

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: Alfred Butler

Warden on Duty: Catherine Carlson

Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 am December 7, 2025

#### **Announcements**

Processional Hymn: CP #114 'Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending'

**Lighting of Advent Candle: Peace** 

Reader 1: "Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace- In peace because they trust in you.

Trust in the Lord forever For in the Lord God you have an everlasting

rock O Lord, you will ordain peace for us, For indeed all that we have done, You have done for us." (Is. 26.3-4, 12)

Reader 2: Peace comes from our trust in God, our belief in God's faithfulness and care for us. He will provide for us and protect us; Therefore we can be at peace in ourselves.

Reader 1: Lord, teach us to trust in you, That we may be at peace within ourselves, with our families, with our neighbours and in this world.

#### As the candle is being lit:

All: Lord Jesus, you come to bring the promise of peace, the promise of trust in God, the promise that God will provide, and so we need not be anxious or fearful.

Come into our lives, and bring us That peace that passes all understanding. We ask this in your blessed name. Amen.

#### 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.

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: O Root of Jesse, O Peace, stir up your power within us, that in this time we may await with abundant expectation the fulfillment of your eternal presence in creation, for you live and reign among us, Maker, Savior, and Giver of Life, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

# The Proclamation of the Word The Readings

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

- <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear:

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

- <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

#### Roberta Butler

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God, \* and your righteousness to the king's son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \* and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \* and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*
  he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \* from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \* like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*
  there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \* who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever! \* and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

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 Romans** 15:4-13

Michael DuBoulay

A reading from Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name';

<sup>10</sup> and again he says,

'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people';

<sup>11</sup> and again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him';

<sup>12</sup> and again Isaiah says,

'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;

in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

<sup>13</sup>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.

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 3:1-12

**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 3:1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Response to the Gospel: 'Isn't He?' combined with 'Let Us Adore Him'

Isn't He beautiful? Beautiful isn't He?

Prince of Peace, Son of God, Isn't He?
Isn't He beautiful?
Beautiful isn't He?
Counselor, Almighty God, Isn't He, isn't He, isn't He?

O come, let us adore Him, King of Heaven, Lord of all; O come, let us adore Him, The Saviour of us all.

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 in memory of Bill, a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We miss you dearly and always will. I feel very blessed to have had your love and caring for 69 years. The flowers are given in love by your wife Charlotte.

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 #383 'Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun'

#### **Prayer over the Gifts**

.Amen.

We give you thanks, Holy One, for all good things: for this universe and for Earth itself, for creatures and plants, for water and food, for light and darkness; for Jesus, our brother, who enlarged our vision, setting himself before us as the bread and wine of abundant life; and for the Holy Spirit, who comes to us in baptism and moves in our midst with the power to lead us to you. Turn our offerings to your good will, and turn us always to you in gratitude.

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:









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

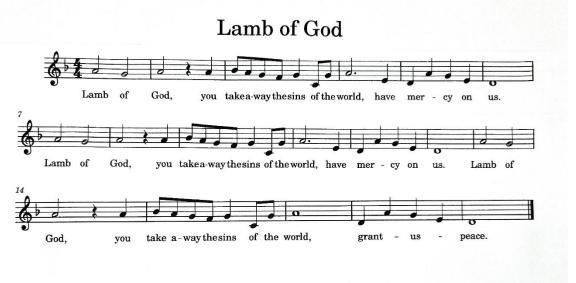
John Ryrie



#### 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.



#### The Communion

Administrants: Cameron Crassweller

Communion Music: CP #117 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'

**Choir Anthem: 'Longing for the Light'** 

#### **Prayer after Communion**

C: Faithful God, we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

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 #106 'There's a Voice in the Wilderness'

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 35: 1-10 Psalm 146: 4-9
James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11

#### Last Week's Attendance

Sunday: 8:15 23 10:00

**Givings** 

On the plate \$1,915 Auto Debit: \$2,093

#### **Sunday Smile**

Have you got the blues? Jesus can get you into rhythm and save your soul.

#### **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!

#### 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 ... TWO (!)**

- 1 at St. George's, Wed. December 10 7 pmNo cost goodwill offerings gratefully accepted.
- 2 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!

#### CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

The Addison Women's Choir, directed by Dr. Laura Curtis, and the Cambridge Male Chorus, directed by Brenda Uchimaru, will present their annual **Christmas Concerts on Sat. Dec. 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm at Avenue Road Baptist Church, Cambridge, and on Sun. Dec. 7, 2025 at 3:00 pm at St. George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church, Kitchener.** Advance tickets are available from choir members for \$15 each and \$20 at the door. Children under 12 are free. Donations (non-perishable food and/or cash) are also welcome. See Nelson Cuthbert (519-588-8672)(cuthben@gmail.com) for tickets. Thanks!

#### "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.

#### SHARE THE WARMTH

Matthew 25:36 "I was naked and you clothed me".

This is what we did by all of your wonderful donations of Winter Outerwear to be distributed to those who can use them. We do this to follow the words of Jesus, to take care of others. Many, many thanks for your contributions.

Your Outreach Committee

#### **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**" 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

#### **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

#### SHARE THE WARMTH

Thank you once again to our St. George's Family for their generous donations to "Share the Warmth". This program is provided by the Salvation Army to people in need. Items of winter apparel are donated to over 750 individuals in our community.

Thanks to Mabel King, Sandy and Shiela (friends of Heather Murphy), and Roberta Finnie for their numerous donations of hand-crafted knitted items. These items include hats, scarves and small animals for Share The Warmth as well as St. Andrews Cupboard.

Your Outreach Committee

#### **Deanery Refugee Update**

Our committee met (half in person at our church, half on ZOOM) on Tuesday evening, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.

Some good news. Three churches (including our own) have contributed \$6800 since mid-October. We now have \$20,850 in our Deanery Refugee account! If we add in the anticipated contribution from the Diocese, we should have at least \$27,000 to begin our sponsorship of a new family.

We have <u>not</u> yet chosen a new family, as no families of four have cropped up on the recent lists that the Diocese has received and provided to us. Consequently, we think we will likely defer our selection to the new year. All of the cutbacks that the federal and Ontario governments have made to immigration quotas has impacted our own possibilities.

Looking ahead, to fully sponsor a new family of four we probably need roughly \$1000 in 2026 from each of the eight local churches who are actively participating in our refugee outreach. Seems like a fair bit to raise, but if 10 parishioners at each church give \$2 a week toward our refugees for 50 weeks, we get to \$1000 from each church!

Many thanks for your continued support of this outreach.

John Ryrie

#### CHRISTMAS LETTER

Please pick up your Christmas Letter and Christmas Envelope in the Narthex. They are arranged alphabetically. Any not picked up on Sunday will be mailed out.

Thanks very much Your Wardens

#### **Photographs**

Pictures taken at worship services and special events <u>may</u> 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.