



St. Martin's Anglican Church

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist

Greeters/Sidespersons: Ellen Corbin, June Hall

It is a great privilege to gather, share stories of faith and worship God on this beautiful territory, which we now know as Pickering, but which has been the site of human activity – and therefore storytelling and worship – for many thousands of years. We wish to honour the ancestral guardians of this land and its waterways: the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today many Indigenous peoples, including the Métis Nation, continue to call this land home and act as its stewards, and this responsibility extends to all peoples, to share and care for this land for generations to come.

Celebrant: The Rev. Richard Newland

Prelude *The Night of the Star*, Robert Elmore (1913-1985)

Congregational hymn singing is permitted, but all responses are to be whispered.

Prayer for the Lighting of the Christ Candle

Sentence: I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Opening Hymn #118 vs. 1 & 3 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.

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

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God,

People **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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Collect

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 forever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading **Isaiah 9.2-7**

Reader: Elaine Watters

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading Titus 2.11-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading Luke 2.1-20

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.

People **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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Homily

The Rev. Shelly Pollard

Moment of Silent Reflection

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.**

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Elaine Watters

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant 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.

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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant I invite you, my brothers and sisters, to offer yourselves, your lives in their brokenness and incompleteness, as a sacrifice which is holy and acceptable unto God. Asking God to take your lives, and through this holy Eucharist to transform them, making them whole, infused with the life of Christ, and then to give them back to you, so that you may go forth from this place to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

Offertory Hymn #119, vs. 1 & 2 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!

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant 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.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

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."

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.

Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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.**

Silence

Breaking of Bread 6

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

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

The Communion

Agnus Dei (whispered quietly)

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

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion *(for those who choose not to receive Communion, or are following the service online)*

Celebrant Those wishing to do so may make their spiritual communion by joining in this prayer with me now:

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you, and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

You are free to leave after receiving the Sacrament, or saying the Prayer for Spiritual Communion, if you wish. Go forth with God's grace and blessing. We will continue with the service for those who wish to remain.

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant 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 & Blessing

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.**

Celebrant The peace of God which passes all understanding
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge
and love of God and of his Son,
Jesus Christ the Lord.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you and the ones you love
now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn #138 vs. 1 & 3 Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

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 the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-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 we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

Celebrant Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia!

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

Postlude *Carillon de Longpont*, Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

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Christmas Greetings

*Rev. Shelly and the Wardens would like to wish everyone a
Merry and Blessed Christmas.*

Announcements

Thank You – To all who have shared their gifts so abundantly this season. Special thanks to everyone involved in recording and livestreaming our services; our projection crew; our readers, intercessors, and greeters; Ted for his music; Gillian for her office administration; Alison Scanlon for her care of the church building; the Altar Guild for their preparation of the sanctuary; and the Bevans for the Christmas tree.

Changes to services – We are grateful to be able to continue in-person worship in this uncertain time. To help make services as safe as possible, we are reducing congregational singing to two hymn verses only and returning to saying the responses instead of singing them. We will also be keeping the windows open to enhance ventilation, so be sure to dress in warm layers when attending our services!

Important Reminders - When you arrive at church, remember to **refrain from socializing** before and after the service. Please go straight to your seat, and leave the church immediately following the service. Please also remember to **whisper all responses** in the service. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we do our best to worship together safely and according to Diocesan protocols.

Virtual Coffee Hour on hold – Our Virtual Coffee Hour will resume on Zoom on January 2nd.

Wednesday Services on hold – Our Wednesday services will resume on Zoom on January 5th.



St. Martin's Anglican Church

The Rev. Shelly Pollard, Incumbent

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Richard Newland
Rector's Warden: Michelle Loftus
People's Warden: Brent Levy
Deputy Wardens: Eugene Farrugia
Erna Haller

Mr. Edward Moroney, Music Director
Ms. Gillian Howard, Office Administrator
Ms. Janis Lynch, Sunday School Leader
Ms. Moyah Morgan, Youth Leader

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