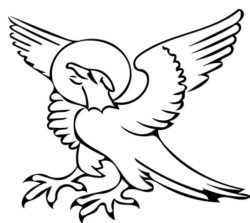


# St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

Diocese of Ottawa | Anglican Church of Canada

ST. JOHN  
THE EVANGELIST

SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024



Sung Eucharist | Advent 4 | 10 AM  
And Pageant

# Welcome

## to St. John the Evangelist

A worshipping congregation of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa,  
part of the world-wide Anglican Communion.

*We acknowledge that we gather at St. John's on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. We give thanks to God for the care and stewardship of this land we share. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.*

**If you are visiting**, or here for the first time, we hope you will feel most welcome! Please know that baptised members of all churches are welcome to receive communion and everyone is welcome to come forward for a blessing.

**Children are always welcome!** They may remain in the congregation, if they choose, or they may join our excellent Sunday School. Children are also invited to take part in the opening procession by helping to carry items to the altar for worship.

The notes in **this service booklet** will help you to understand and participate in the actions and words of our worship today. Please read the notes on the left-hand column of most pages if more information would be helpful. The red text will give instructions about posture or actions. And if you still have questions, feel free to ask anyone around you. We're a friendly bunch and would love to help.

### **Video Disclaimer**

By attending this service, you are agreeing to appear on video, on-line (Facebook) and broadcast.

## A bit about Advent...

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

Every eye shall now behold him  
robed in dreadful majesty.

*(Charles Wesley)*

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour [though in North America we have adopted Blue as the colour of advent to separate us

from the penitential theme of Lent]. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas. The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (Gaudete or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

*From the Church of England,  
Times and Seasons  
[www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)*

## Before the service begins....

*Please use this psalm for your own personal devotions as you prepare for worship.*

## Psalm 72 *New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised*

Of Solomon

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice.
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- 4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.
  
- 5 May he live while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
  
- 17 May his name endure for ever,  
his fame continue as long as the sun.  
May all nations be blessed in him;  
may they pronounce him happy.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.
- 19 Blessed be his glorious name for ever;  
may his glory fill the whole earth.  
Amen and Amen.



# We Gather and Prepare for Worship

*The Liturgy—a word that means “the work of the people”—helps us put our faith into actions as well as words. The Liturgy leads us on a journey that begins when we enter the church and continues through the week to come.*

*The tradition of lighting the Advent Wreath is not an old one. Coming from the Lutheran traditions of Northern Europe, it quickly became popular among Christians of many traditions and nations. It is meant to anticipate the warmth and light of Christmas while enhancing the sense of anticipation as we await the coming of the Lord.*

hope, love, and joyful expectation. By accepting to become Mother to the Son of God, by faithfully and graciously loving and raising Jesus, by being with him at the foot of his cross, Mary’s life reveals the beauty of holiness. Today we pray that God would prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus, just as he prepared the blessed virgin Mary.

*Prayer*

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news;  
blessed is Mary, your mother and ours.  
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;  
and bless us your children, who long for your coming.  
Amen.**

*Prelude*

*Welcome and Announcements*

*Advent Wreath Lighting*

*Advent 4 Theme: Mary*

**Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!**

These words of hope and expectation are the centre of the advent season, when we wait for the coming of Jesus – born in Bethlehem, the risen and ascended King of Heaven, alive in our hearts, and returning at the end of days.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, we remember how the virgin Mary showed us the way of faith,

## *The Greeting.*

*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.**

## *The 2024 Christmas Pageant*

**Presented by the St. John the Evangelist Sunday School**

*Throughout the pageant, the congregation is invited to join in the singing of the songs and  
carols. The lyrics will be provided below.*

**Go Tell it on the Mountain** Chorus  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

**Away in a Manger** Verse 1  
Away in a manger no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

**Go Tell it on the Mountain**  
Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching

O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens,  
There shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

*Break for action, then...*

The Shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our saviour's birth.

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

*Break for action, then...*

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

Go tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

**We three Kings** Verse 1 and chorus  
We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we travel afar  
Field and fountain, moor and moun-  
tain  
Following yonder star.

### *The Collect of the Day*

*All* God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### *Brief Homily*

*A silence for reflection may follow.*

### *The Prayers of the People*

O star of wonder, star of light  
Star with royal beauty bright  
Westward leading, still proceding  
Gude us to thy perfect light.

