



# ST. JOHN'S NORWAY

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## ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE BEACHES



*We wish you a merry Christmas*

## WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S NORWAY

*We are so glad to have you worship with us!*

*We are a growing, diverse, and energetic faith community learning to follow Jesus together.  
Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are invited to join us.*



**ST. JOHN'S NORWAY**  
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# Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Service of Lessons & Carols

### 10:30 AM – Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Officiant & Preacher:* The Rev. Molly Finlay  
*Advent Wreath Lighting:* Barbara & Peter Paton  
*Intercessor:* Allan Stokell  
*Music Director:* Cara Halpin  
*Soloist:* Tara Baxendale

**Prelude**

*Away In A Manger* (arr. Robert Lau)

**Welcome & Gathering of the Community**

*(Please stand)*

**Advent Hymn**

*People Look East! The Time is Near* (verse 4)

Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as the sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

**The Lighting of the Advent Candles**

*Reader 1* We light this candle as a symbol of the joy to be found in your kingdom on earth.

*Reader 2* For the Lord elevates the lowly, releases the captive, and brings sight to the blind. We rejoice in his justice and mercy, faithful to all generations.

*All* **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

## A Bidding for Christmas

*Leader*

My sisters and brothers in Christ,  
in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus,  
let it be our duty and delight  
to hear once more the message of the angels  
and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem  
to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word,  
let us find new hope in the promise that God is with us,  
raise our voices with the messenger who announces good  
news of great joy to all people,  
and give thanks to the one whose power has made us the  
children of God. *(Isaiah 7, Luke 2, John 1)*

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh,  
let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this  
place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the  
Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry,  
and those among us who find that there is no room for  
them at the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt,  
and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those  
on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the  
pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious,  
the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever  
and ever,

let us pray for the rulers of the nations,  
for peace and justice on earth,  
for the unity and mission of the Church,  
that we may be a sign that God's rule on earth  
has already begun.

With joy in our hearts,  
let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ,  
and join with Mary and Joseph,  
with shepherds and wise men,  
and with all our forebears in faith  
in offering our worship.

*(Please stand)*

**Hymn**

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Soloist*

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.

*All*

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.

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.

*(Please be seated)*

## First Lesson

Read by Marty Halpin

*Reader*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*(Isaiah 40:1-11)*

## Collect

*Leader*

God of freedom,  
give the strength of hope  
to those who suffer oppression  
in body, mind, or human dignity.  
Let them hear the vanguard of your coming grace,  
and give them the wholeness  
you intend for all your children.  
We ask this in the name of your Servant, Jesus Christ,  
the sign of your presence and the pioneer of our salvation,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Second Lesson****Read by Joanne Hincks***Reader*

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."  
(Luke 1:5-25)

## Collect

*Leader*

Almighty God,  
who sent your servant John the Baptist  
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,  
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,  
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,  
that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge,  
we may stand with confidence before his glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

## Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1, 3, 4)*

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.

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.

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.

*(Please be seated)*

### **Third Lesson**

**Read by Isaac Park**

*Reader*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

*(Luke 1:39-56)*

## Collect

*Leader*

Almighty God,  
who looked with favour on your servant Mary,  
and called her to be the mother of your Son,  
nurture in us the humility and gentleness  
that found favour in your sight,  
that with her we may proclaim the greatness of your name  
and find the mercy you show to those who fear you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Choir Carol

*O Little One Sweet* (traditional)

## Fourth Lesson

Read by Stuart Hughes

*Reader*

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.  
(Luke 2:1-20)

## Collect

*Leader*

O God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Please stand)*

## Hymn

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory (verses 1, 2, 5)*

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
you who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

Though an infant now we view him,  
he shall fill the eternal throne,  
gather all the nations to him;  
every knee shall then bow down:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

*(Please be seated)*

## **Fifth Lesson**

**Read by Diane van Overdijk**

*Reader*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” *(Luke 2:21-35)*

## Collect

*Leader*

Almighty God,  
you have shed upon us the new light  
of your incarnate Word.  
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,  
shine forth in our lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Choir Carol

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

## The Sermon

The Rev. Molly Finlay

*(Please sit or kneel for prayer)*

## Incarnation Litany

*Leader*

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

*People*

**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader*

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

*People*

**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader*

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

*People*

**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader*

By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and  
magi, hear us, O Lord,

