

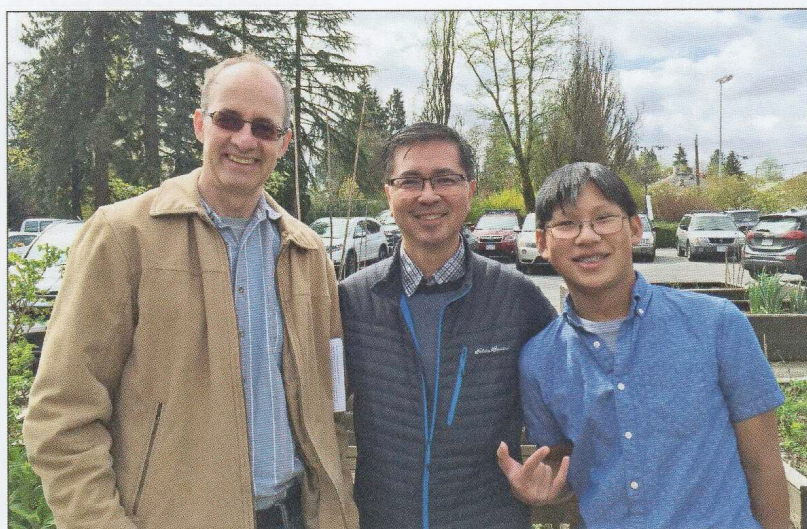
ST. CLEMENT'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Anchored in Lynn Valley. Come journey with us!

Welcome to our church

St. Clement's Anglican Church is a friendly faith community, active in Lynn Valley since 1908.

We welcome a diversity of thought, background, and life experience. Please feel free to bring with you your questions, your hopes, your doubts and your dreams. Together, we seek to know God better and to follow the way of Christ.



We hope this booklet provides a helpful introduction to our worship service and our mission in the community.





New to the whole thing? We hope you'll soon feel at home

Most of our service is contained in our weekly bulletin, and the hymns are generally drawn from the blue book in your pew. If you're a newcomer, aspects of the service may be unfamiliar to you. Please don't let that worry you!

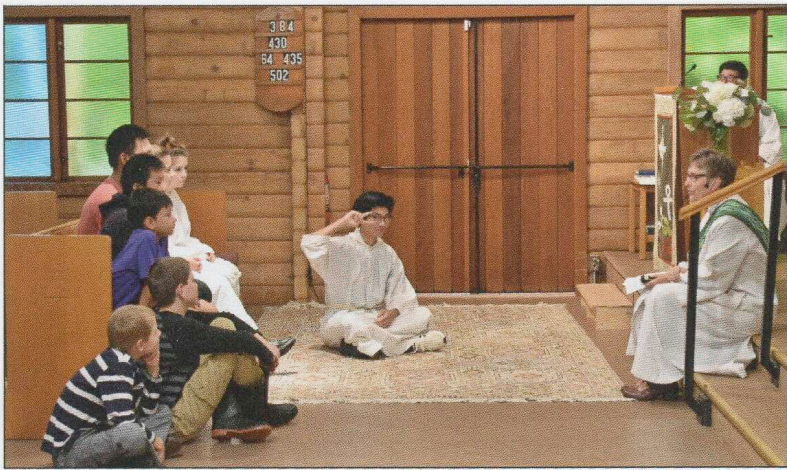
Some of our hymns or prayers might appeal to you immediately. Some gain in resonance the more you hear them. People have been gathering around Christ's communion table and praying some of these words together for centuries; we are taking part in a tradition that extends far beyond anything that any one person can absorb all at once!

In worship, we acknowledge the mystery of faith. There are some things we will never fully understand with our heads - but when we engage in ritual, prayer, and life together in community, God finds a way to our hearts.

Psst! Just so you know:

We have a hearing loop system to assist those who use hearing aids.

Washrooms are downstairs, off the corridor on the far side of the hall. If you have questions or accessibility needs, please ask our greeters for assistance - they are happy to help.



