



**Sunday December 21, 2025  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
St. Paul's Anglican Church, Uxbridge**



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### **Land Acknowledgement**

It is a great privilege to gather, share stories of faith and worship God on this beautiful territory, which we now know as Township of Uxbridge but which has been the site of human activity – and therefore storytelling and worship – for many thousands of years. We wish to honour the ancestral guardians of this land and its waterways: the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississauga and Chippewa (Anishinaabe) people. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today many Indigenous peoples, including the Metis Nation continue to call this land home and act as its stewards, and this responsibility extends to all peoples, to share and care for this land for generations to come.

**Prelude**

***Rejoice Greatly for God Comes***

Pachelbel

### **THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

*(please stand)*

**Processional Hymn**

***Gabriel's Message***

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame,  
All hail, said he, thou lowly maiden Mary!  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold,  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
Most highly favoured Lady, Gloria!

### **Lighting of Advent Wreath**

**Celebrant:** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son’s birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed by God forever.

### **Hymn**

#### ***Christ, Be Our Light!***

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

*Chorus:* Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has pow’r to save us.  
Make us your living voice. [*Chorus*]

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others,  
shared until all are fed. [*Chorus*]

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth, many are cold,  
Make us your building, sheltering others,  
walls made of living stone. [*Chorus*]

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.**

### **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; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie Eleison**      *Kyrie eleison*      *(Lord, have mercy)*  
                                 *Christe eleison*      *(Christ, have mercy)*  
                                 *Kyrie eleison*      *(Lord, have mercy)*

### **Collect of the Day**

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

*(please sit)*

**First Reading:    Isaiah 7:10-16**

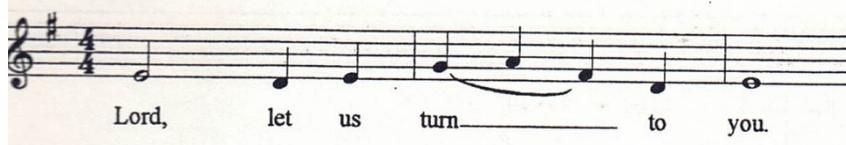
**Reader:** The First Reading is written in the seventh chapter of the Book of Isaiah beginning at the tenth verse

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."                      *(Isaiah 7:10-16)*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**



## **Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

**Reader:** The second reading is written in the first chapter of the Letter of Paul to the Romans beginning at the first verse

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 1:1-7*)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

**Gradual Hymn**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**CP 117**

## **Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

**Reader:** The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

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

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. (*Matthew 1:18-25*)

**Reader:** The Gospel of Christ

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

*(please sit)*

**Homily**

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

*(please stand)*

**The Nicene Creed**

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all this 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.**

*(please sit, kneel, stand)*

**Prayers of the People**

*(please sit, kneel, stand)*

**Confession and Absolution**

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.

**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.**

*(please stands)*

### **The Peace**

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you!      **And also with you!**

## **THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

*(please stand)*

### **Offertory Hymn**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

**CP 96**

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer 3**

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 fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

### **Sanctus**

**CP 689**

*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.*

*(please sit)*

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 forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As Jesus taught us, we pray together

**Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

**Celebrant:** God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**All:** **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**Celebrant:** The gifts of God for the people of God.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Agnus Dei**

**CP 690**

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace*

## Communion

**During Communion**

*O Come, Divine Messiah*

**CP 95**

**Anthem**

*An Advent Jubilate*

Shackley

*please sit)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **The Doxology**

**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.**

### **The Blessing**

### **Announcements**

*(please stand)*

**Recessional Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

**CP 88**

*(please stand)*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(please sit)*

**Postlude**

*Rejoice Greatly for God Comes*

Bach

*If you have another commitment today,  
and need to depart the church during the postlude, feel free to do so quietly.*

If you wish to contact Rev. Johanna, her email is, [revjohannapak@gmail.com](mailto:revjohannapak@gmail.com). For phone contact, please use the church 905-852-7016.

**Stewardship Gospel Tidbit:** (Matthew 1:18-25) God speaks to Joseph by means of a dream. Joseph pays attention to that dream and changes his own plans. The Bible often tells us of God speaking to individuals through dreams. As a faithful steward, what do you do with your plans when God speaks to you in some way?

### **This Week at St. Paul's**

#### **Wednesday, December 24, 2025 – Christmas Eve**

- 4:30 pm – Family Service, with singing of carols
- 10:30 pm – Traditional Christmas Service

#### **Thursday, December 25, 2025 – Christmas Day**

- 10:30 pm – Traditional Said Eucharist (BCP)

#### **Sunday, December 28, 2025 – First Sunday after Christmas**

- 10:30 am – Eucharist

#### **Readings for Next Sunday**

- Isaiah 63:7-9
- Psalm 148
- Hebrews 2:10-18
- Matthew 2:13-23

### **Upcoming Events**

- **Mid-week Eucharist and Bible Study** will resume on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026**. The Eucharist is at 10:00 am in the church with the Informal Bible Study beginning at 10:30 am in the lounge. All are welcome.
- **Canadian Church Calendar 2026** – calendars are available at the back of the church. The calendars are \$7.00 each.

**For the health and comfort of those with allergies  
St. Paul's is a "scent free" facility.**