

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4
www.stjohn316.com



ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2013 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.

EARLY EVENING EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS

Book of Alternative Services, p. 185

*During the Prelude we quietly prepare our hearts and minds
for worship and refrain from unnecessary conversation*

Prelude: Bell Choir

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant The Reverend Paul Kett

Carol 118 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lighting of the Christmas Candle

Here we are. The Season of Advent is over. The Season of Christmas begins tonight. We have spent the past four weeks lighting candles and assembling our crèche. We will now re-light the four blue Advent candles. We started with the Candle of Home and placed our stable. We then lit the Candle of Community and added the animals to our crèche. On the Third Sunday, we joyfully sang with Mary, adding her figure to the crèche and lighting the Candle of Joy. And this past Sunday, we listened as Joseph overcome his fear by faith, and we placed the figure of Joseph boldly beside Mary in the crèche and lit the Candle of Faith. But not all of our candles are lit and our crèche is not complete.

Tonight our Bible story gives us the glorious details of what happened on that night long ago in Bethlehem. Jesus is born! Mary, still joyful, wraps him in a blanket and lays him in a manger. Just over the hill, shepherds watching their flocks are greeted by angels bringing good news of great joy. The shepherds and the sheep come with haste to meet Baby Jesus. And all are amazed.

We, too, are once again amazed by the story of Jesus. Tonight we place in our crèche sheep and shepherds and angels and the Baby Jesus. Over the Advent Season, as we assembled our crèche, we gathered stories of faith and joy and community and home. Our crèche reminds us that we are part of these stories, too. We fit into these stories, too. Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room in the inn. But we always have room in our hearts. Our hearts can be filled with faith and joy and community and home and Jesus. With Jesus there is always room. And now will you each find room for your figure in the crèche?

We light the Christ Candle. *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

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 Savior is born;
Christ the Savior 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.

Blessing p. 215
Recessional Hymn 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Postlude

*Please return your congregational candle to the wicker baskets
at the conclusion of this evening's Service*

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK – December 25– December 29

*****Please note*** The Church Office will be closed
December 25 - December 29**

Tuesday December 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday December 29

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

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