

# St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke

## Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve, 2020



*We welcome you to worship this morning. Our celebration is joyful, reflective, playful and reverent, as we thank God for new life through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*As we gather on this sacred land, we acknowledge that this is the Dish with One Spoon Territory created in Treaty by the Anishinabee, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee binding them to share and protect this land. Subsequent indigenous nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. May we faithfully fulfill our treaty commitments to the land and its people.*

*This land has also been the place of Christian worship since the 1820's.*

## Gathering of the Community

*Music before the Service* – The Cygnus Trio

Prelude: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (arr. A. McLane)

*Welcome*

*Opening Responses*

Gift-giving God,  
of angels and stars,  
**magi and shepherds, promise and hope,  
journeys and longing;**

God who calls and sends,  
**bleses and guards,**  
hides and reveals,  
**asks and waits,**  
ancient love,  
**that is always new;**

God of Christmas,  
**God of our hearts,**  
may we bear the Christ,  
to all who need him,  
**and allow his birth  
in us again. Amen.**

*A Bidding for Christmas*

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 rejoice that the glory of the Lord has been revealed;  
find new hope in the promise that God is with us;  
magnify the God of mercy  
who breaks the power of tyrants and exalts the humble  
and raise our voices with the messenger  
who announces good news of great joy to all people.

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.

Congregational Carol *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (118 vs. 1, 3, 4)

1. **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.**
3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:**  
*Refrain*
4. **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks , draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps.**  
*Refrain*

## Words & Music for Christmas

The First Reading: Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25 Reader: Debbie McLean-Schubert

*These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created*

Let us pray.

Creating God,  
you call us to live in harmony  
with nature, with one another, and with you.  
Now fix our eyes upon the one  
in whom your purpose for our world has been revealed,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

Poem: *Canticle of the Sun* — St. Francis

Reader: Ashani Weerasinghe

Congregational Chant *Between Darkness and Light*

**Between darkness and light I will always walk  
and wherever I will go —  
I will open the window of light  
and will plant the seeds of love.  
I will open the window of light  
and will plant the seeds of love. (repeats)**

The Second Reading: Genesis 3.1-20

Reader: Peter Lee

*The eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked*

Let us pray.

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.**

Poem: *Sometimes It Just Seems to Be Too Much* — Ted Loder

Reader: Rachel Sunda

*Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree* (arr. T. Stuchbery)

The Third Reading: Isaiah 40.1-11

Reader: Zachary Parkin-Trudeau

*Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God*

Let us pray.

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.**

Congregational Carol *Silent Night* (119)

1. **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.**
  
2. **Silent night! Holy night!**  
**Shepherds quake at the sight.**  
**Glories stream from heaven afar,**  
**Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;**  
**Christ the Saviour is born;**  
**Christ the Saviour is born.**
  
3. **Silent night! Holy night!**  
**Son of God, love's pure light.**  
**Radiant beams from Thy holy face,**  
**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth;**  
**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

The Fourth Reading: Luke 1.26-38

Reader: Cailin Mabee

*Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you*

Let us pray.

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord,  
that we who have known the incarnation  
of your Son Jesus Christ,  
announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary,  
may by his cross and passion  
be brought to the glory of his resurrection;  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Poem: *Three Songs of Mary – 2. O Oriens* — M. l'Engle

Reader: Michele Parkin

*There Is No Rose* (anon c. 1420) – The Rectory Singers

The Fifth Reading: Luke 2.1-20

Reader: Rev. Mike Stuchbery

*To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord*

Let us pray.

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* (138)

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn 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 host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**
- 2. Christ, by highest heav'n 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 with us on earth to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

- Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son 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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

Monologue: *The Shepherd* — (Wild Goose Resource Group)  
Reader: *Nigel Weaver*

Congregational Carol *'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime* (146)

- '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:**

*Refrain*

**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 rang loud and high:**

*Refrain*

- The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory  
on the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.**

*Refrain*

4. **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:**

*Refrain*

## **The Incarnation Litany**

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe.

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

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

**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Silence may be kept.*

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.

**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

With joy in our hearts, let us gather our prayers in the  
words our Saviour taught us.

**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.**

### Blessing for Christmas

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**

Congregational Carol *Joy to the World* (154)

1. **Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.**
  
2. **Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
  
3. **No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow,  
far as our sin is found,  
far as our sin is found,  
far as, far as our sin is found,.**
  
4. **He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Postlude – The Cygnus Trio

Presider	The Rev. Mike Stuchbery
Music Director	Tracy Stuchbery
Choir	The Rectory Singers
Scripture Readers	Debbie McLean-Schubert Peter Lee Zachary Parkin-Trudeau Cailin Mabee

Readers                      Ashani Weerasinghe  
                                    Rachel Sunda  
                                    Michele Parkin  
                                    Nigel Weaver

The Cygnus Trio are: Ben Stuchbery – Flute  
                                    Erica Stuchbery – Violin  
                                    Jonathan Stuchbery – Guitar  
<https://thecygnustrio.com/store>

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