

WELCOME TO YORKMINSTER PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025
FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS



Sunday, December 21st, 2025, 4:30 p.m.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

**All who are able are invited to stand*

**TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF WAX DRIPPING ON CLOTHES, PLEASE
SIT CLEAR OF THE CANDLES AT THE END OF THE PEWS. PLEASE DO NOT USE
THE CANDLE HOLDERS AS GRAB BARS OR SAFETY DEVICES.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**

Carillon Prelude - Kling no, klokka! (Ring now, bells!), Norwegian folksong *arr. Goos ten Napel*

Naoko Tsujita, Carillonneur

Preludes - Es ist ein ros' entsprungen
Choral orné: Rorate coeli de s uper

*Johannes Brahms
Jeanne Demessieux*

***Processional Hymn 81** - Once in royal David's city
vs. 1 Emma; vs. 2 Choir; vs. 3 Congregation stands to join Choir

Irby

The Bidding Prayer

The Rev. Paula Willis

The Lord's Prayer (sung Amen)

***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, forever and ever. Amen.***

First Lesson (Genesis 3: 8-15)

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Stirling
Ambassador, Canadian Bible Society

God announces in the garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's heel.

Choir - Ding, dong merrily on high

arr. David Willcocks

Second Lesson (Genesis 22: 15-18)

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset
Minister, Calvin Presbyterian Church

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

***Congregational Hymn 45** - O come, o come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Third Lesson (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

The Rev. Thyra VanKeeken
Pastor, First Christian Reformed Church of Toronto

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Choir - A spotless rose

Herbert Howells

Fourth Lesson (Micah 5: 2-4)

The Rev. Dr. Luis Melo
Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations
Archdiocese of Toronto

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

***Congregational Hymn 79** - O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

Fifth Lesson (Luke 1: 26-35, 38)

The Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Falby
Rector, Christ Church Deer Park (Anglican)

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Choir - The Angel Gabriel

Edgar Pettman

Sixth Lesson (Luke 2: 1-7)

Fr. John Boutros
Pastor, St. Moses and St. Katherine Coptic Orthodox Church

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Choir - A Babe is born

Gustav Holst

Seventh Lesson (Luke 2: 8-16)

The Rev. Cynthia R. Stretton
The United Church of Canada

The shepherds go to the manger.

***Congregational Hymn 89** - While shepherds watched

Winchester Old

Eighth Lesson (Matthew 2: 1-11)

Protopresbyter Fr. Peter J. Avgeropoulos
Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Cathedral
(Representing the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Choir - All this time

William Walton

(The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson)

***Ninth Lesson (John 1:1-14)**

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

***Congregational Hymn 66** - Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Announcements

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

During the Offering - In dulci, jubilo

Flor Peeters

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Rev. Paula Willis

***Recessional Hymn 83** - See amidst the winter's snow

Humility

***Benediction**

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

***Choral Amen** - Maddox in G

Postlude - Toccata (Symphony V)

Charles-Marie Widor

Jessica Willingham, Loren Graziano, Cassandra Amorim, sopranos
Margaret Terry, Amanda Weatherall, altos
Adam Wicks, Ronald Tapawan, tenors
Stephen King, Joseph Ernst, basses

Sharon L. Beckstead, Associate Musician

**The CITY CAROL SING will be broadcast in Toronto on CITY TV
on Christmas Eve at 11 p.m. and Christmas Day at 11 p.m.**

Welcome to A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS, which follows closely the great tradition established at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England in 1918.

In 2024 our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was led by clergy from various denominations as part of a city-wide celebration of the ecumenical movement. This ecumenical approach to the service was so well received that many asked for us to do the same this year. We are grateful to our readers who represent a number of traditions of the Christian faith. We welcome them and wish them and their families and faith communities a wonderful Christmas.

