

St. John's Anglican Church

46 Ridout Street West, Tillsonburg ON N4G 2E3

Rector:

The Rev'd Fr. Tom Stradwick

Deacon:

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

Honorary Ass't:

The Rev'd. Fr. David Joyce

Choir Director/Organist: Joanne Smith

First Sunday After Christmas



**ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
DECEMBER 28, 2025 - 10:30 A.M.**

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

Les Burden

ORGANIST

Joanne Smith

OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (143)

Please be seated

GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Glory to God

Celebrant: Glory to God on high

People: And peace to all on earth;
Lord God, Almighty Father, King
We praise you for your worth.

**Lord Christ the Lamb of God,
You take our sin away;
Now seated at the Father's side,
Have mercy when we pray.
You are the Holy One,
Most High, Lord Christ, alone,
You and the Holy Spirit with
The Father on his throne.
Give God the Father praise,
And praise to God the Son,
To God the Spirit equal praise:
Eternal Three in One.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God,
you have shed upon us the new light
of your incarnate Word.
May this light, enkindled in our hearts,
shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please be seated for the readings.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Read by Darryl Carter

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favour to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their saviour in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. (*ISAIAH 63:7-9*)

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

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148 (said)

Les Burden

Please say alternate verses:

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded, and they were created.
**He made them stand fast for ever and ever;
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
You sea-monsters and all deeps;
**Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
**Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds;**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
**Young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
For his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.
**He has raised up strength for his people
And praise for all his loyal servants,
The children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of heaven and earth; you open our eyes to see the wonders around us, and our hearts and mouths to praise you. Now give us strength for loving service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Diane Monk

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

(HEBREWS 2:10-18)

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

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Gradual Hymn.

Gospel Gradual Hymn

From East to West, from Shore to Shore (155)

Verses 1-3

The Holy Gospel

The Rev'd. Vermell Stevens

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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

(MATTHEW 2:13-23)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Gradual Hymn (Continued)

From East to West, from Shore to Shore (155)
Verses 4 -7

Please be seated.

The Homily

The Rev'd. Fr. Tom Stradwick

Please stand if you are able.

The Apostles' Creed

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

People: 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 Prayer of the People

Les Burden

We begin by praying for those people who have special events in their lives.

Birthdays

Don Minor, Brenda Howse, Dale Howse, Millie Heimbecker

There are no anniversaries for the coming week.

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

Stephen and Colleen Molnar, Jeff and Diane Monk, Len Motum, David Moule and Joan Bulloch, John and Christine Mulholland.

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, Keith and Joan, Holden, Monica and Marley and Bob.

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

St. James', Stratford; St. Paul's, Stratford; St. Stephen's, Stratford;
St. James', St. Marys.

Today we pray for Elizabeth Rolls and her family, who donated the altar flowers to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth's mother, Joan Hemming.

The Litany - Incarnation

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe,
saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

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

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

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

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

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

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

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.*

Offertory Hymn (4 Verses)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (393)

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 light,
in the birth of your Son we see your glory.
May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer #2



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: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
our Saviour and Redeemer.
He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things.
By the power of the Holy Spirit
he took flesh of the Virgin Mary
and shared our human nature.
He lived and died as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will
he stretched out his hands in suffering,
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;
and so he won for you a holy people.
He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,
and to give up his life on the cross,
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.
By his resurrection
he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we 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.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who on the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
took bread and gave you thanks, saying,
“Take, and eat:
this is my body which is broken for you.”
In the same way he took the cup,
saying, “This is my blood which is shed for you.
When you do this, you do it in memory of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we offer you this bread and this cup,
giving thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
We ask you to send your Holy Spirit
upon the offering of your holy Church.
Gather into one
all who share in these sacred mysteries,
filling them with the Holy Spirit

and confirming their faith in the truth,
that together we may praise you
and give you glory
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,
Father and Son,
with the Holy Spirit
in the holy Church,
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 Breaking of the Bread

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

Celebrant: We break this bread of life,
And that life is the light of the world.

People: God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.

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 Music

In the Bleak Midwinter (122)
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (117)

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: Source of truth and joy,
may we who have received the gift of divine life
always follow the way of your Son.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

Please stand for the Doxology.

Doxology (said)

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.**

Blessing and Special Hymn

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

Good Christians All, Rejoice (153)

Dismissal

IMPORTANT NOTICE

***OUR VESTRY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026,
AFTER 10:30 A.M. SERVICE - LUNCH WILL BE SERVED.***

MINISTRY REPORTS

***Would ministry heads please send their year-end reports to Elizabeth by
Monday, January 12, 2026, for inclusion in the 2025 Vestry Report.***

***Wishing you all Peace, Joy and Happiness
for 2026***

