

The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day

December 25, 2017

10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

WE WELCOME YOU TODAY TO

ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE - ORIOLE ANGLICAN CHURCH

Prelude: "Blessed be thou, Lord Jesus Christ" (a cradle song)
..... J. S. Bach

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10-11

Hymn: 118 (v 1-5) "O come, all ye faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

Please stand. The celebrant greets the community

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: 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.

Gloria

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated

at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day: *(please remain standing)*

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 chant: Thalben-Ball..... p. 836

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

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. 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 forever 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."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: 132 (vv1-3) "Of eternal Love begotten"
..... DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and

without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *(John: 1:1-14)*

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: The Rev. Lisa Newland

The Nicene Creed *(please stand)*

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that 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.

Prayers of the people (*Please stand, sit or kneel as you prefer and are able.*)

Leader: Lord in your Mercy

People: Hear our prayer

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: 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.

Silence for reflection is kept

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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.**

The Peace (*please stand*)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn: 148 "See amid the winter's snow" WINTER'S SNOW

THE PREPARATION OF GIFTS

Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and
earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus
Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation
was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary
his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant
vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of
heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of
praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: 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.**

Celebrant: 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,

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: 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 for ever.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Those not receiving communion may wish to receive a blessing instead. To indicate this to the priest, please cross your hands over your chest.

Communicants who do not wish to drink from the chalice should not dip the bread into the cup. Instead, after eating the bread, cross your hands over your chest as the chalice bearer passes by, or make a sign of reverence by gently touching the base of the chalice when it is presented to you. Those drinking from the chalice are asked to assist the chalice

bearer by grasping it at the base and guiding it to their lips.

Any children wishing to receive from the chalice are encouraged to stand to assist the chalice bearer.

Communion Hymn: 126 "Away In A Manger"CRADLE SONG

Motet: "A Boy Was Born In Bethlehem" David Braund

Prayer After Communion (*please stand*)

Celebrant: Father 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.**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: 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.

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: "154 Joy To The World!" ANTIOCH

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Little Fugue on Joy to the world" David Braund

Next Sunday's Readings ~ The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Matthew 2:1-12

ASSISTING TODAY

Sidesperson:

Lesley Huether

Readers:

Sally-Anne Hrica, Virendra Singh

Intercessor:

Wendy Blatchford

Chalice:

Janice Sanders

Altar Guild:

Wendy Blatchford, Virendra Sing



**THE CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND PLANTS
are given to the glory of God and**

Laurel Allen	In memory of departed loved ones
Margaret Allen	In memory brother Bradford, and grandmother Clarice Montague, and Angeline Hamilton
Barker Family	In memory of Elva and Jack Edmiston and Jill Reeve
Claudette Blake and family	In memory of loved ones
Harold and June Browne	In memory of loved ones
Nancy Camps	In memory of loved ones
Victoria and Maurice Charles	In loving memory of our parents, brothers and sisters
The Huk Danelesko Family	In memory of loved ones
Vivienne Fetherston	In memory of John Fetherston, Gertrude Smith and Charles and George
Norm and Mary Fox	In loving memory of loved ones
Beverley Griffiths	In memory of James and Beryl Griffiths
Georgina Hew	In memory of her mother, Pamela
Atheline Hunte	In memory of loved ones
Rudolf and Sally-Anne Hrica	In memory of Helen and Palo
Judy and Ted Jackson	In memory of loved ones
B. James	In memory of loved ones



