



the Church  
of St Peter and  
St Simon-the-Apostle

**Christmas Day**  
December 25, 2023

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***Merry Christmas***

*Welcome to the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle*

**Sung Eucharist at 10.30 am.**

Celebrant: The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Preacher: The Reverend Canon Michael Burgess

Deacon: The Reverend Abraham Thomas

Music Director : Robin Davis

Organist : Alison Jane

Music of the Mass: *Deutsche Mass*, F. Schubert

*The flowers at the altar are given to the honour and glory of Almighty God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of the wardens, choir and clergy and the many who serve at St. Peter and St. Simon's and San Lorenzo Ruiz, by Duncan and Barbara Towe.*

***Other Christmas flowers and decorations throughout the Church are given to the honour and glory of Almighty God by***

*Marie Adams in memory of Loxley Adams*

*Marc Cote in appreciation of the Altar Guild*

*Ena Forde in memory of family and friends*

*Paul and Lorraine Faulkner in memory of absent friends and loved ones both near and far*

*Cathy Graham*

*Daphne Harris in memory of Rosaleen Sherrard*

*Ivaline Jonas*

*Peggy Needham*

*Robert O'Keefe in memory of Reginald & Dorothy Fleming*

*Jean Porter in memory of my sons Graeme and Steven Ponter*

*Ted & Issabelle Robinson in memory of our parents Angel, Albert, Dots and Bill*

*Deta Raffington in memory of Nellie Burton and Samuel Beswick*

*Mealica Smith*

*Norma Spence*

*Gary Toneguzzo in memory of Helga and Kusti Hankanen*

# The Gathering of the Community

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## Prelude

Hymn 118 *O Come all ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

## The Christmas Anthems

Tone VII-5



*Cantor:* BEHOLD a virgin shall con-**ceive** and bear a son, / and shall call his **name** Emmmanuel. *Isaiah 7. 14.*

*All:* Unto **us** a child is born, / unto us a **son** is given. *Isaiah 9. 6.*

*Cantor:* In this was manifested the love of **God** to-ward us, / because that God sent his only-begotten Son into the world that **we** might live through him. *1 St John 4. 9.*

*All:* Blessed be the God and Father of our **Lord** Jesus Christ, / who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly **pla**-ces in Christ. *Ephesians 1. 3.*

*Cantor:* GLORY be to the **Fa**-ther, and to the Son, / and **to** the Höly Ghost;

*All:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and **ev**-er shall be, / world with-**out** end. Ämen.

## Greeting

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

## Glory to God

D. HURD

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to his people on earth.**  
**Lord God heavenly king, almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.**

**Lord God, lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, you wonderfully created  
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.  
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who humbled himself to share our humanity,  
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

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### **First Lesson** *Isaiah 52:7-10*

*Reader:* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Read by Mekhriban Mamedova

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

**Psalm 98** *Please join with the Cantor in singing the refrain. Remain seated.*

**Refrain** *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*



Sing to the Lord | a new song,  
For he has done mar | vellous things:  
With his own right hand and with his | holy arm,  
He has brought de | liverance. *Refrain*

The Lord has made known his | righteous love,  
In the sight of | all the nations,  
And his faithful | ness and truth  
Toward the house of | Is-ra-el. *Refrain*

All the ends of the | earth have seen,  
The salvation | of our God:  
Let all the world be | glad in him,  
Sing, rejoice and | give him thanks. *Refrain*

Let music sound up | on the harp,  
Let psalms be offered | to his praise:  
With trumpets and with | songs of joy  
Shout the praise of | God our King. *Refrain*

**Epistle** Hebrews 1.1-12

Read by Marc Côté

*Reader:* A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

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

**Gradual Hymn 148** *See Amid the Winter's Snow*

SEE AMID

**The Holy Gospel** St John 1.1-14 *Please remain standing.*

*Deacon* The Lord be with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

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

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

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. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came

to testify to the light. 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. 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. 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.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of Christ.

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

## **Homily**

**Nicene Creed** - *Please stand.*

*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

*All* **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People** *Please kneel, sit or stand as comfortable.*

*The intentions are offered. The litany follows.*

*Leader* In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying,  
“Lord, grant us peace.”

*Leader* By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

*Leader* Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.  
**Lord, grant us peace.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silence is kept. You are invited to kneel.*

*Celebrant* 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.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

*You are invited to stand.*

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## **Celebration of the Eucharist**

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### **Hymn at the Offertory** *Christians, Awake*

YORKSHIRE - CP #253

1. Christians, awake, salute the happy morn  
Whereon the Saviour of the world was born;  
Rise to adore the mystery of love,  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God incarnate and the virgin's Son.
2. Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,  
Who heard th' angelic herald's voice, "Behold,  
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth  
To you and all the nations of the earth;  
This day hath God fulfilled His promised Word;  
This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord."
3. To Bethlehem straight the enlightened shepherds ran  
To see the wonder God had wrought for man,  
And found, with Joseph and the blessed maid,

Her Son, the Saviour, in a manger laid;  
Then to their flocks, still praising God return,  
and their glad hearts with holy rapture burn.

4. O may we keep and ponder in our mind,  
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind.  
Trace we the babe who has redeemed our loss,  
From his poor manger to his bitter cross;  
Tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,  
Till our first heavenly state again takes place.
5. Then may we hope, th' angelic hosts among,  
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
Around us all His glory shall display;  
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
Eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* God of peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you.  
May all we offer you today renew us as members of your household.  
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

### **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; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

## **Sanctus (CP 735)**

*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.**

*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." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

*All*        **we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**  
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 forever. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer – Said by all.**

*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 them that 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**

*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.**

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

*All*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **Agnus Dei (CP 747) Jesus Lamb of God**

*All*        **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, Redeemer, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Holy Communion**

- Holy Communion will be administered at both the High Altar and at the St Peter's Altar (standing). If you are communicating at the High Altar, please return to your pew through the side Sacristy door.
- Communion is administered in both kinds, bread and wine. Please do not intinct (dip the wafer in the wine). The fullness of the sacrament is present in the bread only. If you are not receiving the chalice, you may touch the base while the words of administration are spoken.
- If you would like only a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this to the priest.

## **During Communion**

**Hymn 137** *What Child is This?*

GREENSLEEVES

**Motet** *Love Came Down at Christmas*

*Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

*Love shall be our token,  
Love shall be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

*Text by Christina Rossetti*

**Prayer after Communion**

*Celebrant* Father of all, the child born for us is the Saviour of the world. May he who made us your children welcome us into your kingdom, where he is alive and reigns with you now and for ever **Amen.**

**Doxology**

*Celebrant* 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**

**Hymn 154** *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!**

**Postlude**