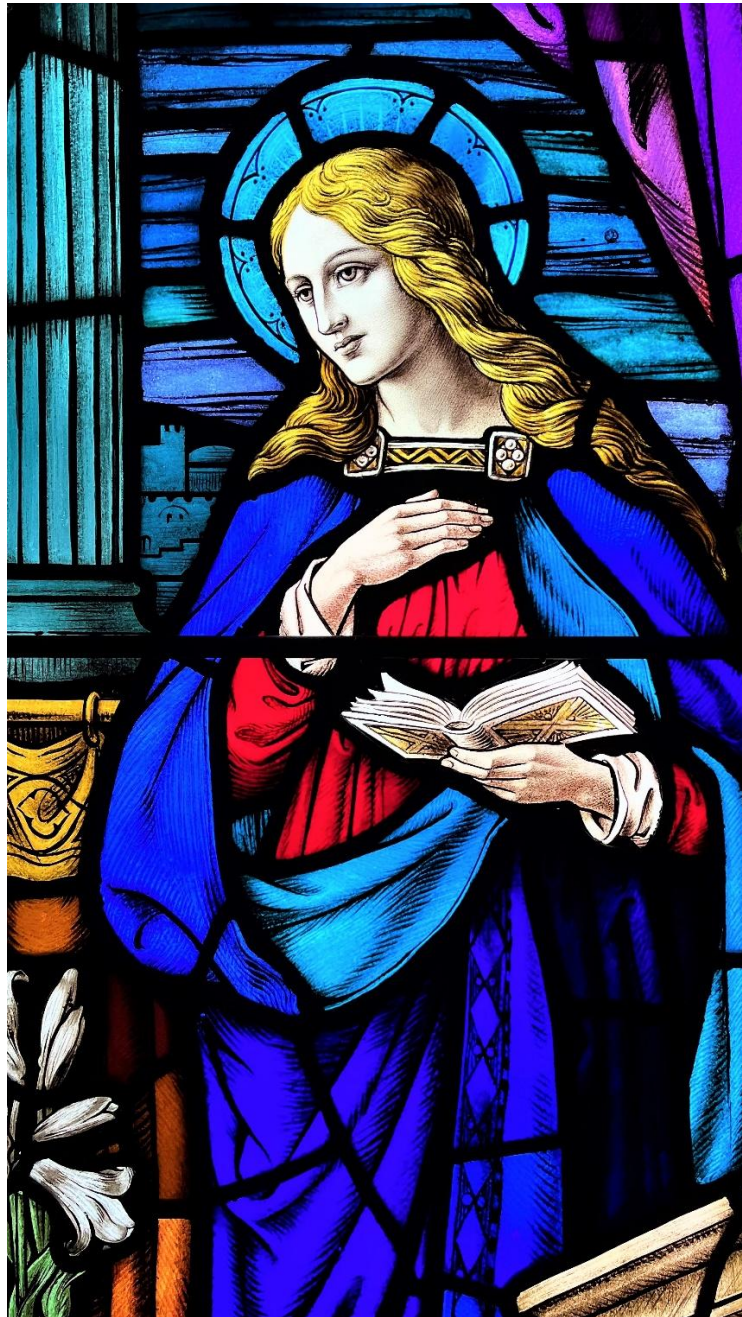


# New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

“Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others”

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.



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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Minister: The Rev. Dr. David Clark

Director of Music: Torin W. Chiles

Reader: Pat Goud

Advent Candle: Jenna and Connor Smith

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

## We Gather to Worship God

**Prelude**    *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (*Wachet Auf*)    J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

\* **Processional Hymn**    Herald! Sound the note of judgement (UNSER HERRSCHER)    117

\* **Responsive Call to Worship**    Isaiah 40:3, 5  
 A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
 Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together."

### **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**    *In Those Days Came John the Baptist*    B. F. White (1800-1879)  
 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias (Isaiah), saying the voice of one crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." And this same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and bound with a leathern girdle, and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

### **Welcome**

## We Hear the Word of God

\* **Children's Hymn**    There's a voice in the wilderness crying (ASCENSION)    128

### **Word to the Children**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle: Peace**

**Sung Response**    Hope is a star (MOON BEAMS)    119, verse 2

**Anthem**    *Celtic Advent Carol*    D. Angerman and M. Barrett (2007)  
 Be not afraid, I bring you good news. The Saviour is coming in glory to you. He shall be called "God's Holy One." *Will you be ready for Him when He comes? Light one candle, Jesus is coming. Open your hearts, prepare ye the way. Sleepers awake, for soon is the dawning. He will turn night into glorious day.* Be of good cheer and put away fear, the light now is coming to dry every tear. Love now with us, God's perfect Son. *Will you be ready... Veni Emmanuel. Captivum solve Israel* (Come, Emmanuel. Ransom captive Israel.)