Come one, come all



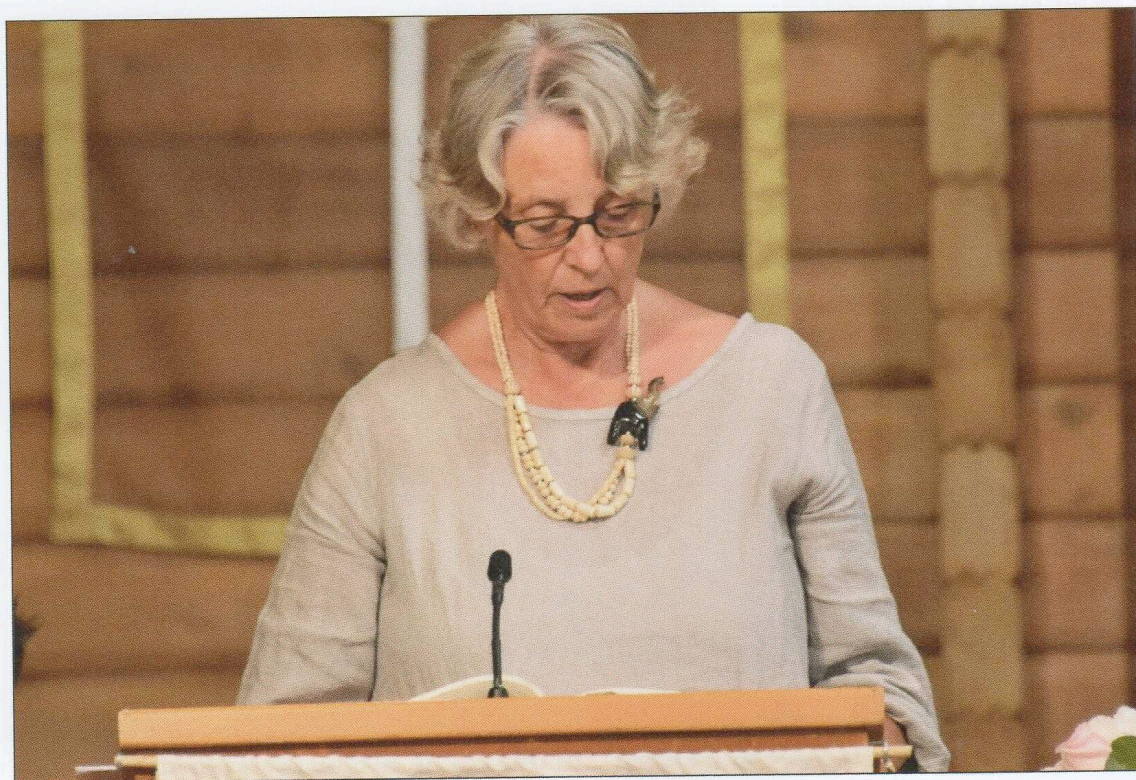
Our Sunday morning service begins with a hymn and opening prayers that help to gather our thoughts and focus our attention on God's presence amongst us. We include a variety of musical styles in our singing, from traditional to contemporary.

We also give a special welcome to the youth amongst us before they go downstairs for Sunday School. Some of our young people prefer to stay upstairs to take part in worship or to assist as readers, servers or candle bearers. Please don't be concerned if your baby or toddler makes noise during the service - but if you would rather listen to the service in more comfortable surroundings, a glassed-in nursery room at the back of the church is there for you to use as you wish.

We listen to the Word

Next come readings from both the Hebrew scriptures (the "Old Testament") and the New Testament, including letters written to the earliest Christian churches and stories from the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. These narratives have provided inspiration, sparked wonder, and given hope for thousands of years. The words of the ancient texts don't necessarily provide easy or immediate answers. We can, however, train our hearts and minds to listen for what the Spirit is saying to the Church, and to each one of us. In doing so we find a message that is life-affirming, faithful, and relevant to the context of our own lives.

When reading the Bible, we keep in mind Jesus's reminder that our thoughts and actions should be based on the Golden Rule - to love God and to love our neighbour. If we read the Bible through that lens, we can't go far wrong!



Did you know? The scripture readings for each week are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three-year cycle of Biblical excerpts that walk us through the stories of our faith. That means that every Sunday morning, millions of Christians worldwide are listening to the same sacred texts!



The Psalms

We also speak or sing a Psalm. The Psalms were sung by the Hebrew people for hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

They express a whole range of human emotions, from despair, to anger at God or others, to joy for God's love and protection, to anxieties about death or conflict, to gratitude for blessings.

Between them, the 150 Psalms remind us that it is okay to bring ALL our feelings to God - we don't have to "clean up" our prayers for God's sake!

We Listen to the Word

Next come readings from both the Old Testament (the 'Old Testament') and the New Testament, including letters from some of the earliest Christian churches and stories from the lives of Jesus. These readings have provided people with spiritual support and guidance for centuries.



