



Diocese of New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



North Vancouver Regional Ministry *Joint* ***Service of Nine Lessons and Carols***

Churches participating in today's worship:

St. Agnes' Anglican Church

St. Catherine's Anglican Church

St. Clement's Anglican Church

St. John's Anglican Church

St. Martin's Anglican Church

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

North Vancouver regional churches recognize that we are on the unceded Coast Salish territories within the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh First Nations.

***A Message of Welcome From the
Venerable Stephen Muir***



Prelude

O Come O Come Emmanuel

sung by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Lighting of the Advent Candle *We sing verses 1,2,3 & 4 of the hymn.*

Hymn *Hope Is a Star*

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Refrain:

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

Refrain

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.**

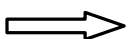
Refrain

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

Refrain

Waiting in Love

Last Sunday we lit the candle of joy. We light it and the candles of hope and peace again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.



The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love. God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back. God, in love, gives us everything we need to live a life of hope and peace.

The bible says that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus shows us God's perfect love.

This is what love is like: Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one. Love is never boastful or conceited, rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no records of wrongs, it does not gloat over other people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good, and the true. There is nothing that love cannot face, there is no limit to its faith, to its hope, to its endurance.

Love never ends. We light the candle of love to remind us that Jesus brings us God's love and shows us how to love others. Love is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray: Thank you God for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

All O God, come, travel with us through Advent. Give us the courage to spread love in the world. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word **Lesson 1 and Carol**

Read by The Venerable Stephen Muir.

Carol sung by St. John's Choir

God Creates Humankind

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

This is the list of the descendants of Adam. When God created humankind, he made them in the likeness of God. Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them 'Humankind' when they were created.

Genesis 1:26-31, 5:1b-2

Hymn *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming (CP 117)*

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when halfspent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Saviour,
when halfspent was the night.**

**This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendour
our darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death now save us
and share our every load.**

Lesson 2 and Carol

presented by St. Agnes' Anglican Church.

Read by Lizz

God's People are Comforted

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms,
 and carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn *What Child Is This (CP 137)*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
 while shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the king,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading.**

Refrain

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, peasant, king, to own him.
 The King of kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him.**

Refrain

Lesson 3 And Carol

presented by St. Catherine's Anglican Church.

Read by Deborah

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.

Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Isaiah 7:10-15

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem (CP 120)

**O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight**

**For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King
And peace to men on earth**



**How silently, how silently
 The wondrous Gift is given!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of God's 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**

**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
 Oh, come to us, abide with us
 Our Lord Emmanuel!**

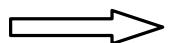
Lesson 4 and Carol

Presented by St. Clements Anglican Church.
 read by Sally

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him.



But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.'

Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary.

He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Luke 1:5-25

Hymn *The First Nowell (CP 139)*

**The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

Refrain:

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!**

**They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.**

Refrain

**And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

Refrain

Lesson 5 and Carol

Presented by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

read by Vida

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

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 for ever, 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.

Luke 1:26-38

Hymn *The Magnificat* (written by Marty Haugen)

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary.

The angel said to her, "Rejoice o highly favoured, for God is with you.

You shall bear a child and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High."

And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God. I live to do your will".

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here And blessed me all my life through.

Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, Strong is your kindness evermore.

How you favour the weak and lowly one, Humbling the proud of heart.

You have cast the mighty down from their thrones and uplifted the humble of heart.

You have filled the hungry with wondrous things and left the wealthy no part.

Great and mighty are you, O Faithful one. Strong is your justice, strong your love.

As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness for evermore.

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.

You have looked with love on your servant here and blessed me all my life through.

Lesson 6 and Carol

Presented by St. John's Anglican Church.
read by Kevin

Mary Visits Elizabeth

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Luke 1:39-56

Hymn *Hark the Herald Angels Sing (CP 138)*

**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!**

Refrain:

**Hark! the herald angels sing
 Glory to the new-born King!**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored
 Christ, the everlasting Lord
 Late in time behold him come
 Offspring of the Virgin's womb
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
 Hail the incarnate Deity
 Pleased as man with man to dwell
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

Refrain

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace
 Hail the Son of Righteousness
 Light and life to all He brings
 Risen with healing in His wings
 Mild He lay His glory by
 Born that man no more may die
 Born to raise each child of Earth,
 Born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

Lesson 7 and Carol

Presented by St. Martin's Anglican Church.

Read by Harold

The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,

praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (CP 136)*

**While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.**

**"Fear not, " said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all humankind."**

**"To you, in David's town this day,
Is born of David's line
a Savior who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:
The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid."**

**Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:**

**"All glory be to God on high
And on the earth be peace.
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."**

Lesson 8 and Carol

Presented by Mount Olivet Lutheran Church.

Read by Monika

Jesus Is Named

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'
And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Hymn *That Boy, Child of Mary (written by Tom Colvin)*

Refrain:

**That boy, child of Mary
was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle
in Bethlehem.**

**What shall we call him,
child of the manger?
What name is given
in Bethlehem?**

Refrain

**His name is Jesus,
God ever with us,
God given for us
in Bethlehem.**

Refrain

**How can he save us,
how can he help us,
born here among us
in Bethlehem?**

Refrain

**Gladly we praise him,
love and adore him,
give ourselves to him
of Bethlehem.**

Refrain

Lesson 9 and Carol

Read by The Reverend Peggy Trendell-Jensen.

Carol sung by St. John's Choir

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

Hymn *Joy to the World (CP 154)*

**Joy to The world! the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonder wonders of His love**



The Doxology

Leader

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.**

Blessing

Dismissal

The Reverend Peggy Trendell-Jensen

All

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

David Millard

