



## THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020 AT 10:30 P.M.

The Church of the Redeemer:

162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4

office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

**Welcome:** *Steven Mackison, Susan Haig*

**Opening Rite:** *Prerecorded*

Introit: “Gaudete” (*Traditional*): *Virtual Choir*

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.

Rejoice!

At this time of grace and longed-for blessing,

Love faithfully offers a song of praise.

God is made human in this wonderful birth:

The world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.

The gate of heaven now opens which to us was closed,

Sending forth transforming light through which holiness is found.

Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy;

We bless the Lord, King of our Salvation.

*Priest:* Let us go forth in peace. Alleluia.

***People:* In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia.**

Hymn: #118 vv 1-3 (Common Praise) "O Come All Ye Faithful"



1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to  
2. God of God, Light of Light, lo, he ab - hors not the  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of



Beth - le - hem: come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels;  
vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be - got - ten not cre - a - ted:  
heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God in the high - est:

**Refrain**



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



Christ, the Lord!

**Station at the Crèche:** *Susan Haig*

*Priest:* The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Alleluia!

*People:* **And we beheld his glory. Alleluia!**

*Priest:* Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we, your people, may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: #118 vv 4-5 (Common Praise) "O Come All Ye Faithful"



4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, leav - ing their  
5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to



flocks, draw nigh with low - ly fear; we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

**Refrain**



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



Christ, the Lord!

Text: St. 1,2,3 and 5, John Francis Wade (1711-1786); st. 4, Étienne-Jean-François Borderies, 1822; st. 5a Thesaurus Animae Christianae, 1850?; st. 1,2,3 and 5, tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880); st. 4 and 5a, tr. William T. Brooke (1848-1917). Music: Melody attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786), alt.; harm. The English Hymnal, 1906. Ref. desc. And altern. Harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015). Altern. Ref. setting © 1961 Oxford University Press.

**The Collect of the Day:** *Susan Haig*

*Priest:* Eternal God,  
this holy night is radiant  
with the brilliance of your one true light.  
As we have known  
the revelation of that light on earth,  
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**✠ The Proclamation of the Word**

**First Reading:** *Karen Turner*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Isaiah 9.2-7

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

Carol: *Stille Nacht (Franz Gruber, arr. David Willcocks): Virtual Choir*

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

*Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Hallelujah,  
Tönt es laut von Ferne und Nah:  
Jesus der Retter ist da!  
Jesus der Retter ist da!

*Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Shepherds first made known  
Through the angel Hallelujah,  
It sounds loud from far and near:  
Jesus the Saviour is here!*

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!  
Gottes Sohn! O wie lacht  
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichen Mund,  
Da schlägt uns die rettende Stund'.  
Jesus in deiner Geburt!  
Jesus in deiner Geburt!

*Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!*

## Second Reading: *Jean Bubba*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

Titus 2.11-14

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is observed*

Hymn: #134 (Common Praise) "While By the Sheep"

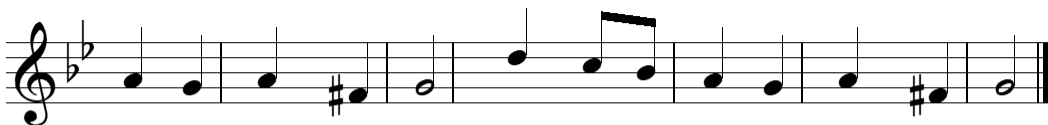


1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings brought an an - gel bright:
2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le - hem a child to - day.
3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall re - deem us all.
4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - ery joy our hearts shall fill.

### *Refrain*



how great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the  
How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the



Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!  
Lord in heaven on high! Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

**The Gospel:** *Steven Mackison*

*Reader:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

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

**All:** **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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 favours!”

*Reader:* The Gospel of Christ.

Luke 2.1-14

**All:** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily:** Steven Mackison

*We pause for music and meditation.*

Meditation: “Sure on This Shining Night” (*Samuel Barber*): *Virtual Choir*

Sure on this shining night  
Of starmade shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.

The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High summer holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder  
Wandering far alone  
Of shadows on the stars.

~James Agee

**Statement of Faith:** *Susan Haig*

*Priest:* We believe in God,  
*All:* **who is older than eternity  
and younger than our next breath;  
who is beyond describing  
yet knows us all by name;  
who inspires faith  
yet cannot be contained by religion.**

*Priest:* We believe in Jesus Christ, flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;  
*All:* **he came in the body  
to give worth to every human life.  
He touched the untouchable  
loved the unlovable  
and endured slander, persecution and death.**

*Priest:* We believe that God's Kingdom comes on earth through Christ's suffering love;  
*All:* **he rose from the grave as living proof  
that what is laid down in faith will be raised in glory.  
He ascended to heaven to be present in all times to all people.**

*Priest:* We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
*All:* **who leads us into truth and freedom,  
who gives good gifts to all God's children,  
who works through prayer and politics,  
through justice, care of creation  
and the healing of the nations.**



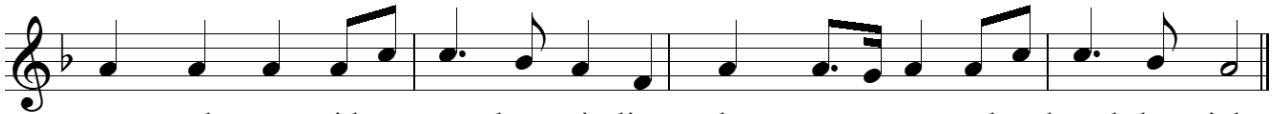
*Priest:* We celebrate the potential God has given us:

*All:* **the life in our bodies,  
the yearning in our souls,  
and the promise of good things in store  
for those who love and serve their maker. Amen.**

Hymn: #135 (Common Praise) "Shepherds in the Field Abiding"



1. Shep - herds in the field a - bid-ing, tell us, when the ser-aph bright  
2. We be - held (it is no fa-ble), God in - car-nate, king of bliss,  
3. Chor - is - ters on high were sing-ing Je - sus and his vir-gin birth,  
4. Thanks, good shep-herds, true your sto - ry; let us go to Beth-le - hem.



greet - ed you with won-drous ti-ding, what you saw and heard that night.  
swathed and cra-dled in a sta-ble, and the an - gel strain was this:  
heaven - ly bells the while a - ring-ing, "Peace, good- will to all on earth."  
An - gels hymn the king of glo - ry; car - ol we with you and them.

