

St. Cyprian's Anglican Church & Iona Presbyterian Church

1080 Finch Ave East, Toronto, Ontario

Telephone: 416-494-2442

Church office hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship by Zoom and in person 10:30 a.m.



**Advent 3,
December 14, 2025**

Minister: Every member of the congregation

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. John Oakes

Email: revdrjohnoakes@outlook.com

Phone: (647) 219-5754

Rector's Warden: Carol Berger

People's Warden: Stacey Leslie

Iona Elders: Marg Black, Dorine Bourque, Melissa Reid

Director of Music: Laura Hope

Office Administrator: Bob Williams

Lay Assistant: Mary Nagrani

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2897790104?omn=83067962618>

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104

No Passcode Needed

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands of the Mississauga. We acknowledge this territory's significance for the Indigenous peoples who lived, and continue to live, upon it and whose practices and spiritualities were tied to the land and continue to develop in relationship to the territory and its other inhabitants today.

Cell Phones

Please ensure that your cell phone is switched off or set to "airplane" mode to conserve the wifi service for our Zoom broadcast. Many thanks!

**Advent 3,
December 14, 2025. 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion (BAS)
Hymns are from *Common Praise***

Presider and Preacher: Rev. Dr. John Oakes

Welcome

The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn: *Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth* (Tune: #155)

**1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
and manifest thy virgin-birth:
let every age adoring fall;
such birth befits the God of all.**

**2. Begotten of no human will,
but of the Spirit, thou art still**

the Word of God, in flesh arrayed,
the Saviour, now to us displayed.

3. From God the Father he proceeds,
to God the Father back he speeds,
runs out his course to death and hell,
returns on God's high throne to dwell.

4. O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now,
the weakness of our mortal state
with deathless might invigorate.

5. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
and darkness glow with new-born light,
no more shall night extinguish day,
where love's bright beams their power display.

6. O Jesu, virgin-born, to thee
eternal praise and glory be,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

(Author: St. Ambrose; Translator: J. M. Neale; Copyright: Public Domain)

Presider: 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!

Presider: Let us pray. 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison

Presider: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Presider: Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Presider: Let us pray. 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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath — Mary Nagrani

We have already lit the first two candles on the Advent Wreath, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude.

In Romans 15:13, the apostle Paul prays for his readers: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

The third candle is lit.

Let us pray. Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. May our

hearts be transformed that we may walk in the light of Christ, in whose precious name we pray. **Amen.**

Wreath Lighting Hymn: *Light One Candle* (Natalie Sleeth) (vv. 1–3)

**1. Light one candle for peace One bright candle for peace
Christ brings peace to every heart He comes, He comes**

**2. Light one candle for hope One bright candle for hope
Christ brings hope to every heart He comes, He comes**

**3. Light one candle for joy One bright candle for joy
Christ brings Joy to every heart He comes, He comes**

(Hinshaw Music, 1976)

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: James 5:7-10 – Janet Mitchener

Reader: The first reading is from the fifth chapter of the Epistle of James, beginning at the seventh verse.

⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn #362: *Tell Out My Soul* (vv. 1–2)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11 – Mary Nagrani

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the eleventh chapter of St. Matthew, beginning at the second verse.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” ⁴ Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” ⁷ As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus

Gradual Hymn #362: *Tell Out My Soul* (vv. 3–4)

Sermon: “Who Is the Greatest?”

Choir Anthem: "*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*"

(Charles Wesley, Lani Smith & Rowland H. Prichard)

The Apostles' Creed

Presider: 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 God 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.**

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"
O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Intercessor: O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

People: **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

Intercessor: O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Intercessor: O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.

People: Lord Jesus, come soon!

Presider: Come Lord, and forgive us our sins.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;

All: In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Presider: 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.

Please stand

The Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

You are invited to greet those around you in the name of Christ.

Offertory Hymn #98: *Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes* (Tune: #224)

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Communion 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; we 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.

All (sung): #735)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: We praise you, merciful Father, not as we ought, but as we are able, because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son, in order that the world might be saved through him. He made you known by taking the form of a servant, healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost. Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross, he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever. In his offering of himself, he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children; by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you. On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them, and said, "Take and 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." In obedience to him and with grateful hearts we approach your holy table,

remembering our Saviour's sacrifice, and rejoicing in his victory.
Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Presider: Send your Holy Spirit on us that as we receive this bread and this cup we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving. May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love, and strengthened in our will to serve others; and make of our lives, we pray, a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you, knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(“Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer” from *Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer Supplementary to The Book of Alternative Services*. ABC Publishing, 2001.)

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider: 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.

Presider: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

All (sung): #745

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

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

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

Communion Hymn: *In Christ Alone*

Verse 1

**In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm**

**What heights of love what depths of peace, When fears are stilled when
strivings cease My Comforter my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand**

Verse 2

**In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live**

Verse 3

**There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

Verse 4

**No guilt in life no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny**

**No power of hell no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

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Prayer after Communion

Presider: Merciful God, may this eucharist help free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider: 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 forever and ever, Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

Presider: The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn #88: *Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*

Dismissal

Presider: Alleluia! Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to St. Cyprian's and Iona, as we continue our combined worship and ministry at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. After today's service, we invite everyone to join a joint fellowship time together in the Iona space.

Noon Meditation

The **Wednesday meditation meets** with David Rudd and others at **12 noon** on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9321564941?pwd=QmhLdDZ6ekQ2a1FLMmRWK2tXU0F0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 932 156 4941

Passcode: 1080

Friday Zoom Bible Study

Rev. John's **weekly Zoom Bible Study, which meets on Fridays at 7 p.m., on Zoom continues our series on "David: Developing a Heart for God." All are welcome to join at any time.**

The link for the Zoom study is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8517044556>

Meeting ID: 851 704 4556

You can also join the meeting by phone on 647-374-4685 or 647-558-0588.

Memorial Flowers

We will be purchasing memorial flowers for the Christmas services for both St. Cyprian's and Iona.

If you would like to remember someone in this way, **please donate by Sunday, December 14.** On your donation envelope, please clearly print the following information:

- 1) Your name or family name (i.e., how you wish it to appear in the bulletin)
- 2) The name(s) of those you wish to remember/honour.

If preferred, write-ups may be emailed to Stacey at:

Stacey.leslie.2993@gmail.com

Christmas Food Donations

As the holiday season approaches, **we would like to help others in need through food donations.**

Brenda Haddock, who volunteers at the Scott Mission, and **Stacey Leslie**, who volunteers at the St. Paul's Food Bank in Pickering, **will be collecting food donations on the following Sundays:**

November 30, December 7 and December 14

Scott Mission needs: Fresh produce, cookies, chocolate, and bakery treats

St. Paul's Food Bank needs: cans of chickpeas, cooking oil, canned fruit, canned meats, crackers, cookies and juice

Any help is always appreciated if you would like to contribute.

Please talk to Brenda or Stacey if you have any questions. Thank you.

Ministry Opportunities

There are **ministry opportunities** in a number of **different areas**, for which **volunteers are welcome**. To help, **please contact Rev. John or one of the St. Cyprian's wardens or Iona elders**

Happy Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Carol Berger | Dec 16 |
| Yervant Weingarten | Dec 16 |
| Joyce Elliot | Dec 17 |
| Norma Halstead | Dec 18 |

**Happy birthday, Happy birthday, God loves you.
Happy birthday and may all your dreams come true.
When you blow out the candles, one light stays aglow.**

It is the love light of our Lord for all to know.