



CHRIST'S CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
HAMILTON ONTARIO

CHORAL EUCHARIST
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2025
10:00AM



Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Anglican Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words and actions through which public worship is conducted.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather today on the lands occupied by the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations at the time of the creation of the "Dish with One Spoon" wampum agreement. We honour and respect these nations and commit ourselves to walk together gently upon this land.



The Gathering of the Community

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental or vocal piece of music during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

GATHERING MUSIC

Behold, a Rose Is Blooming

Johannes Brahms

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Shepherds in the Field Abiding

CP#135

We begin our worship together in community by praising God in song.

1 Shepherds in the field abiding,
tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tiding,
what you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Choristers on high were singing
Jesus and his virgin birth,
Heavenly bells the while a-ringing,
"Peace, good will to all on earth."
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2 We beheld (it is no fable),
God incarnate, king of bliss,
swathed and cradled in a stable,
and the angel strain was this:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

4 Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
let us go to Bethlehem.
Angels hymn the king of glory;
carol we with you and them.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer was an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Anglican worship to this day.

Almighty God,

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

Glo - ry to
God in the high - est, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God,
hea - venly King, Al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glor - ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us; you are
seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or brings out the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes God’s attributes as shown in the scriptures for the day.

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.**

The Proclamation of the Word

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 63.7-9

This reading is typically from the Hebrew Scriptures, which Jesus knew and which he often referred to and quoted from.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 act deceitfully,”
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 pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

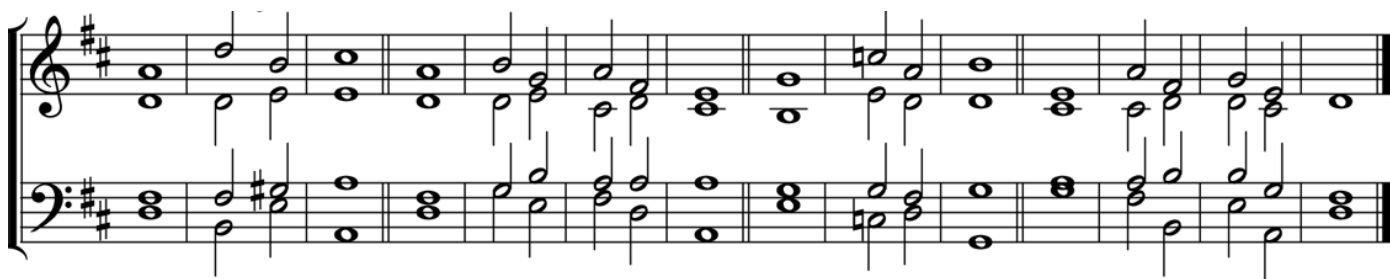
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 148

The psalms are prayers Jesus used which explore humanity's relationship with God and one another.



- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the / Lord from • the / heavens; *
give / praise to / God in • the / heights.
- 2 Praise the Lord / all you / angels; *
sing praises / all you / heav'nly / host.
- 3 Praise the Lord / sun and / moon; *
sing praises / all you / shining / stars.
- 4 Praise the Lord / heav'n of / heavens, *
sing praises you / waters • a/bove the / heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the / name of • the / Lord; *
who gave the com/mand and / they were • cre/ated,
- 6 who made them stand fast for / ever • and / ever, *
who gave them a law which / shall not / pass a/way.
- 7 Praise the Lord / from the / earth, *
you / sea-mon•sters / and all / deeps;
- 8 fire and hail, / snow and / fog, *
tempestuous wind / doing • the / will of / God;
- 9 mountains and all hills, fruit trees / and all / cedars; *
wild beasts and all cattle, creeping / things and / wingèd / birds;
- 10 sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers / of the / world;
young men and young women, / old and / young to-/gether.
- 11 Let them praise the / name of • the / Lord, *
whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is / over / earth and / heaven.
- 12 The Lord has raised up strength for this people
and praise for all / loyal / servants, *
the children of Israel, a people who are / near to • the / Lord. • Halle/lujah!

THE SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.10-18

This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation of John.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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 become 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CP#121 (vv1-2)

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2.13-23

This reading is from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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 fulfill 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 magi, 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 magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"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 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 Nazarene."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GRADUAL HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

CP#121 (vv3-4)

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 Emmanuel.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Monica Romig Green

The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life.

THE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin "credo" for "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD and confirmed in 381AD, the Nicene Creed is said at the Holy Eucharist, particularly on special feast days, declaring our loving trust in the Triune God and exploring the relationship between the three "persons" of God – the Creator/Father, Jesus the Christ/Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the universal church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are a part of a larger fellowship, the Church – the Body of Christ.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Confessing our sins, receiving forgiveness (absolution) and showing signs of peace to one another prepare us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

The presider invites the people to confession.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

Most merciful God,

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.

The presider offers absolution and the people respond.

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The community stands for the Peace.

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

THE OFFERTORY

At the offertory we gratefully offer back some of what God has given us, symbolically in the elements, and in our contributions towards the work of the church. Donations to the mission of the Cathedral can be made via PayPal, using the QR code here.



OFFERTORY HYMN

The People That in Darkness Sat

CP#156

1 The people that in darkness sat
a glorious light have seen;
the Light has shined on them who long
in shades of death have been.

4 For unto us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and on his shoulder ever rests
all power in earth and heaven.

2 To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
the gathering nations come;
they joy as when the reapers bear
their harvest treasures home.

5 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
the everlasting Lord,
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
the God by all adored.

3 For thou their burden dost remove,
and break the tyrant's rod,
as in the day when Midian fell
before the sword of God.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us we pray,
and make us thine alone,
who with the Father ever art
and Holy Spirit one.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Blest is the One who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things, in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light, where you dwell with all your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and author of our salvation; by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour, and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

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 forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

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

THE COMMUNION

To receive communion, please come forward to the altar rail or to the standing station. To receive a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are available if requested.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

CP#747

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin

1st and 2nd time 3rd time

of the world, have mer - cy on us. grant us peace.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

arr. JS Bach

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,
and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, this little helpless boy,
shall be our confidence and joy,
the power of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

This night of wonder, night of joy,
was born the Christ, our brother;
he comes, not mighty to destroy,
to bid us love each other.

How could he quit his kingly state
for such a world of greed and hate?
What deep humiliation
secured the world's salvation!

Come, dearest child, into our hearts,
and leave your crib behind you!
Let this be where the new life starts
for all who seek and find you.
To you the honour, thanks, and praise,
for all your gifts this time of grace,
come, conquer and deliver
this world, and us, forever.

The Sending Forth of the Community

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.**

Glory to God,

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you who are God's children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and all those whom you love and care for, this day and forever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CP#141

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will
from heaven's most gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we amid our wars hear not
the words of peace they bring;
O listen now, and still your strife
to hear the angels sing.

4 And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow;
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

POSTLUDE

Our Praise to Christ We Now Must Give

JS Bach

PERMISSIONS

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PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDER AND PREACHER

The Reverend Monica Romig Green

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Very Reverend Dr. Tim Dobbin

THE CHOIR OF CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Bruce Burbidge

GREETERS

Angela Savage and Winfred Mbugua

LECTORS

Matthew Green and Jeni Darling

INTERCESSOR

Gaynor Low

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Tom McLeod, Sandra Cross and David Savage

HOSPITALITY

Hilary McLeod, Sandra Cross and Winfred Mbugua

WARDEN ON DUTY

David Savage

VERGER

Michael Fitzpatrick

SOUND & LIVESTREAM

Jiawei Zhang

HEAD SERVER

Randy Woods