

St. John's Anglican Church

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg ON N4G 2E3

Rector:

Deacon:

Honorary Assistant:

Choir Director/Organist:

The Rev'd Fr. Tom Stradwick

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

The Rev'd. Fr. David Joyce

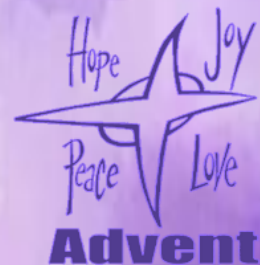
Joanne Smith

The First Sunday

Of Advent



HOPE



**ORDER OF SERVICE
NOVEMBER 30, 2025**

**A Celebration
of the Holy Eucharist**

*Book of Alternative Services
of the Anglican Church of Canada—1992*



WELCOME TO CHURCH

CELEBRANT

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

DEACON

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens



LAY READER

Elaine Balpataky

CHOIR DIRECTOR/ORGANIST

Joanne Smith

AUDIO/VISUAL TECHNICIAN

Peter Johnson

OPENING HYMN

When the King Shall Come Again (109)

Please be seated.

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SESSIONS

On Monday, November 24, 2025 at 5:00 p.m., Father Tom began three weekly sessions on Truth and Reconciliation; examining the doctrine of discovery—stolen lands.

The issues will be looked at from both an indigenous and non-indigenous perspective. It has been decided that we will change the day from Mondays to Thursdays, so the next session will be on **Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** Even if you didn't catch the first session, feel free to join us this week—we start each session with a **Pot Luck Supper.**

OLD FASHIONED CAROL SING

Friday, December 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

No tickets required.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Speaker: Dr. Jason Pankratz, on Tillsonburg's 200th Anniversary, featuring historical artifacts.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE RECTORY

Saturday, December 6, 2025, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

All are welcome. Father Tom and Nancy have graciously invited us to join them on St. Nicholas Day.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, December 12, 2025 – 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00. Family and Friends Welcome.

With our church bathed in candlelight, we will be featuring the Jarek String Quartet.

We will be serving Spiced Apple Cider and Christmas goodies during intermission.

This concert promises to get everyone in the spirit of Christmas.

WE NEED LED CANDLES. CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for lots and lots of LED Candles for our Concert--any size, any shape, any colour--as long as they work. Please drop them off at Elizabeth's office as soon as possible.

If you would like to have your candle(s) back, would you please put your name on the bottom of each candle.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sunday, December 14, 2025

After Service, we will be serving a Turkey Lunch prepared by Chef Rudy. Please sign up on the board in the hallway, so that Rudy knows how many to prepare for.

SEASON OF ADVENT

First Sunday of Advent:

There are two Services on November 30th the First of Advent
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent:

There are two Services on December 7th - 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m.

White Gift Sunday – please have any gifts place under our Christmas Tree by this date,
as they have to be delivered to the Salvation Army on December 8th.

Third Sunday of Advent:

There are two Services on December 14th - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.,
Our Service will be **Lessons and Carols, followed by a Turkey Lunch—**
Don't forget to sign up.

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

There are two Services on December 21st 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE

We have two Services on Christmas Eve:
4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (there will be no 8:00 a.m. Service)

CHRISTMAS DAY

There is a Service on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m.
(there will be no 8:00 a.m. Service)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

There are two Services on December 28th - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

There are two Services on January 4, 2026 - 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

Special Service at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2026
Followed by a Lunch.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

There are two Services on January 4, 2026
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

PLUS

Induction Service for The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick
Here at St John's at 4:00 p.m. Followed by a Reception.

Birthdays

There are no birthdays listed for this coming week.

Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries listed for this coming week.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE, THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The First Candle (Candle of Hope)

Introduction by Priest:

Many churches and families use an advent wreath during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

An Advent Wreath includes five candles; one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. Often there are three purple and one pink candle. The purple represents repentance. The pink symbolizes joy. The central candle is called the Christ candle and is not lit until Christmas day.

The Advent Wreath includes many symbols. The Wreath is in the shape of a circle, without beginning and ending. This reminds us that there is no ending to God. God's love and care for us never ends. The evergreen branches are a sign of every day new life in Christ. The candles tell us of the light which came into the world with the coming of Jesus Christ.

The First Candle (The Candle of Prophecy/Hope):

Marilyn Robson

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Also, because these prophecies held promises for the redemption of mankind, the candle bears that symbol and is therefore called the HOPE candle.

Prophetic Verse: For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

(Light Candle) With the lighting of this candle, we celebrate the HOPE that we have in Jesus Christ.

