

# *Christmas Eve Service*



*Rejoice Rejoice, Mosaic Nativity Quilt, c. Shannon Conley, 2012, 39" x 39", Photo Doug Conley*

*7:00 pm*

*December 24, 2021*



**St Matthias**  
**ANGELICAN CHURCH**

*Practicing the presence of God through faith and action in our communities*

**The Church office will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Our admin will be back with us on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Merry Christmas!**

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Parish Administrator:** Jessie Paterson admin@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Priests:** The Rev Matthew Humphrey and Rev Meagan Crosby-Shearer  
Cell: (250) 208-7296 - Email: team@stmatthiasvictoria.ca – In the office Tues & Thurs

**Honorary Assistant:** The Rev Canon Karen Fast & The Rev Rob Crosby-Shearer

**Organist:** Daniel Brown - music@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Wardens:** Cory Herrera & Brian Rendell - wardens@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Treasurer:** Hazel Trembley - treasurer@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Envelope Secretary:** John Prins – givings@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Chapel Gallery:** Nicky Rendell – chapelgallery@stmatthiasvictoria.ca

**Prayer Chain:** To add prayers to our active prayer chain, please call Dorothy at (250)-598-8252

### **Welcome to St. Matthias!**

Whether this is your first time with us or if you are a long-time member, your presence is valued, and we hope you find warmth and peace and welcome here. Our worship is drawn from the depth and beauty of the Anglican tradition with influences from the diversity of Christian expression. You may also find poetry or art interspersed with prayer and music.

Each week we gather around the table of thanksgiving to share bread and wine. All are welcome to receive. If you wish a prayer of blessing instead, you may cross your arms in front of you. Gluten-free wafers are consecrated and available as needed.

We hope you will find a spiritual home here at St. Matthias, a place to question and struggle and a place to celebrate and be nourished as we are sent into our week to serve God in God's beautiful world.

### **Covid-19**

As we continue to move out of this time of pandemic, your safety remains a priority. We continue to sanitize our space before worship and at this time we will not physically pass the peace or gather after worship for coffee. Communion will continue as bread only for the time being. Masks remain required indoors. Please be gentle with yourselves and others in this time of transition.

*We gather with gratitude on the traditional land of the ɫəkʷəŋən People,  
known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.*

## The Community Gathers Before God

### **Welcome Carol Sing**

#### **Gathering Words**

In this time and place, we gather with gratitude on the traditional land of the lək<sup>w</sup>əŋən People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.

**From many places and many peoples we come to this house in prayer.**

In the deep shadows of the night,  
**The Light of the World shines forth.**

Through the pain of birth,

**Hope arrives.**

Amid the poverty of a stable and the struggle of pandemic,

**A Peace Maker enters the world.**

On this night, we prepare ourselves once more for the miracle of Jesus' birth, as God is born among us.

Hear the good news of great joy for all people!

**Glory to God in the highest. Amen!**

*Please rise in body or spirit as the candles are lit*

**Processional: O Come, All Ye Faithful** – CP #118

1 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, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2 God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created: *[Refrain]*

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest: *[Refrain]*

4 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]*

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *[Refrain]*

*Author (st. 1, 2, 3, and 5); John Francis Wade (1711-1786) Translator (st. 1, 2, 3, and 5); Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) Author (st. 4); Étienne-Jean-François Borderies (1822) Translator (st. 4, 5a); William T. Brooke (1848-1917).*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Let us pray,**

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendor of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

### **Candle Lighting**

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love, four candles, four promises always offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Jesus Christ we find the hope of salvation, the peace that flows from justice, the joy of community, and the love that encompasses us all. In Jesus we find light and life - and the courage to follow him, to be like him, answering his call to open the Inns of our hearts! Christ is born! Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on Earth!

*All candles are lit*

**Jesus, you are born this night in our hearts, our minds and our lives. Help us to prepare a room for you for whatever way you might visit us. Lead us to the shining-star truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.**

### **A Candle Is Burning - VU #6**

1 A Candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.

While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

2 A Candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

3 A Candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

5 We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings pro-claim,  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

A Candle Is Burning. Words copyright © 1986 Sandra Dean. OneLicense.

*(You can blow out your candle)*

## **The Readings**

### **The First Reading**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 68: 4-11,35**

Let us sing to God, sing praises to the divine name; let us exalt the One who rides upon the heavens; Yahweh is the divine name, before whom we shall rejoice!

**Protector of orphans, defender of widows, the One who dwells in holiness,**

who gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; but the rebels shall live in dry places.

**O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,**

the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at your presence, O God of Sinai, at your presence, O God of Israel.

**You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; you refreshed the land when it was weary.**

Your people found their home in it; in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

**The Lord gave the word; great was the company of women who bore the tidings**

How wonderful is God in the divine sanctuary! The God of Israel gives strength and power to this people!

**Blessed be God!**

*Please rise as we prepare our hearts for the reading of the Gospel.*

**Good Christian All, Rejoice (vs 1&2 before 3&1 after) - CP #153**

Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!

Listen now to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;

ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today; Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!

Hear the news of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this;

he has opened heaven's door and we are blessed for evermore!

Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this!

### **The Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to (Luke 2:1-20)

#### **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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. 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.

The Gospel of Christ.

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

Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save:  
come at his most gracious call, to find salvation, one and all!  
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save!

Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice!  
Listen now to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today; Christ is born today!

