

**HOLY EUCHARIST**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 17, 2023**



**Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.**

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

[www.stjohn316.com](http://www.stjohn316.com)

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## EUCCHARIST AT TEN O’CLOCK

*Book of Alternative Services*

**Prelude**

**Voluntary in d**

*John Bull*

**Processional Hymn**

*Common Praise 108*

**Hark, a Herald  
Voice Is Sounding**

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

#### **John the Baptist**

*Presider* Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet, John the Baptist, was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Gathering of the Community**

#### **The Greeting**

*Presider* 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.**

*Presider* 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.

## **Act of Praise**

*Common Praise 686*

## **Glory to God**

*David Hurd*

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider*      Let us pray.

*The community prays silently.*

*The presider then prays the collect.*

*People*      **Amen.**

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Psalm 126

John 1:6-8, 19-28

## **First Reading**

*The lesson is read.*

*Reader*      Word of God. Word of life.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 126**

*BAS 885*

## **Plainsong**

## **Second Reading**

*The lesson is read.*

*Reader*      Word of God. Word of life.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Common Praise 94*

**Wait for the Lord,  
Whose Day Is Near**

## The Gospel

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Gospel is read.*

*Presider* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Sermon

*A silence for reflection follows.*

## The Apostles' Creed

*Presider* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*The intercessor gathers the community for prayer:*

*Intercessor*      Guided by all who bear Christ's light,  
we are drawn to love the incarnate God.

*A period of silence allows for people to settle and prepare.  
The intercessor then continues:*

*Intercessor*      We hear "Advent God," and respond, "hear our prayer."

## Confession and Absolution

*The presider bids the confession. Silence is kept.*

*Presider*            Most merciful God,  
*All*                    **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.*

## The Peace

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

# The Celebration of the Eucharist

## Offertory Hymn

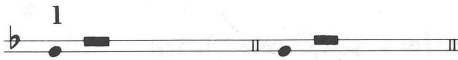
*Common Praise 111*

**Herald! Sound the  
Note of Judgement**

## Prayer over the Gifts

*The presider says a prayer over the offerings.*

## Eucharistic Prayer



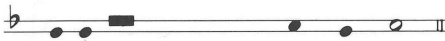
The Lord be with you. And also with you.



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.

*Presider*          Worship and praise belong to you ...  
                          ... singing the hymn of your unending glory:

## Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

*Common Praise 689*

*David Hurd*

*After the Sanctus, the eucharistic prayer continues:*

*Presider*          Glory and thanksgiving be to you ...  
                          ... Lord of all ages,

*People*            **Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

Barrie Cabena



Our Father in heav'n, hallow'd be your name, your king-dom  
come, your will be done, on earth as in heav'n. Give us  
to-day our dai-ly bread. Forgive us our sins as we for-  
give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of  
trial, and de-iver us from e-vil. For the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. A--men.

# The Fraction

*The presider breaks the bread.*

# Lamb of God

*Common Praise 690*

*David Hurd*

# The Invitation

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

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*If you would prefer a gluten free wafer, come forward and let a server or the priest know before you receive.*

# Communion Hymn

*Sing a New Creation 36*

# O Ancient Love

## Communion Anthem

## Rejoice in the Lord Always

*Anon.*

### Prayer After Communion

*Presider* Let us pray.

*The community prays silently.*

*The presider then prays the prayer after communion.*

*People* **Amen.**

*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.**

## Parish Notices

### The Blessing

*The presider blesses the people.*

### Recessional Hymn

*Common Praise 98*

### Hark the Glad Sound!

### The Saviour Comes

### Dismissal

*The presider dismisses the people.*

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

### Voluntary for Double Organ

*Henry Purcell*



## PARISH GRATITUDES, NEWS & NOTES

*We thank the following for your roles at worship ...*

### **Altar Guild & Choir**

#### **Tech Support**

Mohan Thomas

#### **Bulletin Cover Art**

Gerry King

#### **Greeters**

Charles Stuart, Carol Thurnell

#### **Preacher**

The Rev'd Canon Dr Preston Parsons

#### **Presider**

The Rev'd Canon Dr Preston Parsons

#### **Director of Music**

Angus Sinclair

#### **Servers**

Chris Rietkerk, Kate Strathdee, Mike McGill, Karen Sunabacka

#### **Reader**

Paula Brown

#### **Intercessor**

Ann Coughlin

#### **Chalice Bearers**

Doug and Sharon Woodley

#### **Warden on duty**

Marianne Mellinger

**The Flowers on the Altar** honour the memory of Laura and Ashlee Coughlin, Stewart Kelland and Walter Kelland, Gilbert and Thea Parker, and Leonard and Margaret Coughlin. A gift of Ann and Al Coughlin.

**Christmas Memorial Flowers** Wishing to commemorate family and friends by contributing to the Christmas Flowers? Find envelopes on the table in the Narthex and the Duke St. entrance. Offering can be made by cash or **cheque to Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Church Women (the bank will not accept any other wording)**. Place envelopes in the collection plate at either door. Include your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honour. Dedications should reach the office by 10 am on Tuesday, Dec 19 for inclusion in the Christmas bulletin.

