



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

The First Sunday of Advent, December 5, 2021

“Look up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.” *Luke 21.28*

Welcome

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

VISITORS *Welcome!* We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

COMMUNION All are invited to receive communion. For your safety, only the bread will be shared. Be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion.

Gluten free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

10:00am Service

From the Book of Alternative Services

Presider & Preacher:	The Rev'd Canon Craig Hiebert
Ministers of Welcome:	Chris Moeckl, Mary Lawrence
Organist:	Curt Bergen
Musicians:	The St. Mary Singers

*Note: in the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

*Congregational singing is now permitted while wearing a mask indoors,
with or without outdoors this is in order to maintain the safety of all.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE & PROCESSION

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BWV661

WELCOME

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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

1: Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world.

2: How does this happen?

1: God's light comes through Jesus, who became a human being just like you and me, so that he could show us the way back to God's divine love and light.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

3: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah:

"The Lord said, 'I made a wonderful promise to Israel and Judah, and the days are coming when I will keep it. I promised that the time will come when I will appoint a king from the family of David, a king who will be honest and rule with justice. In those days, Judah will be safe; Jerusalem will have peace and will be named "The LORD Gives Justice."'"

1: Today, we wait for the coming of Jesus. We begin in the dark, and on this first Sunday of Advent, we light the first candle.

First candle is lit.

While this is being done, the following is read:

2: Every week in Advent, we will light another candle. Each candle that we light will remind us that the Light of the World will soon come to us in the human form of the baby Jesus.

The Kingdom of God is drawing near.

May we prepare our hearts with God's peace, God's justice, and God's love. Amen.

STILLNESS

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, ***give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Thessalonians 3. 9-13, Pauline Samoszynski

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25. 1-9

To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul;

***my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.***

Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

***Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.***

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

***Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.***

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

***Gracious and upright are you, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.***

You guide the humble in doing right
and teach your way to the lowly.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

GOSPEL HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night (96)

Music: Sarum plainsong, Mode 4; harm. John Henry Arnold (1887-1956).

Harm. © Oxford University Press.

1. Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesus, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.
2. Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst save our lost and guilty race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.

3. When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a maiden mother's womb.
4. At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees in lowly homage bow;
all things in heaven and earth adore,
and own thee King for evermore.
5. To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

GOSPEL

Luke 21. 25-36

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

Advent Carol, Alfred Fedak

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles Creed

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.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Pauline Samoszynski

Let us pray, seeking God's mind as we face the needs and concerns of our time:

Lord, show us your way *and teach us your paths.*

In your prayers this week remember the following: Those in need of healing and care, including Derek, Colin, Brynn, Dorothy, Kat, Mary, Carrie, Peter and Sandy. Our diocese of islands and inlets and for Anna, our Bishop, Lynn, our Metropolitan, and Linda, our Primate. The parish of St. Barnabas, Victoria and their clergy James Cowan. Diocese of New Westminster and Bishop John Stephens. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and Bishop Susan Johnson. In the Church further afield, pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi. Pray for all those whose lives have been disrupted by ongoing storms and flooding and storm damage. Pray for the continued work of all health care workers. Pray for the ongoing work of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

cf 1 Corinthians 4.5

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness

PEACE

The congregation stands

The Holy One comes to you in peace and love, that you may increase and abound in love.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Remaining in our places, we share physically-distant signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

OFFERTORY

Come Down, O Love Divine (645)

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). © Oxford University Press.

1. Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illuming.

3. Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become my inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps
with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of
human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till they become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

*The Book of Alternative Services, Eucharistic Prayer 3
with the Preface for Advent*

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh, and opened to us the way of salvation. Now we watch for the day when he will come again in power and great triumph to judge this world, that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

sung: 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

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

we remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory;

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

***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.***

Silence is held

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

***Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.***

The gifts of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow the direction of the greeters as they invite rows to receive communion. Please maintain a single flow: approach via the main aisle and return via the side aisles. If you do not wish to receive communion, but someone else in your aisle wishes to pass by you, please exit your pew temporarily to allow them to pass at a safe distance. You are also welcome to approach the presider for a blessing only—this is traditionally indicated simply by crossing your hands over your chest as you approach.

One of the ministers will bring the Bread out into the garden to serve those worshipping outside.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. ***Amen.***

AFFIRMATION

The congregation stands

Glory to God, ***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

HYMN

1. Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.
2. Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
all who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.
3. *Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending* (114)
Now redemption, long expected,
see in solemn pomp appear;
all his saints, on earth rejected;
thrilled the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!
4. Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Oh come quickly! Oh come quickly!
Oh come quickly!
Hallelujah ! Come, Lord, come!

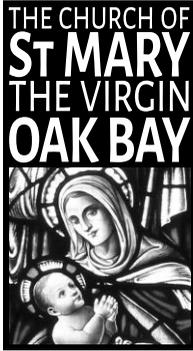
DISMISSAL

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Rhapsody on Helmsley (Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending), William Lloyd Webber*

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.



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