



ST. JOHN'S NORWAY

ANGELICAN 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
470 Woodbine Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4E 2H6

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Facebook: [@stjohnsnorway](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsnorway)
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Twitter: [@stjnorway](https://twitter.com/stjnorway)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of Lessons & Carols

10:30 AM – Sunday, December 21, 2025

Officiant: The Rev. Molly Finlay

Preacher: Christine Lambert

Deacon: The Rev. John Quaggin

Readers: Jennafer Da Silva, Faith Walker, Matthew Neugebauer,
Betsy Moss, Ina Kerklaan

Advent Candle Lighting: Debbie & Sourav Chatterjee

Music Director: Declan Tse

Soloists: Zyion Stephens, Tarquin Wongkee, Daniel Rojas

Hand Chime Choir

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Welcome & Gathering of the Community

(Please stand)

Advent Hymn

CP 91 - *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 sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

(Please remain standing)

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reader 1 We light this candle as a symbol of God's love
for us and our love for one another.

The fourth candle is lit.

Reader 2 For the Lord rejoices over us with gladness, and renews us in his love.
He exults over us with singing and turns our shame to praise.

All Come, Lord Jesus, come!

A Bidding for Christmas

Officiant My beloved siblings 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 remain standing)

Congregational Carol

Once in Royal David's City (David Willcocks)

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.

Choir

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.

All

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.

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 Jennafer Da Silva

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

Officiant

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.**

(Please remain seated)

Congregational Carol

CP 117 – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour,
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour
the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.

Second Lesson

Read by Faith Walker

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

Officiant

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)

Choir Carol

What is this Lovely Fragrance? (Healey Willan)

(Please be seated)

Third Lesson

Read by Matthew Neugebauer

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 Saviour, 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

Officiant

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.**

(Please remain seated)

Congregational Carol

CP 146 – 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song ran loud and high:
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free,
beloved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus your king is born,
Jesus is born,
in excelsis gloria.

Fourth Lesson

Read by Betsy Moss

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 Saviour, 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

Officiant

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.**

Congregational Carol

Hark! The herald angels 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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

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! **[Refrain]**

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. **[Refrain]**

Fifth Lesson

Read by Ina Kerklaan

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

Officiant

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

Sussex Carol (E. Hagenberg)

(Please remain seated or kneel for prayer)

Incarnation Litany

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

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

People **Lord, grant us peace.**

Litanist 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

Deacon 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

Officiant 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)

Closing Hymn

CP 143 – *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (verses 1, 2, 4, 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.

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
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.

Dismissal

Deacon

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

Announcements & Events

St. John's This Week

Wednesday	Nativity Animals in the Parking Lot 2-4pm Christmas Eve Services in the Sanctuary 4pm, 7pm, 10pm
Thursday	Christmas Day Service in the Sanctuary 9am
Friday	<i>The Church Office is closed.</i>
Sunday	In-Person / Livestream Holy Eucharist Service in the Sanctuary 10:30am

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 online](#). We would love to hear from you!

Please note: Our church office will be closed from Thursday, December 25th to Tuesday December 30th. The office will reopen Wednesday December 31st 9AM – 2PM to receive year end donations.

Thank you to our St. John's Choir and Handchime Choir!

Thank you to our Choir and Handchime Choir for your dedication and musical offerings throughout this Advent and Christmas season. Your music is a blessing to our community, and we are grateful for each of you:

Choir:

Allan Shantz, Betsy Moss, Cathy Dawson-March, Cheryl Britton, Connie Weldon, Daniel Rojas, Dayle Snider, Harry Miller, Janet Forsythe, Jonathan Slater, Karri Yano, Mairy Shantz, Maureen Louth, Nick Jackson, Robert Corrigan, Tarquin Wongkee, Tallulah Valliere-Paul, Zyion Stephens

Handchime Choir:

Cheryl Britton, Dayle Snider, Greg March, Ruth Wiens, Jada Blackwood, John Tait, Liz Warman



Notes

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

John 1:5

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S NORWAY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

5PM BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE CONTEMPLATIVE & COMFORTING

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21

10:30AM LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE WITH HAND CHIME CHOIR

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24

2 - 4PM NATIVITY ANIMALS VISIT IN OUR PARKING LOT

4PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE FOR FAMILIES WITH POP-UP
PAGEANT

7PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CLASSIC WITH CAROLS

10PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE CANDLELIT & CHORAL

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

470 WOODBINE AVENUE, TORONTO, ON M4E 2H6
(416) 691-4560 STJOHNSNORWAY.COM

Come and see!



ST. JOHN'S NORWAY
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE BEACHES

Buy a Mug & Give a Mug

TAKE A PIECE OF YOUR PARISH CHURCH
HOME WITH YOU THIS ADVENT!



*Buy a couple
and give one
to a friend!*

SUPPORT OUR INITIATIVE TO GIVE AWAY
OUR SJN MUGS TO VISITORS THIS
CHRISTMAS BY BUYING ONE FOR \$20!



ST. JOHN'S NORWAY
ANGELICAN CHURCH IN THE BEACHES

Come and see!



*What are we
talking about,
anyway!?*

***Discovering what we mean
when we say our Creeds***

**AN ADULT
FORMATION COURSE**

STARTING SUNDAY JANUARY 11
UNTIL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8
AFTER OUR 10:30AM SERVICE
IN THE LOWER HALL

Come and see!



ST. JOHN'S NORWAY

ANGELICAN CHURCH IN THE BEACHES

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 distinct 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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Find the latest news and current events at
www.stjohnsnorway.com

TO REACH US

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Cemetery Supervisor: Amber Viscount	(416) 691-2965
Rector's Warden: Gordon Stock	(416) 302-9746
People's Warden: Katya Park	(647) 705-1840
Deputy Wardens: Vivian Clements, Janice Yorke, Matthew Neugebauer	

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Church Office Hours
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www.stjohnsnorway.com



COME AND SEE.

STJOHNSNORWAY.COM