### **Week at a Glance**

Tonight

Nine Lessons and Carols (7 pm)

Tues, Dec 19

Deadline for Dec 24/31 Bulletin content (10 am)

Wed, Dec 20

Youngish Adults (7:30 pm)

Thur, Dec 21

Choir Rehearsal (7:30 pm)

## Advent and Christmas Services

Sun, Dec 24	<b>Advent 4 Sunday Eucharist</b> (10 am)
Sun, Dec 24	<b>Come to the Table Family Christmas</b> (4 pm)
Sun, Dec 24	<b>Early Christmas Eve</b> (7 pm)
Sun, Dec 24	<b>Late Christmas Eve</b> (10 pm)

**Nine Lessons and Carols** Karen McLeod writes: Tonight's "unique combination of readings, choral anthems, and congregational singing is a concert-like service of *anticipation*. It leans on the power of music to amplify experiences narrated in the readings: stories from the Old and New Testaments traversing the ground between human alienation and hope." Join us at 7 pm for this lovely *Advent into Christmas* tradition!

**Nametags** Whether you're a new, not so new, or a longtime member of St. John's, if you'd like a name tag, please contact the church office and we'll make one for you! Call 519-743-0228 or drop a note to [church@stjohn316.com](mailto:church@stjohn316.com).

**St. John's ACW Outreach** At our final ACW meeting on Monday, we disbursed the proceeds from our fundraising, primarily pudding sales. Donations were made to the Parish Operating Budget (\$9000), Waterloo Region Foodbank (\$1000), Women's Crisis Centre (\$1000) and the Diocese of the Arctic (\$1000). After additional income and expenses are received in 2024, any leftover funds will be sent to the PWRDF for the Gaza Emergency Appeal. Thank you for your support of our ministry for the past 60 years.

**Church Calendars are here!** Available during Sunday coffee hour.

**Christmas Office Hours** The Church Office will be closed from Monday, Dec 25 through Monday, Jan 1, 2024. The Wednesday *Weekly Check-in* will be suspended during that week. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan 2.

**Christmas Publication Deadline** Please submit any items for the Dec 31 Sunday *Bulletin* **by this Tuesday**, Dec 19 at 10 am.

**Sunday School in a Bag** Help yourself to today's lesson and colour sheet in the narthex case. Bags include crayons with the sheets underneath. Please replace the bag and crayons after worship.

**Christmas Giving** This season provides us with the opportunity to reflect and express our gratitude for the gift that St John's is to us. Throughout the remaining days of Advent and Christmas you will find Christmas Giving envelopes next to the offering plates at the Water and Duke St entrances.

If you are not able to attend church in-person, but would like to make a Christmas offering, send a cheque to St John's noting that it is a **Christmas offering**.

**Regular Donations** may be made to St. John's in several ways ...

1. Send weekly envelopes in the mail. You can send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. N. Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
2. Drop off cash donations to the office through the mail slot in the office door. Write your name on the envelope!
3. Have an Errand Buddy pick up your donation.
4. Sign up for (or make changes to) Direct Electronic Funds Transfer (DEFT). Contact the office at [giving@stjohn316.com](mailto:giving@stjohn316.com).
5. Via [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) by credit card, once or recurring. Canada Helps takes 3.75%, gives tax receipt to you and report to us!

**Weekend Parking is free at Kitchener City Hall.** It's a great winter alternative as it is heated and snow-free! Enter off Young Street between Weber and King.

Surface parking is available at the WLU parking lot on College St., between Weber and Duke. Note that College is one-way *from* Weber *to* Duke. Here's a downtown Kitchener [parking map](#).

**Regular Office Hours** are maintained from Monday through Thursday: Mon to Wed - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Thursday - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

**Regular Announcements** for the Wednesday *Weekly Check-in* or this Sunday *Bulletin* should be submitted **by Tuesday at 10 am**. Email [church@stjohn316.com](mailto:church@stjohn316.com). Thank you for your consideration.

## TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact the rector at [rector@stjohn316.com](mailto:rector@stjohn316.com) or leave a message at 519.743-0228 ext. 2.

In case of emergency, please contact the on-call pastor at 519.743-0228 ext. 6.

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**Rector** The Rev'd Canon Preston Parsons, PhD  
[rector@stjohn316.com](mailto:rector@stjohn316.com)

**Director of Music** Angus Sinclair  
[music@stjohn316.com](mailto:music@stjohn316.com)

**Parish Administrator** Autumn Debassige  
[church@stjohn316.com](mailto:church@stjohn316.com)

**Giving Coordinator** Judy Shantz  
[giving@stjohn316.com](mailto:giving@stjohn316.com)

**Honorary Assistant Clergy** The Rev'd James Brown  
The Ven Ken Cardwell  
The Rev'd Dr Eileen Scully  
The Rev'd André Lavergne, CWA

**Rector's Warden** Eleanor Brown  
[wardens@stjohn316.com](mailto:wardens@stjohn316.com)

**People's Warden** Simon Guthrie  
[wardens@stjohn316.com](mailto:wardens@stjohn316.com)

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