

**St Matthew - St Aidan**  
Anglican Church of Canada  
Buckhorn, Ontario  
anglicanchurchbuckhorn.ca



# **Holy Eucharist**

with candlelight and festive music

**Eve of the Nativity – Christmas Eve**  
Sunday, 24 December 2017, 7 pm

## Our heartfelt thanks

*We want to express our most heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the members of the*

*Knights-Wevers Ensemble:*

*Susan and Jonathan Knights, and Shannon Knights and Scott Wevers.*

*We also want to add a note of special welcome to Nathan and Emily as junior maestros.*

*And, we extend sincere thanks and gratitude to  
The Venerable David Peasgood  
for his music on organ, the queen of all instruments.*

*Susan Knights - keyboard  
Jonathan Knights - trumpet  
Shannon Knights - viola  
Scott Wevers - French horn  
Nathan Wevers - cello  
David Peasgood - organ*

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**Flowers for the church have been given at Christmas to the  
Glory of God and in loving memory of family members**

*for parents, Doris and Ernest Bowles, by the Bowles Family  
for parents, sister, and brother by Jim and Eunice Blakeley  
for parents, Doug and Margaret Dunford, Tony and Val Lockhart,  
by the Lockhart family  
for son, Michael John Minten, and husband, Joseph C. Minten,  
by Helen Minten  
for husband, Carl Northey and son, Geoffrey Northey,  
by Jean Northey*

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# Eve of the Nativity–Holy Eucharist

## The Gathering of the Community

### Prelude

*The Ensemble plays a selection of music. Then, the celebrant and crucifer process in silence. The celebrant greets the people.*

*Celebrant* Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.

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

### Prayers of Penitence

*Leader* Heavenly Father,  
you exalted the humble and meek:  
give us humble and contrite hearts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader* Lord Jesus,  
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:  
be planted also in our hearts and lives.  
Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Leader* Holy Spirit,  
you overshadowed Mary,  
that she might become the God-bearer:  
fill us with your heavenly gifts.  
Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,  
who in Jesus Christ has given us  
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,

strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Anthem, "What child is this," Shannon Knights**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

*First Reader* During the Season of Advent, each week we have lit a candle for the Sundays in Advent. Tonight, we light the last candle for Advent ... and we light the Christ candle to open our hearts to Jesus' re-birth in our hearts and to kindle our hope for his coming again.

*Second Reader* God our Father,  
the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary  
that she was to be the mother of your Son.  
Though Mary was afraid,  
she responded to your call with joy.

*First Reader* Help us, whom you call to serve you,  
to share like her in your great work  
of bringing to our world your love and healing.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
the light who is coming into the world. Amen.

*All* Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
**Amen.**

## Carol, "O come all ye faithful"

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;

*Refrain*    *O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*O come, let us adore him,*  
*Christ the Lord.*

God of God, light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created:  
*Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
*Refrain*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
*Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be the glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in the flesh appearing:  
*Refrain*

## Collect for Christmas Eve

*Celebrant* Let us pray,

*All* Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that  
light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## The Proclamation of the Word

### The Readings

*Reader* A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the reader says,*

The word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### Carol, "Away in a manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus - look down from on high  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

*Reader*     A reading from the Letter to Titus.

*At the conclusion of the reading, the reader says,*

The word of the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

*The lights are switched off. The celebrant lights a candle from the Christ candle and passes the light to the congregation who, in turn, pass the light in silence from one to another. Once all candles have been lit, the following carol begins.*

### **Carol, "Silent night"**

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.

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

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

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the celebrant says,*

The Gospel of Christ.

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

*The people extinguish the candles and the lights are switched on.*

## **The Homily**

**Anthem, "Carol," Shannon Knights**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Celebrant* 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* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night, your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God.  
**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth,  
and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all  
those who have passed through death in the hope  
of your coming kingdom. Holy God.

**Hear our prayer.**

In this holy night, Christians the world over  
celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he  
may be born in us today. Holy God.

**Hear our prayer.**

Father, in this holy night, angels and shepherds  
worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the  
worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph  
and the saints through him who is your Word made  
flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* This holy night the angels sang,  
'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.'  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Members of the community may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

### **The Preparation of the Gifts**

#### **Offertory Carol, "While shepherds watched their flocks by night"**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled minds;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day,  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling-bands,  
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to earth  
begin, and never cease."

## The Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* Let us pray,  
*All* **Word made flesh, life of the world,  
in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your riches.  
Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
because in the mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of salvation  
in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Now with angels and archangels  
and the whole company of heaven,  
we lift our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might.  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* 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."

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

*Celebrant* 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 the 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 for ever.

*All*        **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

*All*        **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 trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

## The Breaking of Bread

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

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

## The Communion

*The celebrant invites the people to share in communion,*

*People* The gifts of God for the People of God.  
Thanks be to God.

*During Communion, the Ensemble plays two anthems.*

*"In the bleak mid-winter," Jonathan Knights, Shannon Knights*  
*"Still, still, still," Shannon Knights*

## Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* Let us pray,

*All* God our Father,  
in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him  
until the day dawns  
and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.  
To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant* All your works praise you, O Lord.  
*All* And your faithful servants bless you.

Gracious God  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son  
Jesus Christ.  
May we, who share his body,  
live his risen life;  
we, who drink his cup,  
bring life to others;  
we, whom the Spirit lights,  
give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Anthem, "Angels we have heard on high," Scott Wevers,  
Jonathan Knights, Shannon Knights*

**The Blessing**

**Carol, "Good Christians all rejoice"**

Good Christians all rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
listen now to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
hear the news of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now you need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Come at his most gracious call  
to find salvation one and all.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

### Dismissal

*Leader*     Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord  
*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude, "Medley of Carols,"** *The Venerable David Peasgood*

*Please relax and enjoy the Medley of Carols. Merry Christmas to all!*

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and to the People of St Luke's, Peterborough,  
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Service for Christmas Eve.*

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