**THE CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND PLANTS
are given to the glory of God and**

The Jansz family	In memory of Monica and Aubrey Jansz, and Sharon Prashad
Douglas Jacques	In loving memory of Nancy Jacques, wife and mother
Donna Lam, Diana Ewert-Lam, Philip, Rebekah and Matthew Lam	In loving memory of Barbara and Alfred Lam, Gertrude and Arthur Van Ryck deGroot, and Eunice and Neville Luck
Keith and Delores Lawrence	In memory of Our parents, Hortense and Harold Lawrence, Frank and Lillian Dussard
Jo-Anne, Lori-Jo and Kelly McMath	In memory of Ken McMath
The McQuistons	In memory of Tom McQuiston
Paula and Gord Mount and family	In loving memory of departed loved ones
Rev. Lisa, Geoff, Paige and Colin Newland	In loving memory of our aunt & great aunt, Elizabeth Bailey
Stephen and Jane O'Keefe	In memory of our parents, our brother-in-law, Bill, and our friend Gavin
Ann Padmore	In memory of Winnie Padmore
Indranee Seevaratnam	In memory of Lavan Seevaratnam
Val and Elan Seales	In loving memory of Colville and Muriel Seales, and Cecil and Evangeline Williams



**THE CHRISTMAS GREENERY AND PLANTS
are given to the glory of God and**

Sylvia Sutherland	In memory of Gladys and Samuel Thomas, Sylvia's parents
Joy Walker	In loving memory of the Walker family, Mom and Dad
Cecile Weil	In memory of Eric and Mavis Spence, and Karl and Ella Weil
Ian and Shirley Young	In memory of departed loved ones

Isaiah 52:7-10

One of the interesting aspects of the book of Isaiah is its focus on Jerusalem. In the first part of the book (Isaiah 1-39) Jerusalem is a city of corruption, oppression and betrayal, whose wise men and rulers naively believe that God will deliver it. And indeed, at the close of First Isaiah, Jerusalem is delivered from the Assyrian king Sennacherib's siege in a miraculous way. One hundred and fifteen years later though, the Babylonians devastated the city and took its leaders captive, in a crisis that left the people in deep doubt of God's faithfulness. To these despairing deportees, Isaiah of Babylon (c. 540 BCE) speaks a word of consolation and hope, proclaiming that the God who created the world can create new possibilities, and will lead the people back to rebuild Jerusalem. In chapter 52, the prophet in Babylon summons the devastated Jerusalem to wake up and rouse itself (vv 1-2). He recalls Israel's history—enslaved in Egypt, then centuries later the northerners enslaved by the Assyrian Empire, and most recently Jerusalem and Judah's inhabitants deported and enslaved by the Babylonians. Once again, says God, this despised people will know my name and my power to act (vv 3-6). In a great visionary oracle of hope, Isaiah proclaims the coming of heralds, messengers who will proclaim an end to turmoil and war and a time of peace and joy for the devastated city. It is time for the deportees to pack up and leave Babylon and its values behind, not in flight, fear, and haste as the people once left Egypt fleeing Pharaoh, but with dignity under God's protection. (vv 7-12). But what immediately follows (52:13-53:12) is the last of Isaiah's great Servant Songs, which we hear every Good Friday. The journey to hope for God's faithful people is also a journey through suffering and rejection.

[Walter Deller/2017]



Christmas Greetings: On this happy festival of Christmas, we want to thank you all for your many cards, delicious treats and the kindnesses and expressions of goodwill which we have received. We wish all of you the richest blessings of this Holy Season and throughout the coming year.

Rev. Lisa, Geoff, Paige and Colin Newland



Your Churchwardens wish you and yours
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON

Val Seales Margaret Allen
Norma Walker Roberts
Kakra Winful
Raine Liliefeldt



A very special Thank You to all who helped make Christmas 2017 such a joyful celebration at St. Matthew's: the Altar Guild for preparing for our special services; the Liturgical team and Sidespeople; those who took part in the Christmas Pageant; the children of the parish who designed the bulletin cover; David Braund and the choir for the Advent and Christmas music; Donna, our secretary; the Churchwardens; and all who so generously supported those in need in our community this Christmas.



St. Matthew
the Apostle, Oriole
Anglican Church

Come. See. Journey.

80 George Henry Boulevard
North York, Ontario M2J 1E7
416-494-7020

www.stmatthew.ca
office@stmatthew.ca