**Sermon**

The Reverend Rob Crosby-Shearer

*Silence for reflection*

**Nicene Creed** *(Please Stand, if able)*

Let us confess our faith, as we say,  
**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the  
Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our  
salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the  
Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was**

**made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Solo: O Holy Night**

Bob Hall

**The Prayers of the People** *(Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom)*

### **The Confession**

As we kneel with the shepherds before the newborn Christ-child, we open our hearts in penitence and faith.

*Silence...*

**Most merciful God, 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.**

### **Absolution**

*You are invited to rise in body or in spirit*

### **The Peace**

This holy night the angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all on earth.' The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*We welcome you to share the peace of Christ with a bow*

## **Offertory Hymn: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks – CP #136**

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down  
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.

3 "To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

4 "the heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
and on earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to me  
begin and never cease."

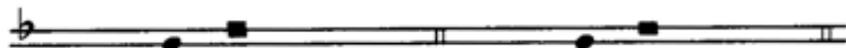
Text: Luke 2.8-14; para. Nahum Tate (1652-1715), alt.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Word made flesh, life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty: by your Spirit may we share in your riches. Receive all we offer you this night and fill us with the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

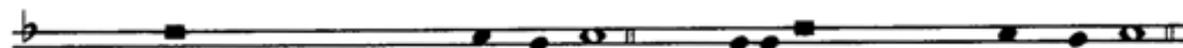
*Eucharist Prayer Liturgy of the Islands and Inlets C*



*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.



*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.



*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God *People* It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of salvation in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

(Sung) **Holy Holy Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might  
Holy Holy Holy Lord, God of pow'r 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, O 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, 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. Shine your light and your love on the offering of our lives and unite us to your Son in his incarnation, 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 beloved children; 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, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world. **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All are welcome at Christ's table. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward with your arms crossed. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.*

### **First Communion Song: What Child Is This - CP #137**

1 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.*

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

3 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]*

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

**Second Communion Song: Once in Royal David's City** - CP #123

1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall gather round.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt. Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876).

**Prayer after Communion**

Infinite, intimate God, in this night you have made known to us again  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes  
on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our  
hearts. Fill us with joy and send us out to share this good news with  
others. We ask this through Jesus Christ Emmanuel.

**Amen.**

**We Are Sent**

*Please rise in body or spirit (Candles are relit).*

**Closing Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing** – CP #138

1 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 hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."*

2 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, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as one of us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *[Refrain]*

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen 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. *[Refrain]*

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt.

**Blessing**

Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard. And may the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the courage of Joseph and Mary, and the +blessing of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas and always.

**Amen**

## **Silent Night** – CP #119

1 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.

2 Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born!  
Christ the Saviour is born!

3 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885).

Go forth into this Holy night in the joy and wonder of the Incarnation.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Postlude**



***Wishing you, your family and friends the joy and wonder of the Incarnation, May the Christ who was born in Bethlehem, dwell in your hearts and bring you peace. Merry Christmas from all of us at St. Matthias!***

**There will be a Christmas Day service tomorrow at St. Mary's Oak Bay at 10AM.**

**There will be no worship at St. Matthias on Dec 26<sup>th</sup> but we will regather on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## **This Week in Prayer This Week in Prayer**

### **Parish Prayer List**

Beau, Felix & Shannon, Gerry, Mary, Steve, John, Geoff and Sheila, Bob, Don, Betty, Darlene, the family and friends of John McCurdy, for health care workers and all struggling with the pandemic. For all who are travelling, for those who are sick and in need and for those who have died. For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month.

For all communities of faith across the world that they may worship in love and peace and without fear.

To add to our active prayer chain, please call Dorothy at (250)-598-8252. To have a name added to the bulletin and prayers of the people, contact [admin@stmatthiasvictoria.ca](mailto:admin@stmatthiasvictoria.ca)

### **Diocesan & Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer**

**Dec 24** parish wardens and treasurers. The Diocese of Ilesa South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province).

**Dec 25** Anna, our bishop. Christ Church Cathedral - Ansley Tucker, Ross Bliss, Ian Powell & Nancy Ford. Territory of the People Anglican Church - Steering Committee. The Diocese of North East India – The (united) Church of North India

**Dec 26** Anna, our bishop. Parish of Central Saanich - Lon Towstego. Diocese of Caledonia - Bishop David Lehmann. Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

**Dec 27** diocesan youth & family ministries. The Diocese of Northern Indiana – The Episcopal Church (V (5) Province).

**Dec 28** Tara Saracuse - executive assistant, bishop's office. The Diocese of Indianapolis – The Episcopal Church (V (5) Province).

**Dec 29** William Hubbard - Christ Church, Alert Bay. December 2021 The Diocese of Iowa – The Episcopal Church (VI (6) Province).

**Dec 30** Gillian Astbury & Kevin Heinke - diocesan payroll administrator & accountant. The Diocese of Iran – The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

**Dec 31** SuSan Jensen & Gerry Porter - S. Peter and S. Paul, Esquimalt. The Diocese of Irele - Eseodo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province).

**Jan 1** Congregation of S. John Gualbert, Pt. McNeill. The Diocese of Isi mbano – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri Province).

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

### Prayer from Japan

Eternal God,

We say good morning to you.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, before we begin our work, we praise your glory.

Renew our bodies as fresh as the morning flowers.

Open our inner eyes, as the sun casts new light upon the darkness which prevailed over the night.

Deliver us from all captivity.

Give us wings of freedom like the birds in the sky,  
to begin a new journey.

Restore justice and freedom, as a mighty stream  
running continuously as day follows day.

We thank you for the gift of this morning,  
and a new day to work with you.

(Masao Takenaka, first president of the Asian Christian Art Association, Japan. BAE p.62.)

