



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

## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2025

Holy Communion at 5pm



Clergy - The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

Grace Rockett – Student Assistant

Director of Music – Mervin Fick

Choristers of the Parish Choir

Service Music – *Deutsche Mass*, Franz Schubert

*Merry Christmas and welcome to the Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle.*

### The Gathering of the Community

**Prelude** *Chorale Preludes on 'From Heaven Above'*

J. S. BACH

*Please stand when the bell is rung.*

**Hymn 118** *O Come all ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

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*

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*

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

### The Greeting

*Celebrant* Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;

*All* **And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor  
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

*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.**

### The Collect

*Celebrant* Holy Jesus, to deliver us from the power of darkness you humbled yourself to  
be born among us and laid in a manger. Let the light of your love shine in our  
hearts and bring us at last to the joyful vision of your beauty, for you are now  
alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### First Reading: Isaiah 52.7-10

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.” <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for  
the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>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.

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

**Hymn 136** *While Shepherds Watched their Flocks*

WINCHESTER NEW

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 mind,  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and humankind."

"To you, in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line  
The Savior 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 swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid. "

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God and thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high  
And on the earth be peace,  
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease. "

## The Holy Gospel

*Gospeller* The Lord be with you.

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

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!” When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Homily** *The Gift of Christmas*

***Children are invited to gather at the front of the Church.***

**Hymn 126** *Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

## **The Prayers** *Please kneel or stand.*

*Leader* Christ, who was born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless.  
In your mercy,

*All* **Lord, Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ who fled into Egypt, give comfort to all refugees. In your mercy,

*All* **Lord Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, who fasted in the desert, give relief to all who are hungry. In your mercy,

*All* **Lord Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, who hung in agony on the cross, give strength to all who suffer.  
In your mercy,

*All* **Lord Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, who lived and died and who rose again to save us, grant life eternal to all who have died and are now at rest.

In your mercy,

*All* **Lord Hear our prayer.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

*The Celebrant gives the invitation to confession. Then is said:*

*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.**

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

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

# Celebration of the Eucharist

Hymn 146 ‘Twas in the Moon

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

## Prayer over the Gifts

*Celebrant* God of peace, your Son Jesus Christ has reconciled us to you. May all we offer you renew us as members of your household. We ask this in his name. **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* We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, for the gift of a world full of wonder, and for our life which comes from you. By your power you sustain the universe.

*People* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love each other as ourselves, but we rebel against you by the evil that we do. In Jesus, your Son, you bring healing to our world and gather us into one great family. Therefore, with all who serve you on earth and in heaven, we praise your wonderful name, as we sing

*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 you thanks and praise, loving Father, because in sending Jesus, your Son, to us you showed us how much you love us. He cares for the poor and the hungry. He suffers with the sick and the rejected. Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the cross he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead you show us the power of your love to bring new life to all your people.

*People* **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* On the night before he gave up his life for us, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you.” After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends, and said, “Drink this, all of

you: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which is shed for you and for many, so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.”

**People**     **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* Gracious God, with this bread and wine we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we offer ourselves to you in him. Send your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that we may know the presence of Jesus in the breaking of bread, and share in the life of the family of your children.

**People**     **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

*Celebrant* Father, you call us to be your servants; fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that all the world may gather in joy at the table of your kingdom. We sing your praise, almighty Father, through Jesus, our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

**People**     **Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer – *Said by all.***

**People**     **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**

*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.**

## **Holy Communion**

**Choir Carol: *In the Bleak Midwinter***

HAROLD DARKE

## **Prayer after Communion & 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 & Dismissal

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

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

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

ANTIOCH

**Postlude** *Fugue on 'From Heaven Above'*

J.S. BACH



### **The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle**

*The Reverend Canon Geoffrey N. Sangwine, Rector*

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## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT SPSS**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24**

5.00 pm Family Eucharist

10.00 pm Choral Eucharist

### **CHRISTMAS DAY - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25**

10.30 am Sung Eucharist

### **CHRISTMAS I - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28**

9.00 am Holy Eucharist 10.30 am Sung Eucharist

### **Regular Services**

Sunday 9.00 am

Holy Eucharist – *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP)

1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Choral Eucharist - Traditional

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

Choral Matins - BCP

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Choral Eucharist - Contemporary

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday & Evensong As Announced

We acknowledge that in gathering to worship Almighty God,  
we are in the traditional territory  
of many First Nations peoples including the Mississaugas of the New Credit,  
the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunees, and the Huron-Wendat.

*"The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is, the world and all who dwell therein." Psalm 24.1*