

## THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. The virgin has conceived and borne a son—God has come amongst us as one of us. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ Candle in the centre ... We light this candle with a prayer that Christ be the centre of our lives.

### Everyone in Prayer

**God of wondrous mercy, as your son is born, the exalted stars bend low in homage, humble ox and ass gaze upon him. The humble and the exalted are entwined in this child, our Saviour. With Mary we treasure the birth of your son. His birth gives us much to ponder: What do the squalor and the splendour of his birth portend? Shall he be king or shepherd or judge, or all? Shall our lives be a labour toward his birth in us? Shall we, one distant day, grow up in grace, as did He? How might we embody a wondrous Spirit in human frame? These are hard and mysterious questions, O God. As we celebrate his birth with delight, keep these questions before us. Amen**

## Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

### Offering

Our offerings this evening will be divided between local initiatives that have a home here at St. Andrew's (The Mess, and the Kingston Street Mission) and projects of international relief and development. All contributions of \$20 or over are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

### Offertory Anthem

Starry Night

Willcocks

### Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host;*

*Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

### Hymn

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright

'round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,

sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar,

heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:

Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born!”

Silent night, holy night!

Son of God, love’s pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face,

with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### Benediction & Choral Amen

*\*Please extinguish your candles after the next hymn, and place them in the boxes as you go out.*

### Recessional Hymn

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,

far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

### Postlude

Anglaise

Handel

Trumpeter Larry House

## Christmas Eve, 2016

### St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church Kingston ON



A warm welcome to all on this evening of mystery and joy, celebrating the incarnation of our Lord, for us and our salvation.

Readers Sarah Suubam, Rose DeShaw

Organist John Hall

Minister The Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnston

**Preludes:** Es ist ein Ros' Entsprungen Brahms  
Bon Duca Purcell

### Entry of the Bible and Call to Worship

### Hymn

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;

O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore him; (3x)*

*Christ, the Lord!*

God of God, Light of light,

Lo he abhors not the virgin’s womb;

Very God begotten, not created (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

### Prayer of Approach to God and The Lord’s Prayer

... Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

### Introit

Lullay My Liking

Holst

## THE WORD

### John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

### Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear,

that glorious song of old,

from angles bending near the earth

to touch their harps of gold:

“To all the earth good will and peace,

from heaven’s all gracious King”

the world in solemn stillness lay

to hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife,

the world has suffered long;

beneath the angel strain have rolled

two thousand years of wrong,

but we, through din and war, hear not

the love-song with they bring.

Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife

and hear the angels sing.

## THE MESSIAH PROMISED

### Psalm 98

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.

**His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.**

The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication  
in the sight of the nations.

**He has remembered his steadfast love and  
faithfulness to the house of Israel.**

All the ends of the earth  
have seen the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

**Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the LORD,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

### Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## THE MESSIAH COMES

### Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah\* took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### Hymn

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary;  
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all;  
Child who inherits all our transgressions,  
All our demerits on Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of salvation  
Gently and lowly lived below;  
Now as our glorious Mighty Redeemer,  
See Him victorious o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him Infant of wonder;  
Angels behold Him on His throne;  
Worthy our Saviour of all our praises;  
Happy forever are His own.

### Story for Children

'God Gave Us Christmas' by Lisa Tawn Bergren and  
pictures by David Hohn, read by Kalista Clement.

## BETHLEHEM

### Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### Hymn

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.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his 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.

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 Emmanuel!

### Meditation

'The One Word'

## THE SHEPHERDS

### Luke 2: 8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah; the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host; praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!': 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.

### Hymn

'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 wand'ring 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  
And as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high: