



St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
7366 Darcel Avenue, Malton, Ontario.
(905) 677-4514 stmarksmalton@gmail.com

Minister: Rev. Germaine Lovelace
Music Director: Mrs. Jo-Ann Bischoff

December 29, 2019
1st Sunday of After Christmas

** Please stand for these moments during the service if you are able to.*

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST THE KING

Prelude: God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen (Max Reger)

Introit: How Great Thou Art Bryan and Ashitha Pradeepson

*Responsive Call to Worship:

Like the people who found hope in a manger,
Christmas Spirit, Holy Spirit, rest on us!

Like Wise Men traveling to see a new star,
Christmas Spirit, Holy Spirit, reveal to us!

Illuminating, light-bringing Spirit

Guide us as you guided the wise long ago

Holy, Holy, Holy Spirit

We shout the good news of God's mighty love!

Hymn of Praise: Hark The Herald Angel Sing **# 139 Blue**

Our Prayer of Approach

God of grace and glory, we praise you from the heights and from the depths; in the heavens and on the seas; in the courts of power and from the margins.

Your splendour shines from a manger, where the Light of the world was born to pierce the darkness. In the fragility of flesh you are revealed to us face to face.

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals.

You have given to us a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us.

For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Our Prayer of Confession:

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways. Let us confess our sin to God.

Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and to experience the splendor of your glory. We confess that we are reluctant to embrace this new life and choose instead to remain in the darkness. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage and our illusions to hold us back from new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect our own love to be earned. Forgive us and create us anew in the image of your Son in whose name we pray. Amen

Welcome and Announcements **(See Insert # 1)**

Musical Item: What Child is This (Traditional) Sung by Sheba Sampras

GOD'S SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD

*Youth Hymn: Once In Royal David's City **# 166 Blue**

Children's Story:

The Scriptures:

Responsive Psalm 148 **Refrain # 1**

Old Testament: Isaiah 63: 7-9 (Page 605)

New Testament: Matthew 3: 13-17 (Page 784)

Musical Item: A Soldier's King Sung by Bryan and Ashitha Pradeepson

Sermon: Divine Destiny

Hymn of Response: Joy to the World **# 154 Blue**

Prayer of God's People concluded with The Lord's Prayer

The giving of our Gifts in Tithes and Offering:

Down From His Glory (Eduardo di Capua)

*Offertory Hymn:

Halle, halle, halle, lujah. Halle, halle, halle, lujah.

Halle, halle, halle, lujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

WE GO OUT TO LIVE JOYFULLY

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn: Angels We Have Heard On High **# 170 Red**

*Benediction:

*Choral Praise God, Praise God.

Postlude: Good King Wenceslas (Traditional)

Insert # 1 - Welcome to St. Mark's

On this 1st Sunday after Christmas we declare **“Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth receive its King.”** We welcome everyone to this worship service as we give joyful praise to our King who comes in the name of the Lord. We wish for everyone a tremendous blessing as we worship and fellowship together by God's grace. We extend special welcome to anyone who is worshipping with us for the first time.

If you are new to St. Mark's, we pray that your time with us this morning will be a blessing to you, and we invite you to fill in the blue Welcome Card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate so that we have a record of your time with us.

Infants, toddlers, and children are welcome as part of our worship in the sanctuary! Following the first part of the service each Sunday, many of our children and youth go with their teachers to Sunday School. Children who are visiting are invited to join in!

Nursery: The Service can be heard from the Nursery downstairs for the convenience of parents with babies and toddlers

Thank You for Helping with Today's Service:

Greeters: Tyrone Mohammed and Amanda Rachpaul

Duty Elder: Sam Alfred

Sound Technicians: Edward Forsyth & Bryan Pradeepson

Bulletin: Sheba & Anthony Sampras



If you require pastoral services please fill out one of the cards in the pew and place it in the offering plate, contact Rev. Germaine Lovelace at 204-297-3950 or 905-677-4514. His email address is: lovemarlon2000@yahoo.com.

Rev. Lovelace is also available here at the church office every Tuesday – Friday 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Upcoming Worship & Church Events



- **New Year's Eve:** We invite everyone to share in our New Year's Eve service on December 31st at 7:00 pm. Please invite your family and friends to share with you as we give God thanks for being with us throughout 2019 and look forward to God's guidance throughout 2020.
- **The Lord's Supper:** On Sunday January 5, 2020 we share in the Sacrament of Communion during our regular worship service. All are invited.
- **Kirk/Session:** The Kirk/Session will meet on Monday January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm for its monthly meeting.