**Refrain**



Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De-o!



Glo - - - - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Text: French trad.; tr. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934), alt. Tr. © Mowbray (an imprint of Cassell plc., London). Music: Melody French; arr. Martin Shaw (1875-1958). Arr. © Oxford University Press.

## **The Prayers of the People:** *Paul Pynkoski*

*Leader:* Heavenly Father,  
whose angel announced to Mary  
that she would bear your son, Jesus, a Saviour for all people,  
open our minds and hearts to your voice  
so that we, too, might hear good tidings  
and carry news of your salvation to the world.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Gracious God,  
who found shelter for the holy family in Bethlehem,  
may you continue to provide us, and all people,  
with the necessities of life – housing, food, clothing,  
rewarding labour and supportive community.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Almighty God,  
at Jesus' birth your heavenly host  
proclaimed glory to you and peace to your people on the earth.  
May your glory pour down from heaven  
and may your peace and justice be made manifest everywhere.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God,  
you reassured the shepherds of the field,  
telling them not to fear  
but to joyfully welcome the birth of their Saviour.  
May we, too, learn to live without fear,  
trusting in you and in the marvelous promises that you have made to us.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Merciful God,  
who led magi from the east  
by the light of a star to the place of Jesus' birth,  
may you lead all nations to the light of your understanding and your wisdom.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Generous God,  
who caused rich gifts to be laid  
at the feet of the infant Jesus,  
teach us to accept and use the gifts that you give us  
and, in turn, to offer ourselves, everything we have  
and all that we do to you and to your people.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Lord, in your mercy:

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Creator God,  
you sent your son, Jesus, through whom all things were made, to live among us.  
May we, following his example,  
learn to live in caring relationship with all humanity  
and with all that you have created;  
and, at this Christmas time,  
when we remember and celebrate his birth,  
may we give ceaseless thanks  
for the innumerable, unfathomable, blessings that you grant to us.

*A long pause is observed. Please give voice to your prayers or add them over in the chat box.*

*Leader:* Holy One, accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, world without end.

*All:* **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: *Susan Haig*

*Priest:* 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.**

The Doxology: *Susan Haig*

*Priest:* 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.**

Concluding Hymn: #138 (Common Praise) "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"



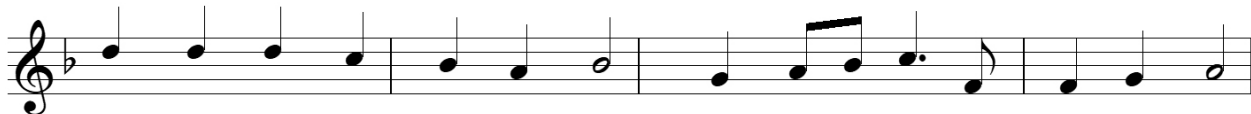
1.Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King,  
2.Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3.Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail, the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased as one of us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"  
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"  
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915); altern. Harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015). Altern. Harm. © 1961 Oxford University Press.

**Ministry Updates:** *Susan Haig*

**The Dismissal:** *Steven Mackison*

**Priest:** Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

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

**After the service you are invited to remain online  
while our D. J. – Morgan Yew – plays some festive music.  
Feel free to share Christmas cheer in the chat with those who stick around.**

---

All Liturgical Texts excerpted from the Book of Alternative Services © 2004 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved.  
Reproduced under license from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library.  
The Prayers of the people are adapted from "Prayers of Intercession" by Susan Sayers. Reproduced by permission of Kevin Mayhew Ltd, Licence no. KMPL071215/01.  
The Statement of Faith is courtesy of the Iona Community. The cover image is "Annunciation," He Qi, is used with kind permission from www.heqiart.com.  
All music, not in the public domain, is reproduced under OneLicense.net #A-707061.

---

## Ministry Updates

### With Gratitude

At this time, more than any other, we contemplate giftedness and how God has given it expression in our lives through the incarnation: God's gift of God's self to us in the person of Jesus Christ. We invite you at this time to respond with gratitude to all that God has done in your life and to support the ministries that God has inspired in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit and that make us who we are.

We are grateful that despite this pandemic we have been able to gather for worship and faith formation and to support the Common Table. And, we have been able to sustain all this ministry through the generous donations from parishioners and friends of the community.

If you have given all you can - thank you. Your gifts have made a difference.

If you have the capacity to make an additional gift or to give for the first time please consider one of these options:

- [online](#) through CanadaHelps.
- **e-transfer** – please contact the [Treasurer](#) on how to do this.
- **a cheque, dated in December 2020, mailed to the church and postmarked in 2020.** The church address is 162 Bloor Street West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4.
- **hand-delivered envelopes** dropped through the mail slot in the door to the right of the main doors before midnight December 31, 2020 (if you can do this safely while following pandemic protocols).

## **Christmas Day at 10:30 AM on Zoom**

While we cannot gather together in the church, we celebrate the Incarnation through scripture, carols and hymns, reflection and prayer in an online service through Zoom. Join in on **Friday, December 25** at 10:30 AM.