. Randy

Please check us out on our website <https://stpauls-uxbridge.ca/>

## **Announcements:**

**Today** December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Christmas Day

12:00 pm - Community Christmas Dinner at The Senior's Centre

### **CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS**

*In loving memory of **Merilyn Woods** by The Woods Family*

*In loving memory of **Roland & Evaleen Hudson** by Shelagh Carroll  
& Brian Logan*

*In loving memory of **Audrey & Catherine Taylor** by Stan Taylor*

*In loving memory of **Bud Fitzgerald** by Jan & Babs Fitzgerald*

*In loving memory of **my grandparents and my father** by Kathleen Carroll*

*In loving memory of **Patty Taylor** by Dorothy & John Haines*

*In loving memory of **the Jones, Pooley and Bond Families** by Roger Jones  
& Marilyn Bond-Jones*

*In loving memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Williams** by Rev. Randy*

*In loving memory of **Hank Verwoerd and Laurence & Georgina Towner**  
by Gail Verwoerd*

*In loving memory of **Kerim Sarij, Audrey Taylor and Paul Tratnik**  
by Sharon Taylor & family*

*In loving memory of **Robert Pogue & other loved ones** by Evelyn & Susan Pogue*

*In memory of **loved ones** by Beth Crook*

*In loving memory of **loved ones** by Al & Marj Martin*

*In loving memory of **loved ones** by Gerry Collyer*