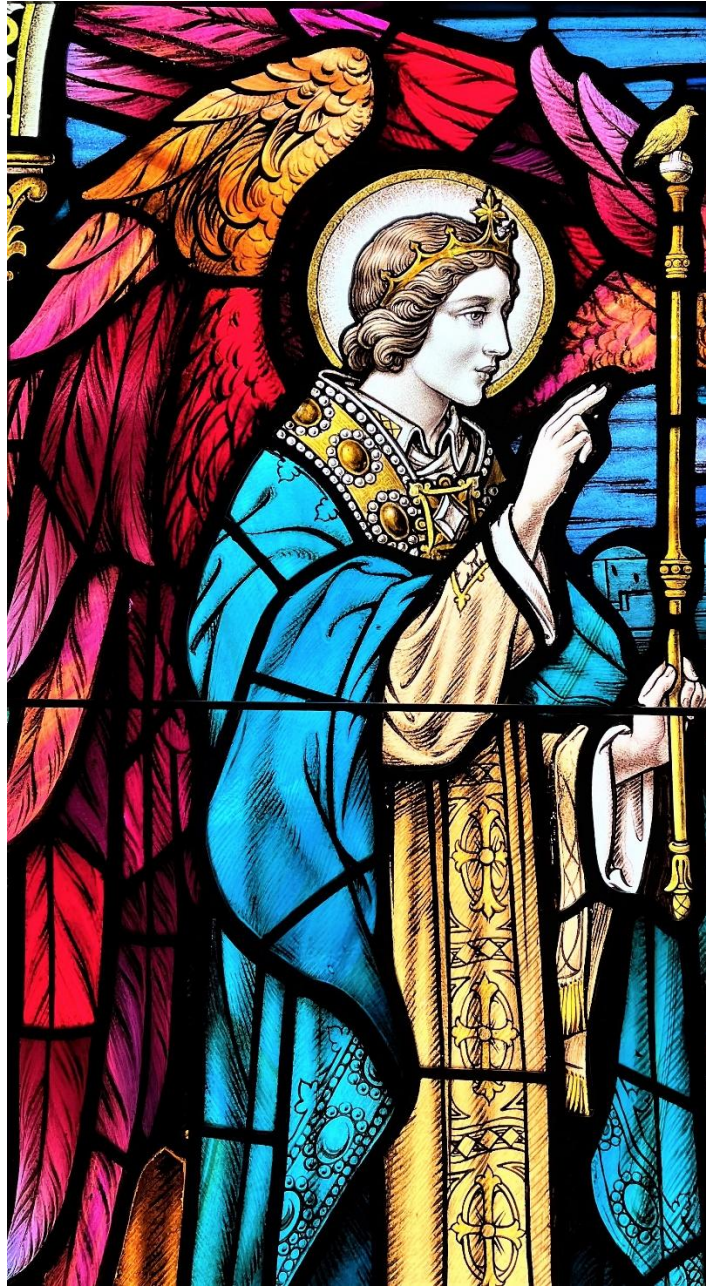


New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada
“Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others”
Sunday, November 30, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.



Detail from *The Annunciation to Mary* (1933), New St. James

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Frank Walsh

Advent Candle: The Kalonta Family

Choristers: Janaki Butterworth, Ariel Harwood-Jones, Robert Hutson,
Angela Myshkowsky, and Anthony Rodrigues

We Gather to Worship God

Prelude *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness (Schmücke Dich)*

J. Brahms (1833-1897)

* **Processional Hymn** Lo! Christ comes with clouds (HELMSLEY)

120

* **Responsive Call to Worship** Romans 13:11-12

For salvation is nearer to us now
than when we first believed;
the night is far gone,
the day is near.

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Word of Assurance for Advent (sung in unison) Titus 3:4-6 (RICHMOND)

118

The kindness of our God appears
to pour out richest grace;
as we are saved from sin and fears,
we see the Saviour's face!

Introit *Call to Advent*

J. J. Williams (2017)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to command. Alleluia!

Welcome

We Hear the Word of God

* **Children's Hymn** Hope is a star (MOON BEAMS)

119

Word to the Children

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Hope

Sung Response Hope is a star (MOON BEAMS)

119, verse 1

Anthem *Stir Up Your Power*

L. C. Shute (2003)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Again we pray, "Your will be done." May advent blue to us foretell the echo of Emmanuel. Is heaven's moment far or near? And when will Jesus reappear? The coming dawn is our delight in this the darkest hour of night. We could inside the church remain, like dry ground watching for the rain. We could decide to sit and wait as Jesus we anticipate. But we must keep hands to the plow; God's time is both not yet and now. Our faith informs what we shall do. May Christ return and find us true.

