



St George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church

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Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4X9

Office **519-744-4751**

Website: www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

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

Broadcasts: 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 audience during the broadcast.

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

“Fragrance Free” space: We are a “fragrance free” space. As we have those who suffer from sensitivities or allergies to fragrance. Thank you for your co-operation.

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: Linda Dancey

Server & Crucifer: Alfred Butler

Warden on Duty: Debra Zanon-Barclay

Epiphany

January 4, 2025 BAS – 10:00 am

Announcements

Processional Hymn: CP # 118 ‘O Come All Ye Faithful’ (1,2,3,4,5a)

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

Glory to God on high, and peace to all on earth.
We worship you, we give you thanks, our heavenly King.
We give you praise, almighty God and Father
Blessed in glory bright.

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,
The sacrificial Lamb, who saves the world from sin,
Have mercy Lord. Beside the Father's hand enthroned,
Now hear our prayer.

You only are the Lord. You only are most high.
You only are the holy one, Lord Jesus Christ.
And now you reign with Father and with Spirit
One in glorious light.

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 Lord our God, your glory shines as far as the east is from the west, from the north to the south, so that all people may see and be radiant, so that every heart might thrill and rejoice. Guide us on our baptismal journey in Christ. Overwhelm us with the joy of your presence. May we enter your house and pay homage to him whose infant arms were already reaching out to the ends of the earth that all might be gathered in.
In your triune name, we pray.

A: Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

Roberta Butler

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,

and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

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.**

10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, *
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.

11 All kings shall bow down before him, *
and all the nations do him service.

12 For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, *
and the oppressed who has no helper.

13 He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; *
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, *
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

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 Ephesians 3:1-12

Alfred Butler

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by

revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ,⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things;¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION: CP #148 'See Amid the Winter Snow' (1,2)

The Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

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 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” ⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Response to the Gospel: CP #148 ‘See Amid the Winter Snow’ (3,4)

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.**

The Blessing of Chalk

Priest: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

People: The maker of heaven and earth.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Bless, O Lord, this chalk that it may be an effective sign of your blessing upon the homes of your people. Watch over our going out and our coming in and grant that the love of Christ and the wonder of his grace may be bestowed on every inhabitant and every guest. We pray that, like the wise men of old, we may serve him as our only King, worship him as the one true God, and honour him with lives of sacrifice and praise, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Roberta Butler

O: Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Gracious and Holy God, your eternal purposes, revealed to us in Christ Jesus, show that your love extends to the ends of the earth, and stretches far beyond our own imaginings. We thank you for such expansive love and for the rich variety of ways you make yourself known among us.

We pray for the church, too often afraid of the rich diversity you have designed, too often timid in its proclamation of the gospel before the rulers and powers of this world. Strengthen us in our witness, we pray. Fill us with the power of the Holy Spirit that we may be bold and confident through faith in Christ. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heal divisions within the church so that we live truly as members of the same body. Cast out jealousies and suspicions until we become sharers in the gospel promise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for people in positions of power in our country and throughout the world. May they govern people with justice and compassion. Give to all who control economic and military might wisdom to choose the common good over personal or political gain. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for people who have little power according to the world's measure of power. Defend the cause of the poor; deliver those in need; put an end to oppression; and save the lives of everyone in harm's way this day. May all victims of violence find their lives redeemed by your love and care. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for people who are seeking you this day, or searching for new meaning and purpose for their lives. Guide and direct them in their spiritual journey.

Give them the vision to see signs of your promise, the wisdom to discern between what is false and what is true, and courage and curiosity in all their searching. May the joy of Christ surprise them and lead them to a place of welcome. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We hold in prayer today

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Finally, we pray for those overwhelmed by personal darkness today: the one bowed down in grief; the one overcome by depression; the one who is unemployed or in economic trouble; the one who is struggling with illness or recovery. We pray for those who are estranged from one another and for people undergoing stressful transitions.

Send the light and peace of your presence, O God, and send us, too, that we might bear the light of Christ and so bring companionship and hope by your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Stretch us, O God; expand the horizons of our lives so that we are able to comprehend the mysterious and wonderful ways you are at work in the world, joining you with joy and thanksgiving. In Christ, through Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we pray.

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.**

The Peace

C: The peace of the Lord be always with you,

A: **And also with you.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Invitation to the Offering

C: With gratitude for God's blessings through the power at work in Christ Jesus, we gather now the gifts of the church for the sake of the gospel.

Offertory Hymn: CP # 101 'Hail To The Lord's Anointed'

Prayer over the Gifts

C: As the magi entered the house, they knelt in joy and paid homage to Jesus. Opening their treasure chests, they gave gifts to him. So we come into God's house today, offering from our own treasure chests gifts to Christ, the light of the world.

A: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer #3

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 God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation,
and have shown your Son Jesus Christ
to be the light of all peoples.
Therefore with angels and archangels
we raise our voices in joyful praise
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na

C: 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 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 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 his in 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 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."

A: Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming;

C: 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 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.

A: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our trespasses,
 As we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation,
 But deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 The power, and the glory,
 For ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Unison G Am⁷ GM⁷ Am⁷ Bm⁷ CM⁹ Am⁷

Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Communion

Administrants: John Ryrie, Roberta Butler

Communion Music: CP # 156 'The People That In Darkness Sat'

Prayer after Communion

C God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he 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.

Blessing

C: May the love of God uphold you; the light of Christ guide you; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit fill you with joy, now and forever, and May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit give you peace.

A: Amen.

Recessional Hymn: CP # 385 'Worship The Lord In The Beauty of Holiness'

Dismissal Roberta Butler

O: Follow the star, seek Christ's light.
Kneel before him, offering the treasure of your life;
and share with others the treasure of Christ: light in the darkness.

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Readings for Next Week

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 29

Matthew 3:13-17

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday : 9:00 73

Givings

On the plate \$3,275 Auto Debit: \$2,093

Bible Study

Join our Bible Study every Thursday at 1:30 pm in the Fireside room. All are welcome!. A restart date will be published when available.

VESTRY REPORTS

Our annual Vestry Meeting will be held **Sunday, February 1st** and we are asking all people who wish to have a report included in our Vestry Booklet to have their report submitted to the office by **Monday, Jan 5th**. We would like to have the reports available for publication by Sunday, Jan 18th, 2026. Please submit a Office Word format to help us efficiently assemble the Report.

ST. ANDREW'S CUPBOARD

As our year quickly comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of St. Andrews and your St. Georges Outreach Committee, to THANK-YOU for your amazing generosity to the Cupboard! It is truly heartwarming to see how many less fortunate families we have been able to help with your donations ❤️ They are so grateful for our ongoing support all year long! Anything you are able to give is most appreciated, but a few things mentioned for the next few weeks are cleaning products, toilet paper and cereal ☺ THANK-YOU
Heather Murphy - On behalf of your Outreach Committee

Attention Scheduled Lesson Readers

Thank you all for your continuing support for this ministry and especially a big hug to all who volunteered to read at one or more of our special Christmas services. The January to March schedule has now been put in mail folders – questions or concerns can be addressed by reaching out to Jim or Cheryl at 519-579-0684.

Sunday Smile

Call on God, He'll never send you a voicemail.

Lector Ministry

A Lector is a parish member who reads a lesson at one of our regular Sunday or special seasonal services. This is another opportunity to participate in and enjoy the wide array of ministries available here at St. Georges. Scheduled readers do so about once every 5-6 weeks. If you are interested in joining our team, please see or call Jim or Cheryl Fox at 519-579-0684.

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.