

Sunday 10:00 am Order of Service
Advent Four | 21 December 2025 | **Christmas Cantata**

Service Guide

Officiants: The Rev'd Maria Ling
Br Reginald Crenshaw O.H.C

Organist: Rachel Yoon

Liturgical Assistants: Cassandra Culpepper, Doreen Kirwan

Cantata Narrator: Leanda Kirwan

Welcome Team: Ehsan Esmaeeli, Alex Kuriyan, Peter Paterson

Candle-lighter: Gloria Downey

Prelude From Heaven High I Come to You (J.Pachelbel) (F.W.Zachau & M.Reger)

Call to Worship

Leader Shepherding God, who has always guided your wayward flock,
turn us back to you.

People **We come to worship our Protecting God,
asking that you give us life again in you.**

Leader Listening God, our hope is in you; in your grace and mercy,
turn us back to you.

People **We come to worship the God who hears our cries,
and saves us from the darkness.**

Leader Rescuing God, through your mighty power, turn us back to you and save us;
for you alone can warm us with the light of your love
that shines forth from your face.

People **We come to worship the Lord God Almighty,
whose radiant glory shines out like a beacon,
to light our pathway back to God;
and being renewed and strengthened by that light of love,
we gladly celebrate our Saving God's glorious and holy name. Amen.**

Prayer of Acknowledgement

Holy Creator, you made all people of every land in your image and entrusted them with the care of the earth that you graciously gave to all peoples. Make us mindful of those peoples who first occupied the land we are on: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinabek Nation, as well as the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis Nation. Give us patient hearts, that we may recall the destructiveness of western settlement on these peoples. Give us attentiveness so that we may hear and give thanks for indigenous voices in our Anglican Church of Canada. Give us sincere and open hearts so that we

may embrace the work of reconciliation to which you call your Church. We pray these things in your name: our Creator, your Son the Peacemaker, and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Sentence

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. — Matthew 1.23

Processional CP 101 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!

He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2 He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.

Before him on the mountains shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

3 Kings shall fall down before him, and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him, his praise all people sing.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.

4 O'er every foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.

The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

Advent Candle Lighting: Love

Gloria

Introduction: Maria+

Light the first three candles (2 blue, 1 pink) then the fourth (blue) candle of the Advent wreath.

All **A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to the earth.**

Gathering of 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

All **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.**

Trisagion CP 688

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

Collect

Celebrant Heavenly Father,
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,
now fill us with your grace,
that we in all things may embrace your will
and with her rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

THE BALLAD OF BETHLEHEM The Choir; narration by Leanda Kirwan

1. Voice in the Wilderness
2. The Ballad of Bethlehem
3. Bethlehem Prophecy

Hymn CP 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

4. The Ballad of Bethlehem (The Birth)

5. Still Gentle Mary

Hymn CP 123 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
shall we see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

6. The Ballad of Bethlehem (The Shepherds)

7. I Hear the Angels Shouting Glory!

8. The Ballad of Bethlehem (The Wise Men)

9. Only the Wise

Hymn CP 160 As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare,
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

4 In the heavenly country bright need they no created light:
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

10. A Thrill of Hope

11. The Ballad of Bethlehem (Underscore)

12. Shout with the Shepherds

Prayers of the People

Doreen

Leader In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations,
and the whole creation. *A brief silence.*

In the anticipation of these days,
prepare our hearts for your arrival.
Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians,
poets, and preachers, as together
we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming.
Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature
in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader You send your saving grace and peace to the nations.
Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good.
May we meet the Christ-child we seek
in the faces of our neighbours. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come,
or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid.
Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression,
or who are ill, especially Ralph & Lillian Addison,
Suzanne Barwell, Jean Glionna, Cleo Simpson, Irva Smith,
Ray Downer, Kaynaz Zaeheh, A.J., Debbie, Lucas, Danielle, Sheila,
Evelyn, Shahhin, Léandra, Avil, Hillary, Kristie, and those whom we name in our hearts. God of
grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss
with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents.
Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children
and those who care for them. God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel
and lived in faithful service, remembering Thomas Neville.
Strengthen our earthly journeys until,
at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love.
God of grace,

People **hear our prayer.**

Leader Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us, saying,
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.**

Offering CP 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

Prayer to Receive the Gifts

Celebrant Gracious God,
by the power of the Spirit
who sanctified the mother of your Son,
make holy all we offer you this day.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Blessing

Celebrant Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.
Stay alert for the Lord is near.
Put on the armour of light and live openly and honourably.
Pray for peace for all God's people.

And may God clothe you in the light of Christ;
may Christ Jesus teach you his ways;
and may the Holy Spirit keep you alert and prepared
for the coming day of the Lord.

All

Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recessional CP 97 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

1 Jesus came, the heavens adoring, came with peace from realms on high.
Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on earth to die:
alleluia! alleluia! came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care.
Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heartfelt prayer,
alleluia! alleluia! comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of sins forgiven.
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls redeemed to heaven.
Alleluia! Alleluia, Now the gate of death is riven.

4 Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the heavens shall pass away.
Jesus comes again in glory: let us then our homage pay,
alleluia! alleluia! till the dawn of endless day.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go forth into the world, rejoicing as you wait for the coming of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Trumpet Fanfare on "Adeste Fideles" (S.Rogers)