It is our hope that visitors will feel welcome and at home in our church, and aided in their spiritual search and devotion through the worship which we offer unto God. As well as providing weekly services of worship and prayer, the ministry of our church includes educational programs and Bible studies, recitals and concerts, pastoral services, children's programs, youth ministries, Meals on Wheels delivered five days a week, and meals and shelter for the homeless through our Out of the Cold program.

For more information on any of these programs, please complete one of the visitor's cards in the pew and place it on the offering plate. Offerings received this evening will support the ongoing ministries of our church. Income tax receipts will be given for all donations of \$20 or more. Please note, donations made through the Tiptap machine in the Narthex are not able to generate tax receipts.

We wish one and all a very **Merry Christmas!**



HONOURING THE
RETIREMENT OF
THE REV. DR.
J. PETER HOLMES

YOU ARE INVITED

REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN!

We look forward to welcoming guests as we celebrate the retirement of the Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes.

AN EVENING WITH PETER

An informal evening of fellowship with entertainment and light refreshments.

Friday, January 9, 2026 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

To RSVP for the “Evening with Peter” via EventBrite, [Click here](#)

CELEBRATING PETER AND JANET HOLMES

Lunch followed by a Tribute

Sunday, January 11, 2026 | Lunch 12:30 pm - Tribute 2:00 pm

To RSVP for the luncheon via EventBrite, [Click here](#)

An RSVP is required for each event no later than **December 30, 2025** so that we may prepare adequate seating and meals.

You can also RSVP by contacting the church office, **416-922-1167**
office@yorkminsterpark.com

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 4:30 pm

A beautiful service based on the tradition of King's College, Cambridge dating back to 1918, featuring the congregational singing of carols, anthems by our choir and nine short Bible readings which will be read by clergy from different denominations.

Doors open at 3:30pm. Admission is free, all are welcome.

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HEARTFELT GRATITUDE:

On behalf of Intricity, I wanted to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who attended Bells on Bank St. and Bells on Bay St. to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Ringing the BELLS. It was simply wonderful to have the support of Yorkminster Park, CBOQ, and CBM on this milestone occasion. This year was particularly special having Gordon Mackay as our Guest Speaker in Ottawa, Peter Holmes delivering our Prayer of Celebration in Toronto, and Neil Hetherington as a member of our esteemed Head Table in Toronto.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us ring the bells all year long.

- Alana Walker Carpenter



SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 11:00 A.M.

A hopeful and compassionate service designed for those who approach Christmas with the emotions of grief and loss in their hearts and minds.

There is a reception Cameron Hall immediately following the service.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24, 11:00 P.M.

This beautiful service with the choir concludes with sharing the flame from the Christ candle a few minutes after midnight.

The legendary actor, R.H. Thomson, will be our reader.



BUNDLE UP FOR **BETHLEHEM** **ON** Wednesday December 24 4:00 p.m. **YONGE**

**The Christmas Story
re-enacted in the park!**

Carol Singing, Cookies and
Hot Chocolate in Cameron Hall.

Dress warmly!



BETHLEHEM ON YONGE

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED!

We could use **guides** and **angels** and **shepherds**, **a few wise men**, but **roaming camels and a donkey in particular!** We also need some help in Cameron Hall with serving our many visitors.

Being involved with Bethlehem on Yonge is a wonderful way to get to know many people in the church all at once and we always have a lot of fun. If you are new to the church please do not hesitate to call me and get involved because **all are welcome!**

Please contact the Rev. Paula Willis at pwillis@yorkminsterpark.com

WALKING TOGETHER SATURDAYS IN ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29 TO DECEMBER 20

During Advent our weekday email devotional, *Walking Together*, is expanded to include Saturdays.



**Guest contributor
December 20th
The Rev. Dr. Chris
Stefanidis**
Pastor, Centennial Park
Baptist Church,
Grimsby, Ontario

Subscribe Today! www.yorkminsterpark.com

WATCH NIGHT SERVICE

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 11:15 P.M.**

The Watchnight Service provides the opportunity to review the year that has passed, make confession and prepare for the year ahead by making new commitments.