Congregation:

We continue to HOPE in God's promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with joy, peace and love.

HYMN

Hope Is a Star (NB 35 verse 1 only)

The Gathering of the Community

All stand. The presiding celebrant greets the community.

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

People: And also with you.

Collect for Purity

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: 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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility,
that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge both the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Trisagion (sung)

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy on us.

Please be seated for the proclamation of the Word.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading is from the Book of Isaiah

Jeff Monk

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! (*ISAIAH 2:1-5*)

After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

Sung by Elaine Balpataky



REFRAIN: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Now our feet are standing within your gates,
O Jerusalem.

REFRAIN: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.

REFRAIN: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

For there are the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

REFRAIN: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

For my brethren and companions' sake,

I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek to do you good."

REFRAIN: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

The Second Reading is from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Karen Tripp

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

(ROMANS 13:11-14)

After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Gradual Hymn.

Gospel Gradual Hymn

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (97)

Verses 1 & 2

The Holy Gospel

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

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

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. (*MATTHEW 24:36-44*)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Gradual Hymn (Continued)

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring (97)

Verses 3 & 4

Please be seated.

THE HOMILY

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

Anthem

Prepare the Way of the Lord *by William Rowan???*

Please stand if you are able:

The Apostles' Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, in these or similar words, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say;

All: 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.**

And after the Creed please sit or kneel, as you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elaine Balpataky

Let us Pray.

In our prayer cycle today, we pray for the following Parish families:

Joshua Howey, Dale and Brenda Howse, Elaine Hussey, Sylvia Hysert, Betty Lou Ireland

And at this time, we keep in our prayers, all those who are sick and bereaved and their families.

Including: Mary Jean, Elaine and Dean, Lynda and Derrell, Gary, Lori, Rayburn, Joan, Tanya, Marg, Gladys, Allan, Laurel, Pauline, Sue, Ann, Reg, Jim, Nathalie, Marilynne, Judy, Ada, Pat and Ted, Michelle, James.

In the Diocese of Huron, we pray for the Parishes of:

Church of the Redeemer, Colchester; North St. Stephen's, Oldcastle;
St. Mary's/Calvary, Pelee Island; Christ Church, Colchester.

Today we pray for Shirley Duffus, who has donated the altar flowers to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband, Jim.

Litany for Advent

Elaine Balpatak

(In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!")

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

Lord Jesus, come soon!

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.
Lord Jesus, come soon!

Confession and Absolution

The people are invited to confession in these or similar words.

Celebrant: 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.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

People: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The members of the community, ministers and people, may greet one another in the name of the Lord. (You may now shake hands or hug as the spirit moves you.)

Offertory Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed (101)

Doxology (sung)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer Over Gifts

Celebrant: God of love and power,
your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son.
Accept all we offer you this day,
and sustain us with your promise of eternal life.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST Eucharistic Prayer



Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is indeed right that we should praise you,
gracious God,
for you created all things.
You formed us in your own image:
male and female you created us.
When we turned away from you in sin,
you did not cease to care for us,
but opened a path of salvation for all people.

You made a covenant with Israel,
and through your servants Abraham and Sarah
gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.
Through Moses you led your people
from bondage into freedom;
through the prophets
you renewed your promise of salvation.
Therefore, with them, and with all your saints
who have served you in every age,
we give thanks and raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord (689)

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer continues, please kneel or sit, as you are able.

Celebrant: Holy God, source of life and goodness,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
In the fullness of time,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ,
to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you,
the God and Father of all.

He healed the sick
and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;
he opened the eyes of the blind
and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom
to the poor and to those in need.
In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death,
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 this for the 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 new 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."

Gracious God,
his perfect sacrifice
destroys the power of sin and death;
by raising him to life
you give us life for evermore.
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Recalling his death,
proclaiming his resurrection,
and looking for his coming again in glory,
we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these gifts,
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be one body and one holy people,
a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The service continues with the Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

People: 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 service continues with the Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and may say the following:

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

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

Jesus, Lamb of God (747)

All: Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Communion

We invite all Christians who are baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, who are communicant members of their own church, regardless of their denomination, to join with us in receiving the church's highest offering of praise to God, the Holy Eucharist.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The celebrant and people then receive communion. The sacrament is given with the following words.

Celebrant: The body of Christ (given for you).
 The blood of Christ (shed for you).

Communion Hymns

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (48)
Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (88)
Draw Near and Take (49)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Celebrant: Glory to God,

People: 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.

The Benediction

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go Now In Peace



Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

Recessional Hymn

Longing for Light (NB 2)

Dismissal