



510 Mt View Ave, Victoria V9B 2B1, 250-474-3031

www.colwoodanglican.ca | admin@colwoodanglican.ca

pschumacher@bc.anglican.ca

The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop

The Rev. Colleen Lissamer, Deacon

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

**Advent 4
December 19, 2021**



Sunday Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)
10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

Office Hours are Mon to Thurs, 9:00-Noon; **Closed Friday.**

Virtual Bible Study & Discussion Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

If you are a newcomer, please identify yourself to the Sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.

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.

The Rev. Deborah Rivet preaches & presides today.

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Book of Alternative Services, p. 185**

Liturgical Assistant is Mike Armstrong

Scripture readings are led by Dayle Robertson

Canticle and Prayers are led by Mike Armstrong

Candle lighting led by Mary Wills & Terry Mikkonen

Director of Music is Nell Howard

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: 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 water, the plants, and animals, through the many generations.

As we meet today, 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 greet one another with words and signs of welcome.

Hymn: CP# 341 “God of Mercy, God of Grace”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Where the Promise Shines

(A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan Music by Bob Moore, Setting by Joel Raney)

Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Promise of Peace

Responsive Litany (*congregation reads the bold text*)

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the silence to be broken,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the light that shines in the darkness,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

When we longed for the peace that surpasses understanding,

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son.

Candle Lighting:

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope granting strength to the weary. The **second candle** is the light of peace that surpasses our understanding. The **third candle** is the light of joy that touches the depths of our soul. The **fourth candle** reminds us of the light of God's love poured out in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Sung:

Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.

Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.

To a morning where the promise shines.

Closing Prayer: God of grace, you so loved the world that you gave

your one and only Son to all who believe. Jesus is the true gift of

Advent, shining forth your glory and grace. As the light has grown

brighter

through the season, we pray that you would shine forth the promise

of your hope, peace, joy, and love within our lives and within our

world. **Amen.**

Baptism:

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.

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

There is one body and one Spirit,

There is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One God and Father of all.

Collect: Stir up your power, Lord Jesus Christ, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, so we may receive you in joy, and serve you always, for you are blessed and live and reign with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

First Reading: *Micah 5:2-5a*

Canticle: 18a "The Song of Mary (*Luke 1:46-55*) Pg. 86

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Hymn of the Day: **VU#16 "Mary, Woman of the Promise"**

(Words: Mary Frances Fleisbaker {1988-}, Music: Alfred V. Fedak {1988-}, Words and Music © 1994 Selah Publishing Co. Inc.)

Mary, woman of the promise,
Bearer of your people's dreams,
Through your open, willing spirit
Waters of God's goodness streamed.

Mary, song of holy wisdom,
Sung before the world began,
Faithful to the Word within,
You carried out God's wondrous plan.

Mary, model of compassion,
Wounded by your offspring's pain,
When our hearts are torn by sorrow,
Teach us how to love again.

Mary, woman of the Gospel,
Precious home for treasured seed,
Help us to be true disciples,
Bearing fruit in word and deed.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-55*

Sermon: Rev. Deborah Rivet

Presentation & Examination of the Candidates: Rev. Colleen Lissamer

Prayers for the Candidates:

Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open her heart to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send her into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.

The Celebration of Baptism: Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Now sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who are here cleansed from sin and born again, may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant:

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

The Baptism:

The Giving of the Light:

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

Prayers of the People:

The Peace:

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Offertory Hymn: CP#342 “We Praise You, O God”

Prayer over the Gifts: Gracious God, **by the power of the Spirit who sanctified the mother of your Son, make holy all we offer you this day. We ask this in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #1: BAS Pg. 193

Lord’s Prayer: *(Sung)*

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.

Distribution of Communion:

Please stand in place at your chair, as you are able. The celebrant and the deacon, having sanitized hands and wearing face masks, will move from person to person, communicating each person with the bread only. There will be no direct touch between the communion administrator and each person. The wafer will be dropped onto your open hands using small stainless tongs. After you have received the blessed wafer, please be seated to indicate that you have received communion.

Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation. May we, like the Virgin Mary, be obedient to your will. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord, now and forever. Amen.

Shared Ministry:

Blessing:

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning Hymn: VU#7 “Hope is a Star”

(Words: Brian Wren {1985-}. Music: Joan Collier Fogg {1987-}. Words and Music copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Company.)

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***

Commissioning: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your ways and share your message of salvation with all peoples of every nation. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



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CHURCH OF THE ADVENT NEWSLETTER

Subscribe on our website at www.colwoodanglican.ca to receive our weekly newsletters and regular communications from the parish office. By subscribing, you will be kept informed about all things happening at Church of the Advent, as well as within our Anglican Diocese and greater Victoria community. Simply visit the home page and scroll down until you see "Sign up for our Newsletter." You can enter your email address there. If you experience any trouble, please contact Caroline in the parish office at admin@colwoodanglican.ca or by phoning 250-474-3031.

TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa.

*Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,
& Colleen our Deacon.*

*Pray for S. John the Divine, Courtenay & S. Andrew, Sandwick.
In the Selkirk Region for Church of the Advent.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

Christopher, Dianne, Sheila, Barb, Bill, Kian, Travis,

Bob, Irene, Cynthia, Joan, John, & Donna.

The staff and residents of Broadmead Lodge

We also pray for those we remember in the quiet of our own hearts.