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The Very Rev. Ansley Tucker, Diocesan Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher, Interim Priest

***"Together in Christ
we seek to love God and
to love and serve all others"***

December 20, 2020

Advent 4

Sunday Virtual Worship Service



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

We recognize that we worship on the traditional lands of Coast Salish peoples. We commit ourselves to continue with our First Nations neighbours on the journey of healing, truth and reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher presides & preaches.

Organ prelude - Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: Good morning. As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and Esquimalt nations, on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and the water, the plants, and the animals, through the many generations.

As we meet, we remember those who have called this place their home in recent years—the community of faith known as Church of the Advent. Let us share our hope, your faith, and our joy, together, in signs of welcome.

Welcome: Welcome to this service of worship on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. My name is Paul Schumacher, and I am the interim priest-in-charge here at the Church of The Advent, during this time of transition.

We invite you to come and join our readers, prayer leaders, music director and choir members, along with our technical team, as we offer prayer and praise to our Creator. Come, come with your doubts, your strengths, your weaknesses, and your fears, for God loves us all and all are welcome in this space.

Scripture Sentence of the Day: Scripture shares with us, “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.”

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Today, we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath. The candle of Love. Please join us as leads us in prayer.

Invitation: We come to the last week of the season of Advent and gather around a wreath to light candles. The wreath reminds us of the circle of our human community and the lights illuminate the many ways in which we bring ourselves to the Incarnation, God’s longed-for presence among us — human and holy, Emmanuel — God with us and God coming to us.

Scripture: John 1:9, 12 a, 14a

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world ... But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God ... and the Word became flesh and lived among us ...

Lighting the Candle and Illuminating the Festivities of Joy:

Light one purple/blue candle and gently touch the Bible.

We light this candle for the Christmas story that shines hope. on our lives

Light the second purple/blue candle.

We light this candle to shine on places that bring us peace, including this church, and the people and places in the world that need peace this day

Light the pink candle.

We light this candle to celebrate the generosity and festivity of this season and hold in tenderness and care feelings of loss and loneliness.

Light the third purple/blue candle.

We light this candle to name the human loving into which Jesus Christ was born.

Unison Prayer: Emmanuel, we celebrate love that illuminates all of our lives. We love so many around us, those who are living, those who have died, those we will meet tomorrow or next week or next year, those we may never meet. Bless each of them and keep our hearts open to the extravagance of loving that you offer us, through the Word made flesh, Jesus. Amen.

Opening Hymn: CP 362 “Tell Out my Soul”

(text: Song of Mary; Timothy Dudley-Smith {1926-} Para. © 1962, renewal 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Walter Greated {1877-1949}; desc. David Iliff {1939-}; alternate harmony Derek Homan {1931-}. Melody and Harmony © Oxford University Press. Desc © Hope Publishing Company)

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Un-numbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God, my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name – the Lord, the mighty one.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children’s children and forever more.

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

Act of Praise: A Prayer (*from the Lutheran prayer book*)

Please join me in the spirit of this prayer:

Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that we willingly may be the vessels of your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day: Heavenly Father, **you chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with Mary, we may rejoice in your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat @ the Chancel:

Song: The Wise May Bring Their Learning (Anon 1880 ©Public Domain)

The wise may bring their learning,
The rich may bring their gold;
And some may bring their greatness,
And glories new and old;
We too would bring our treasures
To offer to the King.
We have no wealth nor wisdom;
What shall we children bring?

We'll bring him hearts that love from,
We'll bring him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving
To walk in holy ways.
And these shall be the treasures
We offer to the King,
And these the gifts that even
The poorest child may bring.

We'll bring the little duties,
We have to do each day,
We try our best to please him
At home, at school, at play.
And better are these treasures
To offer to our King,
Then richest gifts without them,
Yet these a child may bring.

Canticle: 18 (BAS Pg. 86)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *

for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

For the Word of God is scripture,
For the Word of God is among us,
For the Word of God is within us,
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: CP #130 “Born in the Night”

(Words and melody: Geoffrey Ainger {1925 -}; Harmony: Richard D. Wetzel {1987 -}. Text and music ©1964 Stainer and Bell Ltd. Used with permission of Hope Publishing Company)

Born in the night, Mary's child,
a long way from your home:
Coming in need, Mary's child,
born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's child,
Your face lights up our way:
Light of the world, Mary's child,
Dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's child,
You tell us God is good:
Prove it is true, Mary's child.
Go to your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's child,
You're coming soon to reign:
King of the earth, Mary's child,
Walk in our streets again.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be

barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Dr. Paul Schumacher

Affirmation of Faith:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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 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.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People December 20, 2020

I will end each response with Come Lord Jesus
Please respond with **Hear our Prayer**

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, let your will be done with us according to your word, that we might be vessels of your Presence, and eager to pray.

Come Lord Jesus, **Hear our Prayer**

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, **hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially for Dianne, Sheila, Alice, Maureen, Barb, Mae, Dimas, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray for those who rejoice this week as they celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and personal milestones. We pray especially for the faith families that they might obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

O Christ, come upon us and anoint us; have mercy upon those who stand in awe of you in every generation, and hear our prayers; Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to share in his forgiveness. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray...

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.

Blessing:

May the peace of God which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God, our Creator,
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, And the Holy Spirit, our Comforter.
And may the blessing of the God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and
forever more. Amen.

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: "Mary Did You Know"

(©Hope Publishing Co.)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby
You kiss the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding
Is the great, the great I Am.
Ooh

Commissioning: Faithful God, in this time of waiting, watching and anticipation of the coming of your beloved Son, may we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will, and ever ready to share the joy of Your gift of the Christ-child, with all the world. We ask this in the name of Him who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

*Pray for Ansley our Diocesan Administrator, Anna our Bishop Elect,
& Paul our Interim Priest-In-Charge.*

*Pray for Holy Trinity, North Saanich - Penelope Kingham. Diocese of Kootenay.
In the Selkirk Region for Military Chaplaincies.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Today, we remember Dianne, Rick & Barb, Sheila, Alice, Carol Ann,
Joan, Maureen, Barb, Azeita, Margaret, Mae, Dimas, & Garry.
We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.*