



Welcome to Our Christmas Visitors

We are so pleased that you have chosen to spend this special Christmas Eve time with us at Eglinton St. George's United Church. Some of you are returning to your church "home" for this holiday, while others may be joining us for the first time. Please know that you are all very welcome here, and if you live in Toronto, we hope you will return to join us throughout the year. Our Program Guide, found at the Welcome Desk, details the many activities and opportunities for worship that take place within this vibrant church community.

Our faith and our worship here at ESG inevitably lead us to seek out opportunities to make a difference in our world, especially at this time of year when we are reminded of the good news of Christmas – the birth of Jesus, God's gift to us. As we accept and embrace this gift, may we too be transformed by the joy of giving.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and blessings for the coming New Year.

Heather Parker, *Chair, Governing Council*
Connie Capes-Leslie, Deborah Hart and Don Parsons, *Ministers*
Peter Merrick, *Director of Music*
Debbie Bozzi, *Director of Administration*

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S CONGREGATIONAL OFFICIALS

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Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
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.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Toccata (Symphony 5) *Charles-Marie Widor*

Participating in tonight's services are: Doug McWhirter (coordinating greeter); Lynnette Norris, Ann Schmid, Marg Steed, Magy, Katie and Amy Pearson, Wayne Atkinson (8:00 p.m. greeters); Gail Carson, Julie Jai, David Trick, Walter Wells (10:00 p.m. greeters); Connie Capes-Leslie, Deborah Hart (liturgists); Christine and Annie Lawson, Barbara and John Carpenter (8:00 p.m. candle lighting); Peter Merrick, Blaine Mitchell (10:00 p.m. candle lighting); Ken Bagnell, Elizabeth Kondo (8:00 p.m. readers); Bob Blair, Heidi Parker (10:00 p.m. readers); Don Parsons (preacher); Samantha Denham (sound); Peter Merrick and the Choir.

**For those who would like to receive Communion this evening,
there will be a brief, intimate service in the South Studio
following the 10:00 p.m. Candlelight and Choral Service.**

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

December 24, 2009 - 8:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The congregation is invited to join in responses which are bold.

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE Fantasy on "This endris nyct" *George Oldroyd*
Two Preludes on "Lo, how a rose" *Johannes Brahms, Lionel Rogg*

WORDS OF PREPARATION Luke 2: 1-7

INTROIT Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light *J.S. Bach*
Break forth, O beauteous, heavenly light, and usher in the morning. Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but bear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION (*The congregation stands as able.*)

For to you is born this night, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 60 O come, all ye faithful *Adeste Fideles*

PRAYER

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God of angel song and shepherd surprise,
stable warmth and birthing cry;

**we gather with joy-filled expectation to ponder again
the mystery of your love for us.**

Tonight, the soles of your feet touch the earth.

**Tonight the back street, the forgotten place
becomes the cradle of your love.**

Once again we rejoice that you come among us,
that you are one of us.

God of the wonder of Christmas,

embrace us now with holy gifts.

Through carol and candle, music and word,

open us to the beautiful mystery of your love

coming alive for us in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM A maiden most gentle

Andrew Carter

*A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave, Maria.
How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild. The
Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call the Lord of creation, and Saviour of all. Three kings came
to worship with gifts rich and rare, and marvelled in awe at the babe in her care. Rejoice and
be glad at this Christmas, we pray; sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless "Ave."*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (*The congregation may be seated.*)

We have lit the candle of hope,
a sign that God is with us, encouraging us along our way.

We are filled with God's hope this day.

We have lit the candle of peace,
a reminder that Jesus came to share God's peace with all.

We are ready to share God's peace this day.

We have lit the candle of joy,
a sign that God has promised us life in abundance.

We celebrate God's joy this day.

We have lit the candle of love,
a sign of God's generous care and concern for others.

We offer God's love to one and all.

Tonight we light the Christ candle,
a reminder of the One who shared the light of truth with the world.

We give thanks for the presence of Christ in our lives.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

*angel voices! O night divine! O night, when Christ was born. Led by the light of faith serenely
beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand; so, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
here came the wise men from the Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
in all our trials is born to be our friend; he knows our need, to our weakness no stranger;
behold your King! Before the lowly bend! Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love
and his Gospel is peace. Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother, and in his name all
oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise
his holy name. Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night, when
Christ was born.*

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

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 has not overcome it.

(Please remain seated while light is shared.)

MOTET There is no rose

John Joubert

*There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bore Jesus: Alleluia. For in this rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space: Res Miranda. (A wondrous thing.) By that rose we may well see
there be one God in persons three: Pares forma. (Of that same form.) Then leave we all this worldly
mirth, and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. (Let us go.)*

HYMN Silent night (*The congregation remains seated.*)

Stille Nacht (67)

**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.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER *(The congregation may be seated.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

OFFERTORY ANTHEM In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone. Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago. Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain. Heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for him whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay. Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel, which adore. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I have I give him: give my heart.

DOXOLOGY *(The congregation stands as able for the presentation of the offering.)* *The First Nowell*

**Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**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 our life hath bought.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SOLO O holy night

Adolphe Adam

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared, and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! O hear the

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN *(The congregation remains seated.)*

Advent Gifts



There's a song of light in my heart; light is a gift from

Je - sus. There's a song of light in my heart;

light is a gift from God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Light in my heart is sing - ing prais - es. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Light is a gift from God.

Words: Handt Hanson, alt.

Music: Peter Merrick

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Unto us a child is born.
Unto us a son is given.

Let us pray:

God, on this night,

once again,

hope, peace, joy and love

have been born into our world.

For this precious gift, we give you thanks. Amen.

WELCOME

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share signs of Peace with their neighbours.)

OPENING MINDS

HYMN 64 O little town of Bethlehem *Forest Green (518)*

HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 9: 2-7

This is the witness of God's people.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Sans Day Carol *Cornish trad., arr. John Rutter*

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk. And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly! Now the holly bear a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross. Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all. Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 8-20

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN 40 Before the marvel of this night *Marvel*

SERMON When "Not Yet" Becomes "Now"

HYMN 48 Hark! The herald angels sing *Mendelssohn*

OPENING HEARTS

A CHRISTMAS CREED *(The congregation stands as able.)*

Text: Nathan Nettleton (alt.)

We believe in God,
the creator and giver of life,
who brought all creation to birth,
who mothers and fathers us,
protecting, nurturing,
and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ:
God born among us as a fragile baby,
embodying both love and the need for love,
and calling us to rest in God
as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
breathed into us at our birth,
always drawing us on to be born again,
encouraging, exhorting, comforting,
nourishing our growth
and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation
of the world to God, through Christ.
Hunted at birth
and humbled at death,
Christ entered our fearful darkness
so that we might enter his glorious light
and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child
is a glimpse of the face of God,
a sign of the life to come,
and a call to live in peace
and celebrate living together.
Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth. **Amen.**