

- 1 **Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us when the seraph bright greeted you with wondrous tidings, what you saw and heard that night.**
Gloria in excelsis Deo, 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, 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 men on earth’.**
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

BLESSING OF THE CRËCHE

Priest Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People **Who made heaven and earth.**

Priest We are at the beginning of the days of Christmas. All through the season we will look on these images of sheep and cattle, of shepherds, of Mary and Joseph – and Jesus. Pray now for God’s blessing as we look upon these figures. God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze upon this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how humans, angels, and animals found the Christ in this poor place. Fill us with joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving and guide our steps into the way of peace. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Priest Let us bless the Lord. *People* **Thanks be to God.**

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Priest Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

§ The congregation’s candles are extinguished.

— PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD —

FIRST READING **Isaiah 62.6–12**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; ⁹but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, “See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” ¹²They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”; and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”

✠ The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 412 *’Twas in the moon of wintertime*

JESOUS AHATONHIA

- 1 **’Twas in the moon of winter time, when all the birds had fled, that mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead; before their light the stars grew dim, and wondering hunters heard the hymn:**
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.
- 2 **Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found, a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round; but as the hunter braves drew nigh,**

the angel song rang loud and high;

Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

- 3 **O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou, the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you. Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:**
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

SECOND READING **Titus 3.4–7**

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

✠ The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 419 *Away in a manger*

CRADLE SONG

- 1 **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.**
- 2 **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3 **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.**

GOSPEL **St. Luke 2.1–20**

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

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

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The

shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

✠ The Gospel of Christ. **Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

APOSTLES’ CREED *§ stand*

Priest 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *§ sit or kneel*

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Priest Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

§ silence is kept

People **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.**

Priest ⁺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.**

— CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST—

THE PEACE *§ stand*

✠ The peace of the Lord be always with you. **Thanks be to you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN 407 *Hark! the herald angels sing* MENDELSSOHN

- 1 **Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; With th’angelic host proclaim, ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem’.**
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.
- 2 **Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity, pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!**
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.
- 3 **Hail the heav’n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings; Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth**
Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Priest The Lord be with you. **People** **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.

Priest We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. †Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Priest Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me." Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Priest And now, as our Saviour Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say:

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD 6 *Incarnation*

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

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

INVITATION

Priest The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

All people seeking God are welcome to come forward to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come forward to receive a blessing, indicating this by crossing your arms across your chest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

Priest 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.**

BLESSING

Priest The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: †And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN 410 *The first Nowell*

THE FIRST NOWELL

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep,
Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
- 2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*
- 3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain.*
- 4 This star drew night to the north-west;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain.*
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood mankind hath bought. *Refrain.*

DISMISSAL

∇ Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the newborn King.
℞ **Thanks be to God.**

*A very Merry Christmas
to you and those whom you love!*



Christmas Eve

6:30 PM

24 DECEMBER 2017

We acknowledge that we meet and work in the Treaty One Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, and Dakota people, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here.

WELCOME GUESTS

Newcomers are encouraged to make themselves known to the clergy and to phone the parish office at 204.452.3609 should you wish to express any needs or concerns.

Please complete a visitor leaflet or envelope with your email address if you would like to receive parish newsletters sent to you regularly.

FAMILY EUCHARIST

— GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY —

HYMN 415 *O come, all ye faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

- 1 **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;
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***
- 2 **God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created; *O come...***
- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest; *O come...***
- 4 **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear.
We too with thither bend our joyful footsteps. *O come...***
- 5 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born on Christmas morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, then in flesh appearing. *O come...***

GREETING

Priest †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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Reader 1 Hear the words of the Gospel According to Saint John: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Reader 2 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

Reader 1 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

Reader 2 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. We light the Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, the light coming into the world.

§The Christ candle is lighted on the Advent Wreath and the light is shared with the congregation.