

## Iona Sunday Morning [no Eucharist]

We acknowledge that for thousands of years the Scia'new and other Coast Salish peoples have walked gently on the territories where we now live, work, worship and play. We seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect, and we thank them for their hospitality.

**Opening Hymn** CP117 Lo, How a rose er blooming *Allison*

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day,  
**To the rising of this life itself.**  
Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose,  
**The hand of God between us and each hand,**  
The pain of Christ between us and each pain,  
**The love of Christ between us and each love.**  
O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day,  
**Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent** *Linda and Ruth*

Voice 1: Let us pray.  
Let your light shine. Let your spirit soar. Throw open your mind.  
Hand over your heart. Here it comes - love.  
Voice 2: It shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows.  
It will not cower and cannot be contained.  
Voice 1: It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets.  
It was the fire in the belly of the Baptist, and the courage of Mary.  
Voice 2: Light in the window, beacon on the hill, star in the night sky.  
Love - lead us home.  
*Light the fourth Advent candle.*  
Voice 1: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light a candle for love.  
**All: We light a candle for love. May it light the way.**

**Advent Song** *Rachel*

*[Refrain]* Christmas is coming the church is glad to sing, and let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring.

The fourth is for the virgin, who mothered God's own son, and sang how God's justice was meant for everyone. *[Refrain]*

### Children's Time

*Wally*

Jesus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm god's promised presence, where his people live and care,  
**praise the God who keeps his promise, praise the Son who calls us friends,**  
**praise the spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends**

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of Life and Lord of All,  
sharer of our flesh and fairness, saving all who fail and fall.  
**Tell his holy human story, tell his tales that all may hear,  
tell the world that Christ in glory came to earth to meet us here.**

Jesus calls us to each other: found in him are no divides.  
Race and class and sex and language, such are barriers he derides.  
**Join the hands of friend and stranger, join the hands of age and youth, join  
the faithful and the doubter in their common search for truth.**

We gather in God's name,  
**We claim Christ's promised presence.**  
My sisters and brothers, not out of dread and fear,  
but believing that God is faithful to forgive,  
let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.  
*period of silence*

Holy God  
**Holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us. x3**

### ***Psalm***

*Rachel*

[REFRAIN] My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.  
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. [REFRAIN]  
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. [REFRAIN]  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. [REFRAIN]  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. [REFRAIN]  
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 forever. [REFRAIN]  
Glory to the Father, and the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

### ***Reading***

*Ruth B*

*For the first years of the Jesus movement the majority of the believers were Jews. In their  
scriptures (our Old Testament) prophets had written of one who would come and deliver  
them from all their oppressors. They believed that in Jesus the Jew this deliverer, this  
messiah, had arrived. This reading is the final three verses of Paul's letter to the Christ-  
community in Rome. He is specifically addressing gentiles, non-Jews, and he assures  
them that the good news of Jesus Christ is not, cannot be confined to one group of people.  
It is good news for all. We listen to Paul's final doxology, his praise to God in this reading  
from Romans.*

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

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.

This is the Word of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Gospel***

*Wally*

Let us greet the Gospel of Christ by calling out Alleluia.

**Alleluia!**

A reading from Luke 1:26-38

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.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Sermon***

*Wally*

### *An affirmation of faith*

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken,  
he descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,  
and his kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us, the holy spirit of pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the church, spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

### *Prayers of the People*

*Ruth*

### *Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Announcements**

**Closing Hymn** CP108 Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding *Shirley*

### *Blessing*

May the everlasting God shield us, east and west and wherever we go.  
And the blessing of God be upon us.  
**The blessing of the God of life.**  
The blessing of Christ be upon us,

**The blessing of the Christ of love.**

The blessing of the Spirit be upon us,

**The blessing of the spirit of grace.**

The blessing of the Trinity be upon us. Now and for evermore.

**Amen**

***Dismissal***

Let us go into the world rejoicing! It is Christ who goes before us.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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**Opening Hymn            CP 117 Lo How a Rose e'er Blooming**

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 half spent 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 half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,

dispel in glorious splendour the darkness everywhere;

true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

**Closing Hymn            CP108 Hark a Herald Voice is sounding**

Hark, a herald voice is sounding: "Christ is night" it seems to say.

"Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"

Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earthbound should arise;

Christ our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long specced, comes with pardon down from heaven;

let us all, with deep repentance, pray that we may be forgiven.

that when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,

with his mercy he may shield us, and with words of love draw near

Honour, glory, might and blessing to the Father and the Son,

with the everlasting Spirit, while eternal ages run.