

HOLY EUCHARIST
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024



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
519-743-0228 | church@stjohn316.com

EUCCHARIST AT TEN O'CLOCK

Book of Alternative Services

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Gregory Pysh

Twass in the Moon

arr. Kathleen Wissinger

Processional Hymn

The People That in Darkness Sat

Common Praise 156

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

All

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.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Fourth Candle of Advent

Hymn

Light One Candle

Presider

Blessed are you, saving God.
Bring down the powerful, lift up the lowly,
and fill the hungry with good things.
Bless us as we light the fourth candle on this
wreath and keep watch for the birth of Christ,
for he is our light and our salvation.

All

Blessed be God for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Common Praise 686

The Collect of the Day

Presider

Let us pray.

Then follows the Collect of the Day.

People

Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

Micah 5:2-5a

Canticle 18

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-55

First Reading

The lesson is read.

Reader

Word of God. Word of life.

People

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18

Tell Out, My Soul

Common Praise 362

Second Reading

The lesson is read.

Reader

Word of God. Word of life.

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near

Common Praise 94

The Gospel

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Intercessor Confident in God's presence among us, we are drawn to love the incarnate God. We hear "Advent God," and respond, "**hear our prayer.**"

Silence for preparation (stand, sit or kneel)

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

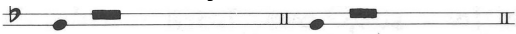
Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Common Praise 97

Prayer over the Gifts

The presider says a prayer over the offerings.

Eucharistic Prayer



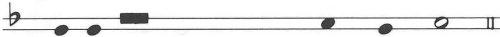
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**



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 Blessed are you, gracious God...
... to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Common Praise 689

The eucharistic prayer continues:

Presider We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love...

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Presider and we offer our sacrifice
 of praise and thanksgiving...
 almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

BAS 918

The Fraction

The presider breaks the bread.

Lamb of God

Common Praise 690

The Invitation

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Communion is available in two places: at the front end of the centre aisle, or at the high altar where you may kneel. If you prefer a gluten free wafer, please let the priest know before you receive. If you are in need of prayer, there is a prayer team located in the back corner of the nave. Should you wish to light a prayer candle, you can do so at the table near the piano.

Communion Hymn How the World Longs for Your Birth

Common Praise 90

Communion Anthem

Song of Mary

Richard Shepherd

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 101

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Dismissal

The presider dismisses the people.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Postlude on Tell Out, My Soul

Dénis Bedard

Nine Lessons & Carols – TODAY at 4:00 pm, the Choir of St. John's offers the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas! Introduced in Truro (UK) in 1880, it tells the story in word and music of the nativity of the Christ Child. The choir will offer carols and arrangements by Healey Willan, John Rutter, Walter MacNutt, Eleanor Daley, and others. Please join us! Fellowship, hot cider and treats to follow!

2025 Church Envelopes – For those of you who contribute to St John's through envelopes, please pick them up in the UPH TODAY during coffee hour.

PARISH GRATITUDES, NEWS & NOTES

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

Altar Guild, Choir & Handbells

Tech Support	Nathaniel Holmes
Cover Art	Gerald King
Greeters	Eli Boich, Alicia Batten
Presider	The Rev'd Canon Preston Parsons, PhD
Preacher	The Rev'd André Lavergne, CWA
Music Director	Angus Sinclair
Song Leader	Karen MacLeod
Servers	Chris Reitkerk, Sharon Woodley, Karen Sunabacka
Reader	Doug Woodley
Intercessor	Corinne Dutton
Prayer Team	Ann Coughlin, Kate Strathdee
Chalice Bearers	Ken Hull, Robert Humphreys, Margaret Hendley
Warden on Duty	Eleanor Brown

Week at a Glance

Today	Nine Lessons & Carols (4:00 pm)
Dec 24	Come to the Table Christmas Eve (4:00 pm) Early Christmas Eve Eucharist (7:00 pm) Late Christmas Eve Eucharist (10:00 pm)
Dec 25	Christmas Day (Office Closed)
Dec 26	Boxing Day (Office Closed) No Choir Rehearsal
Dec 29	Worship (10:00 am)

On Eagle's Wings - The December issue is out! Pick up your hard copy in the narthex or read online at <https://stjohn316.com/oew/>.

Jean Wright's Craft Table is open until March 2025! Now's the perfect time to pick up that last-minute, hand-made gift.

Congratulations to the parishioners of St. John's for supporting the shortbread sales. Your profit was \$803 plus \$202 for craft sales. A grand total of \$1005 for the church! Well done! Jean Wright.

Christmas Memorial Flowers - The Altar Guild is asking for donations for the Christmas flowers. Envelopes are on the tables at both entrances to the church. Enter the names of those being commemorated, or if you wish to commemorate a special anniversary, please enter that. Put your name on the donor line. Please make cheques payable to The Church of St. John the Evangelist, indicating Christmas Flowers on the memo line.

Christmas Office Hours – The Church Office will be closed from Wed, Dec 25 to Sun, Dec 29, 2024 as well as Wed, Jan 1, 2025. The Wednesday *Weekly Check-in* will be suspended during that time. Regular office hours will be held on Mon, Dec 30, Tues, Dec 31, 2024, and Thurs, Jan 2, 2025.

From the Finance Committee – All invoices to be paid in 2024 must be submitted to the church by Jan 12, 2025.

Advance Notice – Reports for Vestry 2025 are due on Mon, Jan 13, 2025. Please submit them to church@stjohn316.com in either Word or docx file format as mac file formats (such as Pages) are incompatible with the church's computer system. Thank you for your cooperation.

Twice-weekly E-mailings keep the St. John's community informed. A Wednesday evening **Check-in** and a Saturday evening **Worship** mailing will keep you up-to-date with our worship life and our parish and community events. E-mail church@stjohn316.com to subscribe.

Office Hours are maintained from Monday through Wednesday - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, and Thursday - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Announcements for the Wednesday *e-mail Check-in* or Sunday's *Bulletin* should be submitted **by Tuesday at 10 am**. E-mail church@stjohn316.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Financial Contributions may be made to St. John's by...

1. **Placing an offering into the plates** located in the narthex and near the baptismal font.
2. **Mail** using offering envelopes. Send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. N. Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
3. **Dropping off** cash donations at the church office using the mail slot in the Water Street door. Be sure to include your name on the envelope.
4. **Pick-up** by an Errand Buddy.
5. **Signing up** for (or make changes to) Direct Electronic Funds Transfer. Contact the office at giving@stjohn316.com.
6. **Credit Card** via [Canada Helps](#) either on a one-time basis or monthly. Canada Helps takes 3.75%, gives a tax receipt to you and provides a report to us!

Weekend Parking is available at the WLU Faculty of Social Work parking lot on College St., above Duke. Note that College is one-way *from* Weber *to* Duke. A downtown Kitchener parking map can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/12Xzx>.

Sunday Parking is free at Kitchener City Hall! Enter off Young between Weber and King.

TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact our rector at rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message at 519.743-0228 ext. 4. **In case of emergency**, contact the on-call pastor at 519.743-0228 ext. 6. **In the case of a non-urgent matter**, contact our parish administrator at 519.743-0228 ext. 1.

Rector The Rev'd Canon Preston Parsons, PhD
rector@stjohn316.com

Director of Music Angus Sinclair
music@stjohn316.com

Parish Administrator Autumn Debassige
church@stjohn316.com

Giving Coordinator 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

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