**Joy to the World** Verse 1 and 2  
Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
let Earth receive the King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and Heaven and nature sing. x3

Joy to the Earth! The Saviour reigns:  
let us glad songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills,  
and plains repeat the sounding joy.

*Please sit or kneel for the prayers and through the confession and absolution.*

*We give thanks for what God has done, and ask him to help us and the world.*

*In the time of silence, you are encouraged to speak to God of those things in your life that hinder your relationship with God and with others. Speak to God of the things you have done and said that were wrong, and speak to God of the wrong things others have done and said to you. We ask for healing and forgiveness for ourselves and for each other.*

*Having asked God's forgiveness, we are assured that his mercy, pardon, deliverance, strength, and eternal life are granted to us.*

*All stand.*

*Having reconciled with God, and having forgiven our neighbours, we express our good will and right relationship with each other by sharing a sign and word of the peace given to us in Jesus Christ.*

## **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.

*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. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*The presiding celebrant addresses the people.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**



# We Celebrate the Eucharist

## *Offertory Hymn Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless  
your chosen pilgrim flock  
with manna in the wilderness,  
with water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone,  
but by your word of grace,  
in strength of which we travel on  
to our abiding place.

Be known to us in breaking bread,  
but do not then depart;  
Saviour, abide with us, and spread  
your table in our heart.

Lord, sup with us in love divine;  
your body and your blood,  
that living bread, that heavenly wine,  
be our immortal food.

## *Prayer over the Gifts*

*All* Gracious God, by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## *The Great Thanksgiving*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we

*Please remain standing.*

*The first part of the Great Thanksgiving prayers is sung, with everyone standing together.*

*The Eucharistic prayers we use are part of the ancient heritage and history of the church. These prayers express the Christian understanding of what the Eucharist is, and what it means to have communion with Jesus and with each other. But above all, they give*

give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*You may be seated, or remain standing, as you see fit.*


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.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the words: "We - re - mem - ber his death, we pro - claim his re - sur - re - tion,". The second staff contains the melody for the words: "we a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

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.

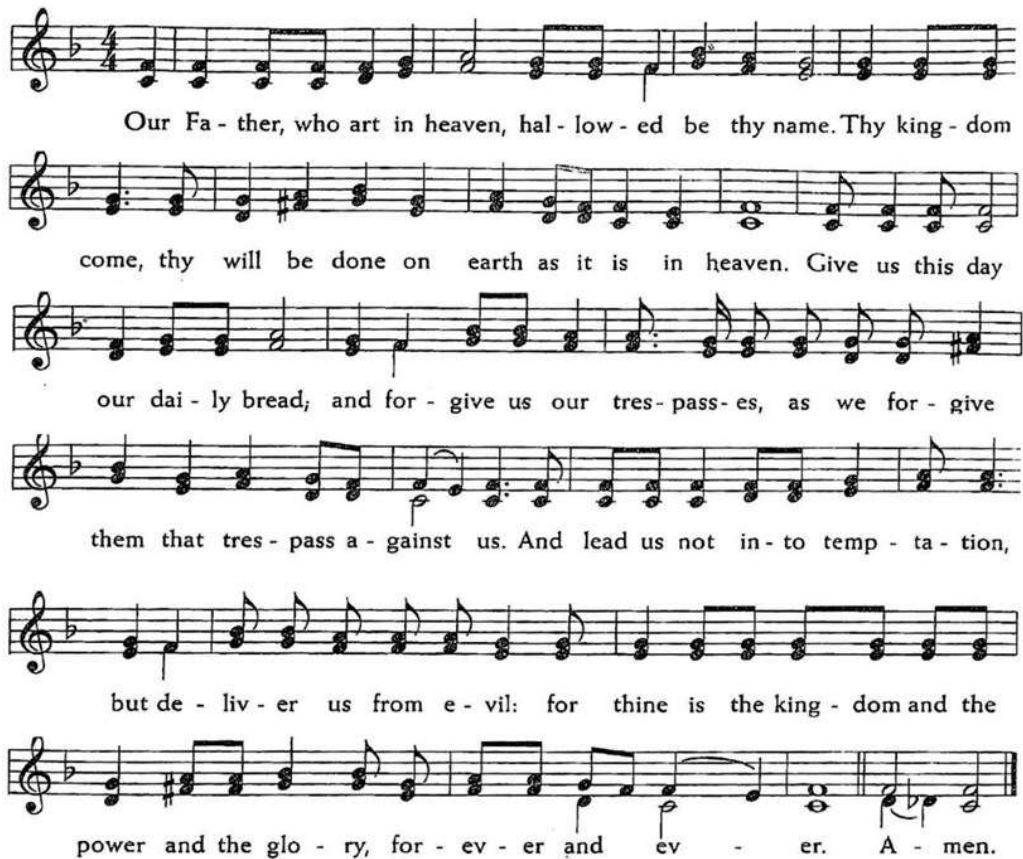
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in

