

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

The First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025, 10:30am Holy Eucharist

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God

Opening Hymn: #143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

PLEASE STAND

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.
2. Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.
4. Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.
5. Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill the eternal throne,
Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Welcome & Greeting

Presider: "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

All: Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

Presider: From eternity to eternity you are God,

All: and now we see you as a newborn child.

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gloria in Excelsis (Tune: *Iris*)

Glory be to God in heaven, peace on earth in all our days!

King and Lord, almighty Father, praise and blessing now we raise:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lamb of God, O Lord most holy, Jesus, take our sins away;

You are seated with the Father, hear our voices as we pray:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus, you are Lord and Saviour, you alone the Holy One,
With the Holy Spirit blessed and the Father on the throne.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Prayer of the Day

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read and respond to God's message in scripture

PLEASE BE SEATED

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Read by John Knowles

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Psalm 96 (Tune: Winchester Old #136)

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED & JOIN IN SINGING

Sing to the Lord new songs, proclaim the marvels he has done
With his right hand and holy arm, the triumph he has won.

The victory the Lord has won He has this day made known;
To all the world his righteousness has openly been shown.

The Lord recall for Israel His love and faithfulness;
To all the earth his victory sing to him and rejoice,

Shout now with joy to God the Lord; in praise lift up your voice;
All nations of the worlds as one sing to him and rejoice.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

Read by Janice Knowles

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrew Church.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.


People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

Cantor:



1. Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, ha - le lu - jah!

Cantor:



Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

People:



Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! repeat v.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

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."

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Andrew

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

PLEASE STAND

Affirmation of Faith (Iona Community)

Presider: 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.

All: 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.

The Prayers of the People

Led by John Knowles

Please respond to the petition, "Holy God," with the response, "hear our prayer."

Leader: 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.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

(We encourage you to share a sign of peace with those around you as you are comfortable.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We share God's banquet of love for this community of faith

Offertory Hymn: CP #132 Of Eternal Love Begotten

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. Of eternal Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are and have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.
2. At his Word the worlds were framed. He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean in their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining of the moon and burning sun,
Evermore and evermore.
3. O that birth for ever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.
6. Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.

Prayer over the Gifts

The Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Presiding Celebrant acclaims the life-giving power of God in the story of salvation and calls on us to join all creation in the song of the angels. We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus as follows:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Lord God of pow'r, Lord God of pow'r - and might

1. Hea - ven and earth are filled this night with glo - ry Ho -
2. Bless - ed is he who comes this night in God's name: Ho -

san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -

san - na in the high - est! Ho - ly Lord!
san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed are you!

The Presiding Celebrant recounts God's continuing love in the history of humanity and in the sending of his son, Jesus Christ.

We join Jesus as he celebrates his Last Supper and acclaim his giving of himself in the gifts of bread and wine. After the words over the cup and the elevation of the chalice, we sing:

People: (sing) Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Glory to you!

The Presiding Celebrant calls on the Holy Spirit to bless and strengthen us, the Church, until we come to share the joys of heaven. We praise God's endless love, and at the elevation of the bread and cup, we sing:

People: (sing) Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen!

The Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song for the Breaking of the Bread



O Lamb of God, you take a - way, you take a - way the



sin - - of the world,

1.Lord

have

2.Lord

have

3.Give

us your



mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord.

mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord.

peace, O give us your peace, Lord.

*Music: Carl Orff
Carmina Burana*

The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

All who seek God in Christ are welcome to receive the sacrament of holy communion.

If you would prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate this.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Music during Communion: In the Bleak Midwinter

G. Holst

Prayer after Communion & Doxology

PLEASE STAND

Presider: Glory to God,

All: 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 Blessing

Closing Hymn: CP #154 Joy to the World

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns: let us glad songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as our sin is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Postlude: Today in Bethlehem

R. Parks

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