

# St. Cyprian's Anglican Church & Iona Presbyterian Church

1080 Finch Ave East, Toronto, Ontario

Telephone: 416-494-2442

St. Cyprian's Website: [stcyprianschurch.ca](http://stcyprianschurch.ca)

Iona's Website: [tri-church.ca/iona](http://tri-church.ca/iona)

Church office hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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



## Epiphany Sunday January 4, 2025

Minister: Every member of the congregation

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

Email: [revdrjohnoakes@outlook.com](mailto: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

## Zoom Link for Sunday Worship

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

Or call: 647 374 4685 or 647 558 0588

Meeting ID: 289 779 0104

No Passcode

## **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 be sure that your cell phone is switched off or set to airplane mode to conserve the WiFi service for our Zoom broadcast. Thank you.

**Holy Communion**  
**(Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* and "Worship Planner")**  
**Hymns are from *The Book of Praise*, unless otherwise noted**

**Presider: Rev. Dr. John Oakes**

**Celebrant and Preacher: Rev. Kathy Brownlee**

## **Welcome**

**Processional Hymn #173:   *We Three Kings***

## **Responsive Call to Worship**

Presider: The light shines in the darkness,

**All:           We come to worship, seeking the peace of Christ.**

Presider: Shine into our lives and your world this Epiphany season.

**All:           Renew in us Jesus' call to share his light this day.**

## **Prayer of Adoration**

Presider: God of power and might, grace and love, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joy and sorrow, manifesting your greatness in the child in the manger. So we praise you for your love which is great enough to

embrace the universe, yet close enough to enter our hearts. Fill us with your Holy and life-giving Spirit that we, with the rest of the church and the whole creation, may praise and adore you, O God, our Creator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

In recalling all that God is and does, we also become aware of who we are and what we have done. So, we join together to confess our sins:

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All:            God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and to reveal your love to all people. We confess that our many sins against you and one another, which can hide the brightness of your light. We waste our gifts, we ignore the cries of the needy, and we do not strive for peace. In your mercy, forgive us our sins, we pray, and cleanse us from unrighteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

**Presider:    Be assured of God's love and forgiveness. Begin again with God and with one another and be at peace. Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

**All:           And also, with you.**

**Presider:    Let us offer each other a sign of peace.**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

### **Prayer For Illumination**

**Presider:    God of this season of light, we long to hear your Word and wisdom in fresh and transforming ways. Open our ears to the call of your voice. Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day. Open our hearts to a new way of living. Amen.**

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

Reader: The first reading is taken from the sixtieth chapter of the Book of Isaiah, beginning at the first verse.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 72: 1–7, 10–14**

Presider: 1. Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;

**People: 2 That he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

Presider: 3. That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**People: 4. He shall defend the needy among the people;  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

Presider: 5. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**People: 6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

Presider: 7. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be  
abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more . . .

**People: 10. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute,**

**and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.**

Presider: 11. All kings shall bow down before him,  
and all the nations do him service.

**People: 12. For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress,  
and the oppressed who has no helper.**

Presider: 13. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor;  
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

**People: 14. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and  
violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.**

Presider: Let us pray. O God, bring our nation and all nations to a  
sense of justice and equity, that poverty, oppression, and  
violence may vanish and all may know peace and plenty. We  
ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Gradual Hymn CP#712: Alleluia** (chorus x2)

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 2: 1–12** Marg Black

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

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

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> ‘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.’” <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> 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.”<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Gradual Hymn CP#712: *Alleluia* (chorus x2)**

**Sermon: "Following God's Signs" Rev. Kathy Brownlee**

**Choir Anthem: "*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom*" (Ruth Duck)**

### **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 Intercession

*Each Prayer will end with this response:*

Presider: Lord in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

*The prayers will end as follows:*

Presider: Merciful Father,

**All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Invitation to the Offering

Presider: When we gather as God's church, we also offer financial gifts in Jesus' name. Now is our opportunity to do so, so that God will be praised and Jesus' love will be spread in this generation and in those to come.

**Offertory Hymn #172: As with Gladness Men of Old**

## Prayer of Dedication

Celebrant: God, our Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts in gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless them with growth so that peace will take root in people who face conflict and danger, and in places seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be their peace and their promise, we pray, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

Celebrant: Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. People will come from east and west, and from north and south and sit at table in the Kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's Table. Our Saviour invites all those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared. O taste and see that the Lord is good.

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving 1

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: In your Son Jesus Christ the Word became flesh, giving us a vision of your glory, that all people might be brought out of darkness into your marvellous light. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all who have served you in every age,



**All: we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:**

**Sung (CP#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.**

**Celebrant:** God of majesty and mercy, blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Sent to be our Saviour, he delivered us from sin and death, bringing us abundant life through his courage and compassion. Dying on the cross, he gave up his life so that we might live. By raising him to new life, you promise us life everlasting. Ascended to your right hand, he spreads his mercy throughout your whole creation. We thank you that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood. Do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we take this bread and this cup and give you praise and thanksgiving.

**All: Dying, you destroyed our death.  
Rising, you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

**Celebrant:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and wine, that we, and all who share this feast, may be one with Christ and he with us. Here we offer ourselves to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. In your mercy, accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Fill us with the joy of eternal life, that we may be your faithful people until we feast with you in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, Almighty God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.  
1 Cor. 10: 17

When we break the bread, it is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
1 Cor. 10: 16

When we bless the cup, it is a sharing in the blood of Christ.  
1 Cor. 10: 16

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Communion:** *All who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour are welcome to receive Communion. It will be administered to you, as you remain seated— first the bread, which we will all consume together after it has been distributed, then the cups, which we will also drink together.*

**Communion Hymn: #174: *Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness***

### Prayer after Communion

Presider: Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit, you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal. We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it. We have seen your love, so send us out to show it. We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it. And let all things be done for your glory, in Jesus' name.  
**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## Announcements

### Benediction

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn #170: *What Star Is This?*

Presider: Alleluia! Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome!

**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 resumes** with David Rudd and others  
**at 12 noon on January 7:**

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

Meeting ID: 932 156 4941

Passcode: 108

### Friday Zoom Bible Study

Rev. John's **weekly Zoom Bible Study, which meets on Fridays at 7 p.m., on Zoom resumes our** series on "David: Developing a Heart for God" on **January 9**.  
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.

### **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 elder**

### **"Thank You" Message from Sandra Baker**

**Thank you** to all my "church family" for the card, cake and all your good wishes you gave me following the Lesson & Carol service on December 21.

I know in the future I shall drop in to see and visit with you.

St. Cyprians and Tri -Church have been so much a part of "*almost my life*"

It shall feel strange not being with you. Many Blessings to all of you along with best wishes for a Very Happy and Healthy 2026.

**Sincerely ,**

Sandra Baker

### **Happy Birthdays**

Ebube Ekeanyanwu      December 7    (2015)

Ethel Ekeanyanwu      December 8

Sandra Baker            December 11

**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's the love light of our Lord for all to know.**