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.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



Our Fa - ther, who art in heaven, hal - low - ed be thy name. Thy king - dom  
come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
our dai - ly bread; and for - give us our tres - pass - es, as we for - give  
them that tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,  
but de - liv - er us from e - vil: for thine is the king - dom and the  
power and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

thanks (the meaning of 'Eucharist') to God for the gift he has given us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the gift Jesus has given us in his supper.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

*All* **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The bread, when broken, is a sign both of the gift of God in the breaking of Christ's body upon the cross, and of how the whole church (also known as the 'Body of Christ') is unified in our sharing of his communion.

## The Communion

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the People of God.

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

Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, x2

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world; Grant us\_\_ grant us\_\_ peace.

### Communion Hymn

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith  
And be closer drawn to Thee.

### Chorus:

**Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,**

**To the cross where Thou has died:**

**Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord.**

**To thy precious bleeding side.**

Consecrate me now to Thy service,  
Lord,  
By the power of grace divine;  
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope  
And my will be lost in Thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour  
That before Thy throne I spend,  
When I kneel in prayer  
And with Thee, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend.

There are depths of love that I cannot know  
'Til I cross the narrow sea;

There are heights of joy that I may  
not reach  
'Til I rest in peace with Thee.

by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to realms above us,  
consecrate our lives, O Lord:

### *Post-Communion Hymn*

For the bread which you have broken,  
for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken,  
now we give you thanks, O Lord.

in your service, Lord, defend us;  
help us to obey your word;  
in the world to which you send us,  
let your kingdom come, O Lord!

By these pledges that you love us,

*Every baptized person who is  
welcome to receive communion in  
their own church is welcome to  
receive here. All are welcome to  
come forward to ask for a blessing.*

### *Prayer after Communion*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen**

*Please remain standing.*

### *The Doxology*

*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.**

*This quotation from Ephesians 3:20 leads us to praise God for the ways in which he works on our behalf, and how his generosity exceeds our imaginings. We proclaim our praise not only for and by ourselves, but*

*with and for all the generations of  
the faithful, past, present, and  
future.*

# We Go into the World

## *The Blessing*

*Celebrant* Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and  
untiring in love all the days of your life; and  
the blessing.... **Amen.**

*At the end of the service of wor-  
ship, we are all sent out into the*

## *Recessional Hymn*

My soul proclaims your glory, Lord,  
my spirit sings with thankful voice,  
for you my lowly prayer have heard:  
in you, my Saviour, I rejoice.

Nations unborn will bless your name,  
giver of boundless grace to me,  
in every age you are the same:  
you make the humble whole and free.

You have made bare your mighty arm  
to break the yoke of selfish power,  
and lift your broken ones from harm,  
bursting the gates of greed's proud  
tower.

You fill the hungry mouths with food,  
and show the poverty of wealth.  
Your ancient vow you have made  
good,  
and raised your children to new  
health.

Glory to God, all being's Spring,  
to God the Word, salvation's voice,  
to God the Spirit, praise we sing:  
with all the ages we rejoice.

## *Dismissal*

*Leader* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

*All are welcome to join us for refreshments in the parish hall after the service.*

*God bless you and keep you.*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **2024 CONTRIBUTIONS**

December 31st is on a Wednesday this year. The last day to submit your contributions for 2024 will be Sunday, January 5, 2025. Any cheques, e-transfers, tithes, etc. must be dated no later than December 31, 2024. Offerings submitted after January 5th will be entered as 2025 contributions. Thank you.

