

St George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church

321 Fischer Hallman Road
Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4X9

Office **519-744-4751**

Website: **www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com**

YouTube: **<https://www.youtube.com/@stgeorgesfh>**

Please note: We broadcast our 10 am Sunday Services and other special Services via YouTube and Facebook. These can be accessed over the internet using the YouTube link above. We make every effort to avoid capturing members of the congregation during the broadcast.

Electronic Devices: Please silence your devices during the Service for the benefit of all worshipping with us. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Diocese of Huron - The Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop: Rt Rev Dr Todd Townshend

Music Director: Rob Aszmies

Organist: John Shaw

Celebrant: The Rev Sharla Malliff

Greeter: Mary Ann Millar

Server & Crucifer: Michael Chine, George Mudry

Warden on Duty: Debra Zanon-Barclay

Third Sunday of Advent – BAS 10:00 am

December 14, 2025

Announcements

Processional Hymn: CP #97 'Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring'

The Gathering of the Community

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

A: **And also with you.**

Lighting of Advent Candle: Joy

Reader 1: "Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices; My body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol; Or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy; In your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Ps. 16.9-11.)

Reader 2: In God's way, there is safety and delight; In God's way, everything works for joy. In God's way, there is delight spreading all through the galaxies blooming in glory forevermore.

Reader 1 :Our sorrows are to God's joy as a drop of ink is to the ocean. He will take from us all our troubles and leave us with joy forevermore. As the candle is lit

All: Lord Jesus, in your coming, Remind us of the joy that waits for us. Teach us to look for the foretaste of joy In each day of our lives. Create in us a thirst for joy And the trust that it waits for us, and we for it. We ask this in your blessed name. Amen.

C: Almighty God,

A: to you all hearts are open, all desires are 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.

Glory to God

Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people, people of goodwill.

Verse 1:

We praise You, we bless You,
We adore You, we glorify You,
We give You thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Refrain (same as before)

Verse 2:

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You
are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

Refrain (same)

Verse 3:

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.

Refrain: (same) and add "Amen, amen."

Prayer of Transition

C: Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your church with grace, and
guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish of St
George's, that they may receive a faithful servant who will care for your
people and support them in their ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
A: **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

C: Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to
save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near.
Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the
wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
A: **Amen**

The Proclamation of the Word
The Readings

First Reading **Isaiah 35:1-10**

Nelson Cuthbert

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146:4-9

Rev Sharla Malliff

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Valerie Cuthbert

7 Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION: 'Ancient Words'

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me, changing you;
we have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

Words of life, words of hope,
give us strength, help us cope
in this world where'er we roam,
ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words, ever true,
changing me, changing you;
we have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.

The Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Rev Sharla Malliff

C: The Lord be with you.

A: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

"11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Response to the Gospel: CP #109 'When the King Shall Come Again'
Homily

Rev Sharla Malliff

Apostle's Creed

C: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,

A: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Roberta Butler

O: The flowers in the church today are given in celebration of my 75th birthday and my son's 50th birthday. We bless God for His loving kindness in our lives. To Him alone be all the glory, Funke Talabi. Also, in loving memory of our daughter, Leslie, given by Jan and Bob Micak.

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, Hear us, O God; your mercy is great. We come to you this day, O God, with a deepening anticipation of your birth among us. We thank you for the gift of your love.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the church throughout the world, and for all the ministries that build up the body of Christ, that in our many vocations we may serve to your glory.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this nation and for all nations, remembering especially those who are victims of political and social injustice. We pray for elected officials and all leaders, that they will govern with courage and equity.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all in need: for the sick, the destitute, and the dying; for strangers in our land, for the invisible ones; for the elderly and children;

for parents and grandparents; for those who live alone and those who live lonely in the midst of family. This morning we remember

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We remember with mercy those who sleep without shelter, cold and vulnerable, lacking enough food; those who are overworked and those who have no work. Stir up in us the capacity to see ourselves in their struggles and to act so that others may have life abundant.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this community, for our neighbours and friends, and for those with whom we study and work. Guide and strengthen all people in our common life to know the gifts of your grace and love.

Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, asking that our gratitude for their witness be apparent in all that we do. Hear us, O God;

Your mercy is great.

May all that we ask and all that you see is needed in our world, be given to your people; through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

C: 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.

Most merciful God

A: 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.

C: 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.

A: Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

We bear fruit worthy of our repentance when we give our tithes and offerings for the well-being of the poor.

Offertory Hymn: CP # 95 'O Come, Divine Messiah'

Prayer over the Gifts

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth— giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray.

.Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer: 1982 Scottish Rite

C: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

C: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

C: Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker. Out of nothing, you called all worlds to be, and still you draw the universe to its fulfillment. Dawn and evening celebrate your glory till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Son, the life of heaven and earth were joined, sealing the promise of a new creation, given, yet still to come.

Taught by your Spirit, we, who bear your threefold likeness, look for the City of Peace in whose light we are transfigured and the earth transformed.