Prayer for Illumination (in unison)

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5

p. 632 in the O.T.

Responsive Psalm Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem built as a city that is bound firmly together.
 To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel,
 to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls and security within your towers."
 For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, "Peace be within you."
For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

* **Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Epistle Lesson Romans 13:11-14

p. 162 in the N.T.

Sermon "The Night Is Far Gone"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

We Respond in Faith and Service

Offering

Offertory *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness* (*Schmücke Dich*)

J. G. Walther (1684-1748)

* **Doxology for Advent** (WINCHESTER OLD)

138, verse 6

"All glory be to God on high,
 and to the earth be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to earth
 begin, and never cease!"

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

* **Communion Hymn** Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life (THE CALL)

565

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

(see insert)

Communion Anthem *Ave Verum Corpus*

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

*Ave verum corpus
 natum de Maria Virgine:
 vere passum, immolatum
 in cruce pro homine:
 cujus latus perforatum
 unda fluxit et sanguine:
 esto nobis preagustatum
 in mortis examine.*

Hail, true Body, born
 of the Virgin Mary:
 having truly suffered, sacrificed
 on the cross for us all:
 from whose pierced side
 water and blood flowed:
 Be for us a sweet foretaste
 in the trial of death.

* **Recessional Hymn** Hail to the Lord's Anointed (ST. THEODULPH)

115

* **Commission and Benediction**

* **Threefold Amen** (DANISH)

780

Postlude *Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness* (*Schmücke Dich*)

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Announcements

Welcome to today's worship service. We are grateful that you have joined us! If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign the **Guest Book** in the Narthex, located at the back of the Sanctuary. An Usher would be pleased to offer you directions.

Highland Group welcomes young children into **the nursery**, outside the west doors of the Sanctuary.

Please join us following worship for **refreshments and fellowship** in New St. James Hall.

The **Advent candle stand** has been restored and enhanced in honour of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women Elders at NSJ (which we celebrated on June 23, 2024). The Planning Committee thanks Bruce Curtis for overseeing this project on behalf of the Sanctuary Memorial Fund Committee. As we honour a significant milestone in the history of NSJ, may this beautifully restored church furnishing enrich our worship, to the glory of God, for many years to come.

White Gift Sunday – a poem

On December the 7th let's bring a "white gift";
its contents surely will give someone a lift.

Suggestions are juice, cranberry sauce and some dates,
stuffing, fruit cups and, of course, chocolates!

They'll go to Ark Aid, to Rotholme and St. Paul's
to ensure a Merry Christmas for one and for all!

Gifts need not be in white plastic bags or wrapped in white paper. If you'd like to participate in this project but can't get out to shop, please see Lyn Hill for a special donation envelope.

The **Salvation Army Christmas Toy Drive**: Your donation of a new, unopened, unwrapped gift will help provide a Merry Christmas to many children in our community. Big stuffed toys can be problematic so smaller stuffed toys are the best. Nonviolent toys that do not require batteries, Lego, art supplies and books or journals are some of the suggested items. The Toy Box is near the entrance of the NSJ Hall; you have until Monday, December 8 to drop off your gifts. To find out more and to see the "Wish List" look for the signs on the bulletin boards or visit <https://londoncs.ca/wishlist>.

Bursary Awarded: The Trustees of New St. James Presbyterian Church were very pleased to approve an application to the A. H. (Bert) Hare Trust Fund bursary and provide \$1500 to support the studies of a young person at McMaster Divinity College. His pursuit of a PhD in Theology while also serving as a Youth Pastor demonstrates his strong commitment to the life of the Church. A note from this individual is posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

A warm reminder from the **Worship and Music Committee**: Our worship services are livestreamed beginning about 10 minutes before the service and continuing through the Postlude. Because the equipment can be quite sensitive, it may pick up conversations happening nearby. To help protect your privacy, we encourage you to save any personal or confidential conversations for another time. At the same time, we truly value the friendly interactions that are such an important part of our congregational life. Greeting one another and preparing our hearts for worship are blessings we don't want to discourage. Please feel free to visit with one another—just keep in mind that the livestream may be active. Thank you for helping us maintain a welcoming, peaceful, and caring worship space for all.

Flu season is already here, so let's be ready! If you are feeling unwell, please consider worshipping with NSJ by livestreaming. Protect yourself and others with some simple precautions like handwashing and by covering your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing.

Prayer for Illumination reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, © 1993 Westminster John Knox Press.

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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

*** The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Grace

Narrative of the Institution and Taking of the Bread and Wine

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
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.

...and sing your praise in the angels' song:
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.

...dedicated and fit for your acceptance;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of Bread

The Communion

The Peace

Prayers after Communion