The service ends shortly after midnight.

CELEBRATE WITH US ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT YORKMINSTER PARK

Saturday, December 20

11:00 a.m. Service of Comfort and Hope

Sunday, December 21 - Advent IV

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching
Family Christmas Sunday Service

**4:30 p.m. Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols**

Ecumenical Readers

Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Bethlehem on Yonge

The Christmas Story re-enacted
in the park

**11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching
Reader, R.H. Thomson

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes preaching
Sacrament of Communion

Sunday, December 28

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Rev. Paula Willis preaching

Wednesday, December 31 - New Years Eve

11:15 p.m. Watchnight Service

Rev. Paula Willis preaching

We are delighted to have you worshipping with us!

Thank you for joining us in person and online

Stay Connected: Please [share your email address](#) to receive emails about life at Yorkminster Park. Your information is confidential and will not be shared with others.

Accessibility: Large-print Bibles and calendars, hearing assistance and a limited number of wheelchairs are available upon request. If you require assistance, please ask an usher.

Offerings and Donations

There are a number of ways to make offerings or donations to the church.



In Person

Place your gifts in the collection plate during services or special events.



By Mail

Send your offering by cheque to the church office.



Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)

Regular monthly offering directly from your bank.



Scan the QR Code

It will take you directly to our [CanadaHelps](#) page.



Online

Visit our website yorkminsterpark.com > Give



Tap to Give

Use our **TipTap** machine. Please note that a tax receipt cannot be issued at this time.



Interact E-Transfer

Submit your offering to transactions@yorkminsterpark.com

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

In the prayerful hope of true reconciliation and healing, we acknowledge the land we are meeting on has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to live, work and worship on this land.

The Rev. Dr. J. Peter Holmes

Minister of the Congregation

The Rev. Paula Willis

Minister of Pastoral Care
and Discipleship

Mr. William Maddox

BMus, FTCL, FCAM
Organist and Director of Music

Ms. Leticia Limgenco

Interim Director of
Family Ministries

Ms. Ahmeda Mansaray-Richardson

Director of Mission and Community Engagement

The Rev. John Torrance

Minister Emeritus, Pastoral Care



Hymns – December 21st 2025 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

***ProceSSIONal Hymn 81** - Once in royal David's city

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed :
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth
from heaven who is God and
Lord of all, and his shelter was
a stable, and his cradle was a
stall ; with the poor and mean
and lowly lived on earth our
Saviour holy.

* 3 And through all his
wondrous childhood he would
honour and obey, love and
watch the lowly maiden, in
whose gentle arms he lay :
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient, good as he.

* 4 For he is our childhood's
pattern, day by day like us he
grew, he was little, weak, and
helpless, tears and smiles like
us he knew ; and he feeleth
for our sadness, and he
shareth in our gladness.

5 And our eyes at last shall
see him, through his own
redeeming love, for that child
so dear and gentle is our Lord
in heaven above ; and he leads
his children on to the place
where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly
stable, with the oxen standing
by, we shall see him ; but in
heaven, set at God's right
hand on high ; where like
stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

***Congregational Hymn 45 - O come, o come, Emmanuel**

1 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.*

2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny ;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave :

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here ;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight :

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home ;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery :

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe :

***Congregational Hymn 79 - O little town of Bethlehem**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
- 3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

***Congregational Hymn 89 - While shepherds watched**

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind) ;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord ;
and this shall be the sign :

4 'the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5 Thus spake the seraph ; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song :

6 'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace ;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.'

***Congregational Hymn 66 - Hark! The herald angels sing**

1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies ;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb !
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see :
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace !
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness !
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

***Recessional Hymn 83 - See amidst the winter's snow**

1 See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years!

Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!

Hail, redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem:

Christ is born in Bethlehem!

2 Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
he who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim!

* 3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

* 4 'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"
told us of a Saviour's birth.'

5 Sacred Infant, all divine,
what a tender love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!