## **2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Are now available to be picked up in the Canterbury Room.

## **175 ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENTS**

Your Parish Council has been hearing some great ideas of how we could celebrate our 175th anniversary. If you have an idea and are willing to champion the event (plan, promote and execute), please submit a proposal to the Church office with the following information: type of event, approximate date, who will take the lead and resources required. Let's party!

## **175th Anniversary Hymn**

We want to celebrate our 175th in song!

Are you a wordsmith or a poet? Consider sharing your love of St. John's by writing some lyrics for a 175th Anniversary Hymn. Choose your melody from Let All Things Now Living (Hymn #403 BB) OR For the Fruit of all Creation (Hymn #259 BB) Write on your own or as a team. The best of the best may stand alone or be blended with other entries. You have lots of time to be creative – we are aiming for a May reveal! Questions? Check in with someone on the Music Ministry Team.

## **"ST. JOHN'S TODAY" – NEWSLETTER**

We will be providing print and electronic copies of the newsletter. If you wish to receive an electronic copy, please provide your e-mail address on the sheets located in the Canterbury Room and at the North Entrance. You may also call the Church Office (613)283-1261 or e-mail, [stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com) to be placed on the e-mail list.

## **KEENAGERS**

Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. All



are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.

### **SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAMPAIGN**

The Salvation Army is looking to recruit volunteers for the Kettle Campaign which begins November 15, 2024. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mary Lynn Wilson (613) 283-3563 or [mary-lynn.wilson@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:mary-lynn.wilson@salvationarmy.ca).

### **DEC PRAY K7A**

In this season joy in the coming of the Light of the World, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, all are invited to gather again on December 29 to pray for Smiths Falls and area. The last Sunday of each month, Christians from across the Smiths Falls area gather to pray for the town, townships, and villages, to sing praise to God, and to encourage each other. This month, December 29, at 7:00 p.m. we will gather here at St. John's. We'll be praying generally for the town and area, giving thanks for God's gifts of grace and seeking his intercession for the needs and cares of our shared home.

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### **INTERVAL HOUSE**

On behalf of St. John's, Lydia Dixon (previous Sunday School Coordinator) will be collecting items for the Lanark County Interval House for the Christmas season. Some items that are needed include: hygiene items such as shampoo, body wash, toothpaste, feminine products; hats and mittens (adults and children); arts and craft sets; self care items; socks and cozy items; board games and puzzles; books or journals; gift cards, pajamas for women and children. Items will be collected until December 22. Items may be dropped off at the Church. Questions, please contact Lydia at (613) 285-9811 or by e-mail: [l.s.dixon@live.com](mailto:l.s.dixon@live.com).

### **CHURCH OFFICE**

Will be closed Monday, December 23 to Friday, Dec. 27, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.



*Today's ministry team*

Presiding Celebrant & Preacher: Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer

Reader: Cindy Penman

Communion Assistants: Kevin Lewis & Donna Howard

Greeters: Linda MacLaren & Faye Moore

Altar Guild: Debbie Lewis & Ila Bennett

*Readings for next Sunday, December 29, 2024:*

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26; Ps 148; Col 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

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www.stjohn-smithsfalls.com

Follow us on Facebook at:  
St-John-the-Evangelist-Anglican-Church-Smiths-Falls

Kathryn Rycroft – Parish Secretary  
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

## Weekly Liturgies

Holy Eucharist – Sundays 8 a.m. (said) & 10 a.m. (sung)\*  
Wednesdays 10 a.m.

*\*Sunday School offered at 10 a.m. from September – June*

## Ministry Team

The Right Reverend Shane A. D. Parker – Bishop of Ottawa

The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brauer, Presiding Celebrant & Preacher  
The Reverend Canon Brian Burrows – Honorary Assistant  
The Reverend Canon Jim Roberts – Honorary Assistant

John Wanless – Organist  
Emily Duberville – Sunday School Coordinator emduberville@hotmail.com  
Dan Willis – Rector's Warden 613-884-5095  
Lois Arkell – People's Warden 613-283-3444  
Tammy Mulrooney – Deputy Warden 613-485-3128  
Pat Lee – Deputy Warden 613-485-3368  
Nancy Fleming – Envelope Secretary SJSFenvelope secretary@gmail.com