### **Prayer for Illumination (in unison)**

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

**Old Testament Lesson**    Isaiah 11:1-10    p. 640 in O.T.

**Responsive Psalm**    Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.  
May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.  
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,

give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound,

until the moon is no more.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

\* **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.

**Gospel Lesson** Matthew 3:1-12

**p. 2 in N.T.**

**Sermon** "One Who Is More Powerful Than I Is Coming"

The Rev. Dr. David Clark

## **We Respond in Faith and Service**

\* **Hymn** Comfort, comfort you my people (GENEVAN)

**113**

**Offertory** Pastorale on *Wachet Auf*

W. Wold (1996)

\* **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**

**Solo** *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Robert Hutson, Tenor M. Hayes (2004)

A voice cries out, "In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley will be lifted up, every mountain and hill be made low. The uneven ground will be made straight, and the rough places plain. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it." He will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and the speechless will sing for joy. The wolf will live with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the goat. Spring will burst forth in the wilderness. In the desert streams will flow. And the ransomed of the Lord will return and come with joyful singing unto Zion. All sorrow and mourning will be gone. Only gladness and joy will remain.

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Commemoration, and 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.

\* **Recessional Hymn** On Jordan's bank (WINCHESTER NEW)

**126**

\* **Commission and Benediction**

\* **Threefold Amen** (DANISH)

**780**

**Postlude** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (*Wachet Auf*)

W. Wold (1996)

## 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 **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 tomorrow, 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>.

**Highland Group**: Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m. The Highland Ladies will gather in the parlour at 6:30 p.m. (please note the earlier start time) to celebrate Christmas. Please bring a wrapped gift with a value not more than \$15 for our always enjoyable gift exchange. Also, please bring a \$10 gift card from Dollar Tree, Dollarama, Tim Hortons, Rexall Drugstore, Shoppers, or a grocery store. We will give these to Karen's Place where they are gifted to the ladies living there. Please come together to embrace the joys of the season through worship, carol singing, and special refreshments. New members are very welcome! For further information, please contact Karen Buchwald (519.641.6742 or [karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com)).

**WMS** invites you (ladies and men) to our Christmas Buffet on Friday, December 12 at noon. The cost for the buffet consisting of ham, turkey and salads is \$15. Come enjoy some fun and fellowship. R.S.V.P. to Marg McGugan (226.235.3153 or [me5mcgugan@gmail.com](mailto:me5mcgugan@gmail.com)).

We will enjoy a **Christmas Kids' Night** in the Lower Hall on Friday, December 19, 6:30-8:00 p.m. The theme will be: Christmas and the Shepherds. School-aged children and youth are invited to come share in music, Bible stories, crafts, and games. This evening of activities will be led by Jenna Smith, with Rev. David's support. To R.S.V.P., please email Jenna ([vbc@newstjames.ca](mailto:vbc@newstjames.ca)).

On **Christmas Eve**, we will celebrate the Nativity of the Lord with a worship service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please invite friends, family, and neighbours to share in this joyful occasion.

**World Day of Prayer** is held annually in March with five neighbourhood churches participating. New St. James will host in 2030; however, a representative from our church is needed for 2026. The focus country is Nigeria. You will be invited to two planning meetings at the host church, Trinity Lutheran, located at the corner of Oxford and Colborne Streets, and take part in the service. To learn more about experiencing this rewarding event, please contact Lyn Hill (519.472.8353 or [lyn.hill@sympatico.ca](mailto:lyn.hill@sympatico.ca)).

### Financial Update, end of November 2025

	Jan-Nov 30, 2024	Jan-Nov 30, 2025	\$ Change	% Change
Total Income	\$306,381.58	\$307,506.28	\$1,124.70	0.37%
Total Expense	\$354,028.50	\$348,891.77	-\$5,136.73	-1.45%
<u>Net Income</u>	-\$47,646.92	-\$41,385.49	\$6,261.43	13.14%

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