The Gospel

You'll notice that the Gospel is normally read by our deacon, from the centre aisle of the church. This symbolizes the deacon's role as the bridge between the church and the world beyond its walls. By hearing Gospel accounts about Christ's life and ministry, Christ's love for the outcast, and Christ's desire that all be treated as the beloved children of God, we are reminded that as Christians our task is to emulate Jesus and to work for good in our homes, communities, schools and job sites.

Did you know? The word 'gospel' is from Old English 'god+spel' meaning 'good news!'

The Sermon



We then hear what the preacher has to say! In our church, the sermon is given by the priest, deacon, or a guest preacher. The sermons are about 15 minutes long, and help us reflect on some aspect of the scripture readings we have just heard.

We value having different voices and viewpoints presented to us from the pulpit. The sermon is often followed by a few moments of silence so we can bring our own thoughts to what we have heard. After the service, our preachers are always interested to hear your own perspective on the matter.

Our sermons are archived on the members' section of the St. Clement's website for future listening.



I believe...

The Creed

We stand to say together to say the Creed. In doing so we participate in a story that has gathered Christians together since the early days of the church. There are three ancient, authorized Creeds of the church, each emphasizing slightly different aspects of the Christian narrative. Each has paved the way for differently worded Affirmations of Faith that have sprung from the hearts and minds of Christians ever since.

We don't all share the same understanding of Jesus's life, death and resurrection; we say the Creed not to convey historical facts, but to celebrate spiritual realities. Fortunately, the richness of language and metaphor allow us to enter the story in our own way. And it is common for a person's perspective on the Creed to shift over the course of their faith journey!

Prayers of the People

Each week, a member of the congregation leads us in prayer. You are welcome to stand, sit or kneel during this time.

We take this opportunity to thank God for blessings, remember those who struggle, and pray for current concerns in the world around us. People are given space in which to offer their own prayers, either aloud or in the silence of their hearts.



The Confession and Absolution

Next we pause to remember our own shortcomings. We ask for forgiveness and for the will to follow God more closely.

This Confession concludes with an absolution from our priest, assuring us of God's forgiveness. Choosing to forgive others and ourselves is also necessary for wholeness and healing.



The Peace

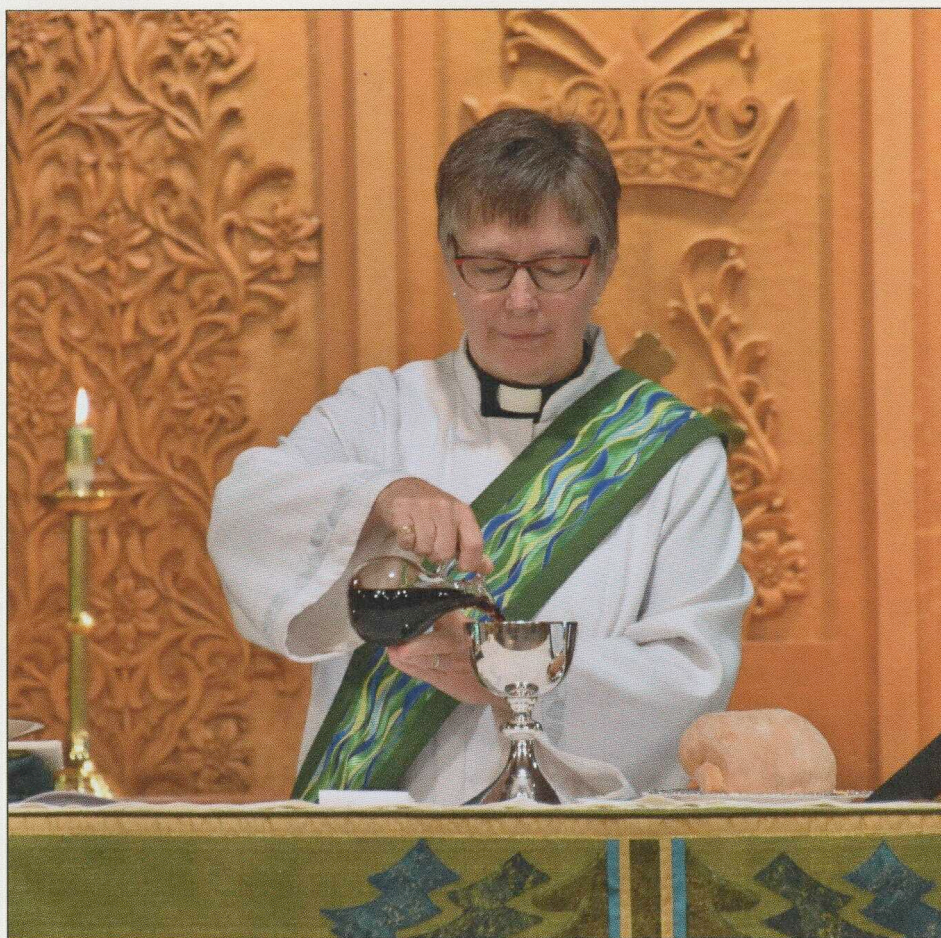
Early Christians were instructed not to come to the Communion table if they were bearing ill will against someone. They were advised to settle their differences first, and then partake of the sacred meal in harmony with the other members of their church community.

