

STCatherines
CHURCH



**CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2021
5PM A FAMILY SERVICE WITH
COMMUNION**



Presider: **Rev. Sharon Smith**
Music: **Rob Gloor & Singers**
Greeters: **Kim Mead, Marion Porter,
Nancy Sunderland, Alison
Watt, Robb Watt, and
Sharon Fedorak**

**Eucharistic
Minister:** **Robb Watt**
Reader 1: **Tony Dodd,**
Reader 2: **Vivian McGie**
Intercessor: **Linda Robertson**
Livestream: **Gordon Lee & Armin**
Sound: **Chris Wensley**
Altar Guild: **Bonnie Grundy**
Sunday Teacher: **Ethan Spence**

We invite you to join in the singing of Christmas Carols as you enter the church.

GATHERING

Prelude: Robb Gloor

Welcome and Intentions: Rev Sharon

Opening Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created;
(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
glory to God in the highest;
(Refrain)

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Refrain: O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Gathering of the Community

Presider: In this time and place,
We gather on the ancestral lands of the Squamish and Tsleil-Watuth nations.

All: **From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.**

Presider: In this time and place,
We give thanks for the light of God that shines in the darkness,

All: **A light no darkness can quench.**

Presider: In this time and place,
We give thanks for the light and peace of Jesus Christ the Word made flesh,

All: **The light of all people.**

Presider: In this time and place,
We pray that the Spirit of God
will be renewed in our hearts
and minds,

All: **That we might be the light of
God in the world.**

All: **In the name of God, Source of
all being, Eternal Word and
Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader: We light this luminous Christ candle,
to celebrate the coming of Emmanuel:
God with us!

Wreath-lighting Song:

New hope, new peace, new love are ours,
New joy on Christmas Day!
We celebrate your Christmas gift -
Yourself: Truth, Life and Way.
Reshape us as we worship you,
Christ-child upon the hay.
Come Jesus, and be with us now,
Be with us now.
Come Jesus, and be with us now!

Reader: As followers of Christ in the world you
love,

All: **may we radiate your holy light and
embody your lavish love. We come in
faith and say: Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**



Image from the Anglican Planet

Gloria:

Glory be to God on high,
To all people, peace on earth.
Angels, shepherds drawing nigh,
join to celebrate his birth.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Jesus Christ we now declare
Lamb of God and Lord of Love.
Grant us mercy, hear our prayer,
give us grace from heav'n above.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Praises to the Holy One,
Praises sing in highest heav'n;
To the Father and the Son,
and the Holy Spirit giv'n.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!



Artist: Jesus Mafa

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

God of grace,
**whose word brings light to birth
in the heart of a darkening world
which fears a love it cannot
name:
may flesh be blessed and born
anew by a truth which leaves the
heavens and walks the
waiting earth;
through Jesus the Christ,
the word incarnate. Amen.**

All:



Artist: Mike Moyers

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Isaiah proclaims news of great joy: “Your God reigns!” Just as God saved the people from oppression in Egypt, God delivers the people from exile. All the earth will witness the saving acts of God.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Priest: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Psalm 96: Sing a New Song unto the Lord

Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord;
 Let your song be sung from mountains high.
 Sing a new song unto the Lord,
 Singing alleluia.

Yahweh's people dance for joy.
O come before the Lord
And play for him on glad tambourines,
And let your trumpet sound. Refrain

Rise, O children, from your sleep;
Your Saviour now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
And filled your soul with song. Refrain

**Second Reading: Amazing Peace: A Christmas
Poem
By Dr. Maya Angelou**

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
and lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.
Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas
enters,
streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
and singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
as we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children,
it rides on the shoulders of our aged as they
walk into their sunsets.

Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening
all things,
even hate which crouches breeding in dark
corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by
its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say
come.

Peace.

Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the
Confucian,
implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
how to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
to celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,
look heavenward and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.

Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves

and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.

Peace, My Sister.

Peace, My Soul.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



Image from the New Yorker

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and
mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all
ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th'
angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn
King!" Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the
everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity, pleased as one
of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald
angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"



Image is from Tech Crunch

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the One who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

Presider: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing cont.

Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings

Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by

Born that we no more may die

Born to raise each child of Earth

Born to give us second birth

Hark! the herald angels sing:

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Homily – Rev Sharon

(Reflective silence follows)

At this time in the service, we will light handheld candles and keep them lit through the singing of “Silent Night”, the prayers and confession. We will extinguish the candles during the Peace.

Hymn: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



Artist: Mike Moyers

PRAYER

Prayers of the People

Leader: ... hear us, O Lord.

All: **Lord, grant us peace.**

Confession and Absolution

Presider: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes all and invites us to this table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

(Silence is kept)

Presider: Most merciful God,

All: **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.**

Presider: Faithful God,
 Remind us of your love and healing power.
 Forgive us that we may forgive one another.
 Renew us so that when we fail, we may
 begin again. Amen.

The Passing of the Peace

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The community, standing at our seats, greet one another saying or gesturing: ‘Peace be with you’.

Communion

Preparing the Table: Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long ago

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But his mother only, in her maiden bliss
Worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider: Good and loving God,
All: **we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,**
who came among the poor
to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be a blessing for others.
With the trees of the field,
And with all on this earth our Island home,
we shout for joy at the coming of your
Light, Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer (ELCIC III)

Presider: May God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to God.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: Blessed are you gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
source of light and life.
In the fullness of time you come among us
enfleshed.

Hymn 48 "Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentina)"

(Music not in pews)

1. Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly, my heart, my heart a- dores you!
2. In God's name is com- ing the One whom we call bles- sed.
3. Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly, my heart, my heart a- dores you!

My heart is glad to say the words; you are ho- ly, Lord.
Ho- san- na in the high- est. Praise and thanks to God.
My heart is glad to say the words; you are ho- ly, Lord.

Words: Liturgy
Melody: Argentinian
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Presider:

Holy One,
the beginning and the end,
the giver of life.
Blessed are you
for the birth of creation,
blessed are you
in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you
for your promises to your people,
blessed are you
in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you
for Mary's openness to your will,
blessed are you
for Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Jesus, in a room with his friends,
took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and
shared it, saying, take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.

- Presider: Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying;
This cup is the new covenant in my blood
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the
remembrance of me.
- Presider: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
All: **Christ has died**
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.
- Presider: With this bread and cup
we remember your Word
dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
and we rejoice this day in Christ's coming.
All: **Come, Lord Jesus**

All: **Holy God,
send your Spirit,
come among us,
bless this meal,
may your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light
bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.**

Presider: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
And Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever,
Amen.

Presider: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Presider: With this bread and cup

we remember your Word

dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth,

We remember our new birth

And we look with hope for Christ's coming.

All: Come, Lord Jesus

All: Holy God,

we long for your Spirit,

Come among us,

Bless this meal,

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Lord's Prayer

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
as we sing,

All: **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.**

Presider: We break the bread of life, and that
life is the light of the world.

All: **God here among us, light in the
midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Words of invitation:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of
God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION:

All people are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (Wafers). Gluten free wafer are available upon request.

Please wear your mask and sanitize your hands before receiving. We ask that you wait until you have returned to your seat before removing your mask and eating.

While the communion is being administered, we respectfully ask that you keep the silence.

Offertory:

If you wish to give a gift to support the ministry of St. Catherine's Church, offertory plates are available in the front of the church and at the entrances/exit.

*Please make use of an envelope provided in the bulletin.
For donations of \$20 or more, tax receipts will be issued.*

Communion Hymns:

What Child is This?

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]*



Artist: Unknown

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
look down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus
asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus,
no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus -
look down from on high
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus;
I ask you to stay
close by me forever
and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children
in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven
to live with you there.

Prayer After Communion:

Presider: Loving God,

All: **Tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending the Christ child to take
our human nature. May we who
have received these mysteries, walk
in the Way that Jesus taught us.
Amen.**

Presider: 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.**

Sending

Announcements – Linda Robertson (People's Warden)

Christmas Blessing: Rev Sharon Smith

Closing Carol: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, 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 wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Presider: Go now in peace to love and
serve the Christ
Child, born for us this day.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



Artist: Leah Newton

December 26th, 2021, 10 am

Lessons and Carols,

St. Catherine's Church



Nine Lessons (Readings) and Carols, also known as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, is a service of Christian worship traditionally celebrated on or near Christmas Eve.