- **Need a Lift?** Do you want to attend church but do not have regular transportation to get here? Please speak with Rev. Germaine if you require a ride to get to church on Sundays and we will help you get here.
- **Presbyterian Connection and Newsletter:** Please take copiers of the Presbyterian Connection (Winter Issue) and The Christmas Newsletter on the table in the Narthex.
- **Music Ministry:** The Senior Choir will practise on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 10:10 a.m.
- We thank Jean Heathcote for providing music today.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with the greeting and welcoming ministry or if you have notices for the bulletin, please talk with the Duty Elder for that Sunday or contact Sam Alfred at 416-258-4435 or sla1302@sympatico.ca (A Duty Elder's list is on the notice board in the narthex.)

Flowers in the sanctuary today were donated by Marcia Mullings.

A Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex kindly fill in the Sunday or month you would like to donate flowers for the Sanctuary or Contact Cynthia Gooden at 905-673-7246 or Ivy Jones at 416-878-6620

Offering Envelopes: If you need 2020 Offering Envelopes please contact Shirley Sumere @ 905-676-9850 or an Elder.

Website:

Our Technology committee has updated our website. Please visit our website at: <http://stmarksmalton.ca>. Give us your feedback!

Especially in our prayers

“ Please be in prayer for members of our church family who are sick, or who are homebound:

“ Nashwill Gordon

“ Lee Younger

“ Muriel Bennett

“ Helen Forsyth

“ Sandra & James Moravek

“ Edna Hazel

“ Verna Dockendorff

“ Isaac Cornelius (Sheba's Sampras' Brother-in-law) who was in intensive care and is now home recovering from illness.



“ Les Irvine who had emergency surgery to repair a broken hip and is now in rehabilitation at Brampton Civic Hospital.

“Greg Somar & Joseph Seecharran (Susan Ramneres’ nephew and 1st Cousin who are both recovering from illness)

“ Abhijit Ghosh is recovering well at home after his recent bypass surgery. Abhijit sends thanks to his church family for all the prayers on his behalf.

“ Mr. Devaprasad Martin (Father of Charles Martin who is faithfully going through chemotherapy as he battles cancer)

“ Cordaleen Hinds who had surgery and is recovering well so far.

“ Other Members of our church family and community who are facing health issues and mobility challenges.

“ Each week we join millions of Christians who pray for one another. Let us hold in our hearts Christians in parts of Asia & the Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world who are being persecuted because of their faith.

Please also hold these concerns in your prayers, today and throughout the week:

“ For refugee families and individuals seeking shelter and safety, and for all who are working to provide it: May God magnify their efforts.

“For the people of Hong Kong as protests continues and anger and hurt continue to rise.

“ For all discerning the way forward in difficult circumstances, may God’s light lead and guide them forward.

Prayer Chain: If you would like the prayer chain to pray for you or for a particular concern please contact Rev. Germaine Lovelace at 905-677-4514 or stmarkschurchmalton@gmail.com.

Please contact the church office if you would like to hear more about St Mark’s at 905-677-4514 or stmarkschurchmalton@gmail.com

Celebrating Christmas Across the World

The month of December brings joyful tidings across the world as more than two billion people anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25 although the Orthodox churches celebrate 12 days later.

Each culture celebrates this day according to its customs, and each calls the day by different names. In Pakistan, most people call it Barra Din (Urdu) and Wadda Din (Punjabi), meaning “The Big Day”—a name introduced by Imam Din Shahbaz who translated the book of Psalms into Punjabi lyrical poetry. In Bangladesh, people call it Shubh

Borrodin, and in Nepal it is Badda Dinko Shuvkamnaa. In Arabic, Christmas is named Eid-e-Milad al Masih (Happy Birthday of Messiah).

In most places across the world Christmas is a fun holiday. Everybody has a good time singing Christmas carols and watching amazing performances of the Christmas story that the kids perform for their families or in church. If possible, Christians who live and work in foreign countries come back to celebrate this day with their families.

For some contexts preparation begins during the first week of December. People may paint their whole house, purchase new furniture, and almost every Christian family tries to buy a Christmas tree and decorate it in their home. In other countries engagement and wedding ceremonies are also arranged in December. Poor families wait for the whole year to get new clothes and shoes for their children. Everyone in the family asks their parents or elders to visit them as well as their relatives in various places.

Also, in the first half of December, some churches organize special “White Gift” services. In these services the church encourages members to bring gifts. Many Christians distribute these gifts along with food baskets and money to poor and needy widows, children, the indigent, homeless individuals and poor families.

Peace Building at Christmas

When Jesus was born, the angels sang of peace on earth. In many countries, Christmas season is an opportunity for Christians to share the peace of Christ with their neighbors of other Faiths. Christians share cakes and sweets and exchange gifts as well with their friends. The Christmas Eve service is one opportunity for efforts toward building peace and harmony between people of other faiths and Christians.

God is God! God became incarnate in Jesus Christ to show that every human being is loved by God. He was born in Bethlehem to show that every piece of land is God's footstool. And he was born in time to show that in every age, we can celebrate his birth. God proved his love to the world by becoming human, by choosing a particular geographical place and time in history to announce good news to the whole world. We can share his story with each generation in every place in this world.