We continue this tradition with the symbolic "passing of the peace." We shake hands or offer another sign of Christ's peace to prepare our hearts to approach the table.

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you....
Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."*

-John 14:27

During the Offertory Hymn, a collection plate is passed for those who wish to make a donation. Your gift helps further the spiritual and charitable work of the church and helps us maintain our presence here in Lynn Valley.



At this time, the deacon prepares the Communion table for the Celebration of the Eucharist. After the hymn, the collection is brought forward and offered to God along with a prayer of grateful thanks.



The Eucharist

The Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion, is the central act of our worship gathering.

At the Eucharist we place ourselves in spirit with Jesus and his friends as they gathered at the Last Supper before his crucifixion. The Gospels tell us that Jesus blessed the bread and wine, then asked his disciples to remember him when they shared such meals together in the future.

In the Eucharistic prayer, the priest consecrates (makes holy) the bread and wine, which symbolize the body and blood of Jesus.

The Eucharist is a "come as you are" gathering. God accepts us just as we are, warts and all. We bring both the wonders and sorrows of our lives to the table, and we seek spiritual strength and renewal by partaking in the Eucharist.

Did you know? The word "Eucharist" comes from an ancient Greek term meaning "thanksgiving."



All are welcome at the table

Jesus was not the type to turn people away! If you are moved to share in the bread and wine, you are welcome to do so. Some people prefer to come to the Communion rail and receive a blessing instead (just cross your arms over your chest if that's the case). Other people may prefer to stay in their pew during the Eucharist, and that's OK, too.

We have gluten-free wafers for those who need them; please just ask. Some people prefer not to take any alcohol - just indicate if you do not wish to partake. The cup of blessing is given for all, whether or not we physically drink from it.



The Blessing and Dismissal

After the Eucharist we pray "Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

The priest concludes the service by blessing all present, and the deacon dismisses the congregation with a final reminder that it is our job to be God's heart and hands in the wider world, seeking to be agents of healing and peace.

St. Clement's ministries: Anglicans in action

We would be doing something wrong if "Christianity" was only something we did on Sunday mornings.

Our job is to live out our faith in the wider world, seeking to serve others in ways large and small - especially those who are vulnerable, isolated, sorrowing, or struggling. We are also called to be good stewards of God's creation, protecting the Earth and all who call this planet home.

In worship and in our own prayers and contemplation, we ask for the vision and courage to bring about a world in which all are treated as beloved children of God.



Good times...

Parish dinners and BBQs, youth gatherings, Friday night Appy Hours and other community-building festivities take place throughout the year.

We love to celebrate baptisms for all ages, and weddings for all couples.

We also enrich our faith and relationships through discussion groups and Bible study.



And hard times...

St. Clement's is here to support you through life transitions, illness and loss.

If you have a death in the family, we can work with you to plan a meaningful memorial or funeral for your loved one.



Would you like to learn more about us?

Parish community announcements are made near the close of the service, and all are invited to come downstairs to enjoy conversation and refreshment at Coffee Hour.

You can also stay in touch by:

- * Signing up for our weekly e-newsletter. Please give us your email address or subscribe on our website.
- * Signing the visitor's book at the back of the church and requesting a visit or phone call from our clergy.
- * Visiting our website regularly: www.stclementschurch.ca

*Thank you for visiting us.
We look forward to knowing you better!*



Welcome to St. Clement's

A parish within the Anglican Diocese of New Westminster

3400 Institute Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7K 2K9

www.StClementsChurch.ca
604-988-4418

Please borrow this book if you like,
and return it when you are ready.

Our thanks to Kath Biebrich and other contributing photographers