As your children of your redeeming purpose who await the coming to your Son, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lord God of Hosts Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry

11 Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the

22 Lord Ho - san - na in the high-est Ho - san - na in the high-est

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father. Our hope is built on him, the first, the last, the living one. Obedient, even to accepting death, He opened the gate of glory and calls us now to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, a light with the vision of a feast that heralded a kingdom yet to come, at supper with his disciples, he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son; and may we be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom. Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

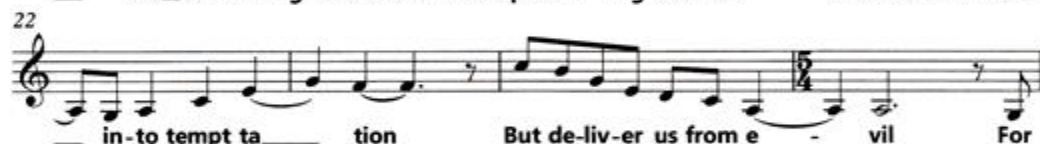
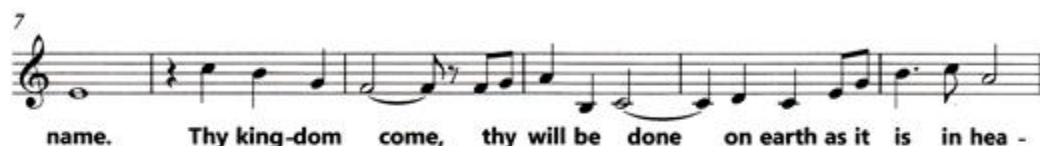
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages.

A: Amen.

C: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to pray:

An Anglican Lord's Prayer

John Ryrie



The Breaking of the Bread

C: God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

A: **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

7
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of

14
God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The Communion

Administrants: Cameron Crassweller, Catherine Carlson

Communion Music: CP # 48 'Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence'

Choir Anthem: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayer after Communion

C: Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever.

A: **Amen.**

C: Glory to God,

A: **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.

Benediction: 'The Blessing'

The Lord bless you and keep you,
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace. (x2)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

Blessing

C: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: Amen.

Recessional Hymn: CP #103 'On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry' (verses 1, 3, 4, 5)

C: Be strong in the truth of God.
Bear witness to the gospel.
Persevere in the face of evil.
Persist in your commitment to Christ.
Live without fear.
Love without reserve.

A: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Dismissal:

C: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Psalms 80: 1-7

Romans 1: 1-7

Matthew 1: 18-25

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday : 8:15 30 10:00 58

Givings

On the plate \$4,765 Auto Debit: \$2,093

Sunday Smile

Yes, you can just walk in.

Advent Lesson Readers

The assigned Readers List for the four Sundays in Advent has now been placed in your mail folder in the Narthex. In addition, information on the need for volunteers to read lessons at our special Christmas services has been shared. The sign-up sheet for volunteers will be posted in the Narthex. There have been a couple of changes to the master list of those able to read at our regular Sunday services so that updated list has been printed on the back of the assignment list for Advent. Questions?
Contact: Cheryl Fox @ 519-579-0684.

Office Hours (Pierrette)

Mondays: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Tuesdays: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Wednesdays: 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
Thursdays & Fridays: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Bible Study

Join our Bible Study every Thursday at 1:30 pm in the Fireside room. All are welcome! This Thursday is the last one until the New Year.

Name Tags

If you would like a name tag, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and the cost is \$13.00

Upcoming Festive Soul Sauce Christmas Concerts

The Jazz Room, Waterloo Wed. December 17 - 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6. Admission - \$20 at the door.

Lots of great Christmas carols and festive songs!

“Worship Fully”

Through Advent, we will engage with scripture as we “Worship Fully”.

All you need is your Bible.

Nov. 30 please read Mark 1: 1-11 and Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15, 19–23

Dec. 7 - we break for Charlotte’s brunch for Kid’s Ability

Dec. 14 - please read Luke 2: 1-14

Dec. 21 - please read John 1:1-5, 14

Bring along a bag lunch. Studies will begin following the 10am service --- about 11:45 ish.

Christmas Flowers

Sign-up sheets for the Altar Guild’s Christmas flowers are now available in the Narthex. If you would like to contribute flowers in honour or memory of loved ones, or simply help beautify the sanctuary for the Christmas season, please take a moment to add your name to the list.

December 15th at 1:00 pm – The Season of Advent

As we enter this season of Advent, we are pleased to be welcoming back the **Lieutenant Colonel Judson Bridgewater** who spoke to us several years ago. Padre Judson will bring to us his thoughts on “***Life in all its fulness: Prayer from Sea to Sea to Sea***” in relationship to the situations he faces and those he serves as a military Chaplain.

Mary Ann Millar

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Rep.

2025-2026 Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83536726542>

Give and Take a Gift

To anyone in need of a gift item for the Christmas season, please feel free to take a gift from the table in the Narthex. Those that receive these treasures will be blessed. Also, if you would like to add an item that too will be appreciated, thanks.

Christmas Worship Services

In addition to our regular Sunday 8:15 am and 10 am Services, we are inviting all to attend the following additional special Services of Worship as listed.

Sunday, December 14	4:00 pm Advent Lessons and Carols Guest Priest: Rev Barry Ferguson
Wednesday, December 24	5:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Eucharist
Wednesday, December 24	8:00 pm Christmas Eve Traditional Eucharist
Thursday, December 25	9:00 am Christmas Day Morning Prayer
Sunday, December 28	9:00 am Christmas Festival of Readings and Music

Members Envelopes

Please note that member donation envelopes are available in the Narthex. We ask that you pick them up at your earliest convenience.

Questionnaire#2 Completion

Thanks to those who have returned Questionnaire#2. About 90 were picked up but only about 45 have been returned. If you have completed yours at home and still have it, please bring it in to the church this Sunday, December 14th, and deposit it in the box provided in the Narthex. We will be summarizing all of the Questionnaires the following day - Monday.

Thanks very much!

Nelson Cuthbert, Chair-Selection Committee

Photographs

Pictures taken at worship services and special events may be used for the Parish Website, Facebook page, or the Dragon Flyer. Please speak to the photographer if you do not wish to be included in a picture.

The Communications Committee.