

Sunday, January 9, 2022

Epiphany

10:30 a.m.

## THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS, BIRCH CLIFF

1512 Kingston Rd., Scarborough M1N 1R7 Phone 416 691-0449 or 416 691-1648  
office@stnicholasbirchcliff.com [www.stnicholasbirchcliff.com](http://www.stnicholasbirchcliff.com)

We acknowledge that the land on which our parish sits is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. We also recognize, and pray for the continual grace to honour the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.



## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS

The Church Office is open Tuesday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – Noon

**Ministers**

**Priest-in-Charge**

**Honourary Assistant**

**Parish Nurse**

**Sunday School Co-ordinator**

**Interim Director of Music**

**Rector's Warden**

**People's Warden**

**Deputy Warden**

**Treasurer**

**Envelope Secretary**

**The people of St. Nicholas**

**The Reverend Andrew MacDonald**

**The Reverend Canon Ian Noseworthy**

**Cheryle Pollock**

**Sarah Brown**

**W. Joy Horswill LTCL ARSCM**

**Suzanne Lehtinen**

**Ken Campbell**

**Doug Goss**

**Brian Jones**

**Duncan Wood**

Everything you need for the service is printed in this bulletin.

## The Gathering of the Community

Welcome

Prelude

**Hymn: 159 Brightest and Best**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid:  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining,  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
angels adore him in slumber reclining,  
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.**

**Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion  
odours of Edom and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation,  
vainly with gifts would his favour secure;  
richer by far is the heart's adoration,  
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.**

**Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;  
gem of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.**

**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,  
**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.

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest,  
**All:** and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN

### The Collect

*Please remain standing.*

Celebrant: Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## The Proclamation of the Word

*Please be seated for the readings*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60: 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,

and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

*please join in the verses in bold.*

Give the king your justice, O God,\*  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**That he may rule your people righteously\* and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,\*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**He shall defend the needy among the people;\*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,\*  
from one generation to another.

**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,\*  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;\*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,\*  
and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

All kings shall bow down before him,\* and all nations do him service.

**For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress\*  
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;\*  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,\*  
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3: 1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia  
*We have seen his star in the East;  
and have come to worship him.*

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Gospeller: The Lord be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

**Sung Response: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

**Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

## 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.

## The Prayers of the People

The response to each petition is

Intercessor: Light of the world,

**People:** Shine in the darkness.

## Confession and 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.

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**

**The Peace** *Please exchange the Peace with words or a wave only. No hand shaking or touching at this time.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**All:** **And also with you.**

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

*During the Offertory, we offer many things to God. We offer the bread and wine of the Eucharist. We also offer ourselves—our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows, our time, our talent, and our treasure.*

**Offertory Hymn: 385 Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness**

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring, and adore him: the Lord is his name.**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou canst reckon as thine;  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling, and hope for our fear.**

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
gold of obedience and incense of lowliness  
bring, and adore him; the Lord is his name!**

### **The Prayer over the Gifts**

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
AMEN

*Please stand, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable*

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider                      The Lord be with you.  
**People                        And also with you.**

Presider                      Lift up your hearts.  
**People                        We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider                      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People                        It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; you have revealed your eternal plan of salvation, and have shown your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of all peoples. 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, heav'n 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.**

Presider: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Presider: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Saviour Christ 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**

### **The 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.**

## Agnus Dei

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

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

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

## Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*The priest invites those who are not present, or comfortable coming forward for communion to receive the sacramental blessing of God. Those who wish to make their spiritual communion respond by saying...*

People: I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in this meal, and in your people, who are gathered in spirit. In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community. May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing. Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

## The Communion

Hymns During Communion

*Please join in singing*

### 137 What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. Refrain

### The Prayer after Communion

Celebrant: God of all the nations of the earth, guide us with your light. Help us to recognize Christ as he comes to us in this eucharist and in our neighbours. May we welcome him with love, for he is Lord now and for ever **AMEN**

**The Doxology (taken from Ephesians 3:20-21)**

**Glory to God, 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.**

### The Blessing

May Almighty God, who led the magi by the shining of a star to find the Christ, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit to rest upon the only-begotten at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out that same Spirit upon you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

May God, by the power which turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: **160 As with Gladness Men of Old**

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped to thy lowly manger-bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy-seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;  
so may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

**In the heavenly country bright need they no created light:  
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
there forever may we sing alleluias to our king.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Assisting with the service today:**

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev'd Andrew MacDonald

Readers: Barb Cutts, Charlie Cutts,

Intercessor: Sonia Halloran

Singer: Janet Baron

Congregational Responder: Suzanne Lehtinen

Livestream tech: Dennis Newman