

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Naming of Jesus | 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

The crèche (nursery) is downstairs. It is available for use by parents with babies and toddlers.

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God

The Apostolic Greeting & Collect for Purity

Officiant: 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.**

Officiant: 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.**

Opening Hymn: #153 Good Christians All, Rejoice

PLEASE STAND

- 1 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow and he is in the manger now!
Christ is born today; Christ is born today!
- 2 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this;
He has opened heaven's door and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.
- 3 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save:
Come at his most gracious call to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save!

The Prayer of the Day

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Read by Ceceile Dennis-Arthurs

A Reading from the Book of Numbers.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Psalm 111 (*Tune: Winchester Old #136*)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED & JOIN IN SINGING

All praise I'll give with all my heart,
Bring thanks to God and sing.
Come, gather all you upright ones,
Delight—the Lord is King!

Enjoy the great works of the Lord;
Fail not to see, adore.
Great and majestic are His deeds;
His righteousness endures.

Mercy He gives to those who fear,
No food they lack or need.
O He remembers covenant,
Provides eternally.

Upright and steadfast are His ways;
Vibrant in faithfulness.
Well has He saved His cov'nant ones—
Praise to Him evermore!

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Read by Wendy Dimmock

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Galatia.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Hymn: #146 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

PLEASE STAND

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver-pelt.
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free, beloved of Manitou,
The holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Michael Hartley

(After the sermon, please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Affirmation of Faith (Iona Community)

PLEASE STAND

Officiant: As we stand, I invite those who would like to make a profession of Christian faith to join with me in these words from the Iona Community.

**People: We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the one God,
Maker and Sustainer of earth, sea, and sky.
Born of Mary's womb,
Faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah,
Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth.
Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state,
He died
But transformed even death and rose to life everlasting.
He blessed the disciples with the Holy Spirit
And sent them forth, east and west, north and south.
We commit ourselves
To Jesus,
To one another as brothers and sisters
And to God's mission in the world.
In the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Officiant: Having reaffirmed our faith, let us offer our prayers to God.

Prayers of the People

Led by Ceceile Dennis-Arthurs

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, in this holy season your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

- Leader: In this holy season, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the good news of Jesus. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, Christians the world over celebrate Jesus' birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy season, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
- And now, gathering all our prayer into one, we pray as Jesus taught us:
- All: 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.**

Closing Hymn: CP #145 Good King Wenceslas

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

- 1 Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.
- 2 "Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it, telling:
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by St. Agnes' fountain."

- 3 "Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine-logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude wind's wild lament, and the bitter weather.
- 4 "Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger:
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page; tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."
- 5 In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth and rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

- Our pianist for our service today is Max Maréchaux -

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