*People*

**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader*

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

*People*

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

*People* **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

*People* **Lord, grant us peace.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Leader* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

*People* **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.**

## **Blessing**

*Leader* 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. **Amen.**

## Announcements

*(Please stand)*

### Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (verses 1, 2, 3, 5)

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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created: [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]

### Dismissal

*Leader* Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God!**

### Postlude

*Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme (Awake, the voice is calling us)*  
(J.G. Walther)

## Announcements & Events

**Please note: There is no Mid-Week Holy Eucharist this Wednesday.**

### Welcome to St. John's Norway

No matter where you find yourself on your journey of faith, **you are so welcome to be here with us!** We are a community of people—young and old, from all backgrounds and walks of life, who are learning to follow Jesus. We ask questions, don't avoid the tough issues that life presents, and we want to love our neighbours. **Please fill out a Welcome Card** found in the pews or at our Welcome Desk. We would love to hear from you!

### Apartment found

The search is over as our friend in need has found a new home! **Thank you to all the parishioners for their leads and support.**

**At the Heart of Christmas** is your companion through Advent and Christmas 2021, featuring daily reflections with audio, a family activity Advent Calendar and more! **To download this app**, simply visit the **App Store** and search for **"At the Heart of Christmas"**, tap the download button and enjoy!



### Baby Bundles

Congratulations! We were able to make up 5 complete and 4 more partial bundles which were all gratefully received. **Thank you everyone for making this such a success!**

### Food Pantry

St. John's Food Pantry—will be open for business on Monday mornings, starting **January 10th from 10am-noon!** We will be putting a sign out letting folks in need in our neighbourhood about this ministry. Thank you to Diane and Joanne for taking the lead on being here on Monday mornings to greet any guests. **If you would like to help out by joining our roster, please contact Joanne Hincks at joanne.hincks@gmail.com.**

## **Choir**

If you would like to join in this wonderful ministry, please contact Cara at [music@stjohnsnorway.com](mailto:music@stjohnsnorway.com) or call her at 416-712-7922 for more details.

## **Memorial Flowers**

If anyone wishes to give flowers to the glory of God and in memory, thanksgiving, or celebration of a loved one, please contact Edward at the office for more information.

## **Small Groups at St. John's**

Due to popular demand, we are forming small groups to begin this winter term in January for 6 weeks! If you are interested in this life-giving way to gather for prayer, bible study, and fellowship please email the office or sign up outside in the narthex. Let us know if you would like to be in an in-person group or on ZOOM!

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S

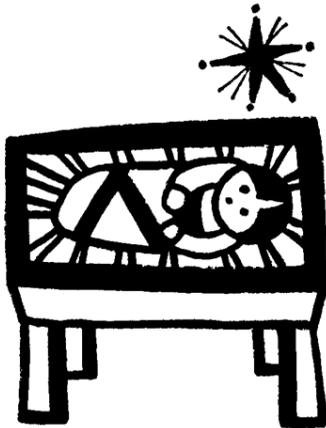
December 24      4pm Family Christmas Service  
with Nativity Animals & Pop-Up Christmas Pageant

7pm Classic Christmas Eve Service with Carols

10pm Candlelit Choral Christmas Eve Service\*  
*\*All attendees must provide proof of vaccination*

December 25      10am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

December 26      10:30am First Sunday after Christmas  
Family Eucharist



Let us go to Bethlehem  
and see this event  
which the Lord has made  
known to us



## Notes



# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land we are standing on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

## LET'S GET SOCIAL!

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[www.stjohnsnorway.com](http://www.stjohnsnorway.com)

## TO REACH US

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Director of Music: **Cara Halpin** (416) 712-7922  
Postulant & Youth Minister: **Yohan Dumpala**  
Children's Minister: **Lo Cook**  
Parish Administrator: **Edward Cockerton** (416) 691-4560  
Cemetery Supervisor: **Robert Turvey** (416) 691-2965  
Rector's Warden: **Gordon Stock** (416) 302-9746  
People's Warden: **Katya Park** (647) 705-1840  
Deputy Wardens: **Rob Corrigan, Kathryn Kern**

### St. John's Norway, Anglican Church

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COME AND SEE.

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