A Service of

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24, 2021
7:30 pm

St. Philip's Anglican Church
Vancouver, British Columbia

Welcome!

We are glad you're here!

Welcome to St. Philip's Anglican Church and to this service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

Christmas is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful celebration. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the Christ's birth gradually unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of redemption. The order of the service itself embodies the sense of movement through the history of salvation and in the increasingly powerful prophecies and promises of Holy Scripture.

May these words and music propel you with hope and peace toward the true Joy of Christmas.

On behalf of the people, staff, administration, and clergy of St. Philip's, we wish you and yours, family, friends, one and all, a very blessed, safe, peaceful, and hopeful Christmas season.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE Improvisation on *Divinum Mysterium* *Michael Murray*

Of the Father's love begotten, Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

The people stand for the Entrance Hymn as they are able.

ENTRANCE HYMN CP 138 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

THE ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Priest The people who walked in darkness
People **have seen a great light.**
Priest For to us a child is born,
People **to us a Son is given.**
Priest His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
People **the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**
Priest Glory to God in the highest,
People **and peace to God's people on earth.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In the season of Christmas, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country, in this City of Vancouver, and in our community of Dunbar.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

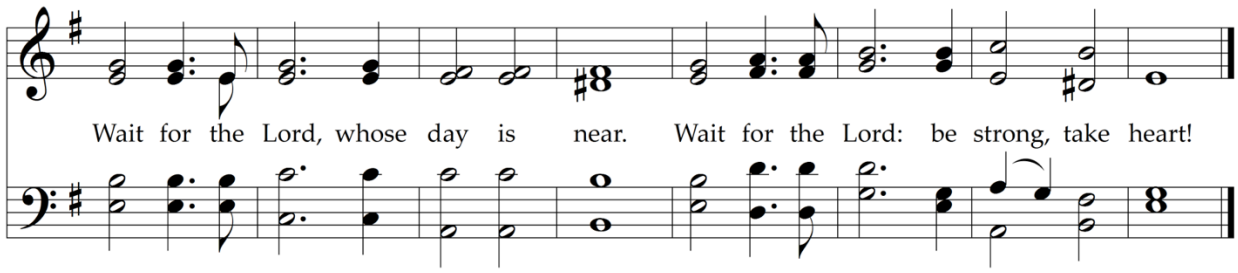
The almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Priest Christ has brought us out of darkness:
People **to live in his marvelous light.**
Priest Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
People **a light no darkness can quench.**
Priest The shepherds kept watch by night,
People **and your glory shone round about them.**
Priest The darkness is not dark to you,
People **the night is as bright as the day.**
Priest Let your light scatter the darkness,
People **and fill your Church with your glory.**

TAIZÉ CHANT "Wait for the Lord"

Following the introduction, the chant is sung repeatedly by the people while musicians play instrumental variations.



The people are seated. You are invited to stand for the singing of the hymns as you are able.

CHOIR "In the Bleak Midwinter" *C. G. Rosetti (1830-1894); G. T. Holst (1874-1934)*

THE FIRST LESSON • Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19..... *Adam and Eve rebel against God.*

VOLUNTARY "Come Thou, Jesus, from Heaven Above" BWV 650 *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Jesus, do you come now from heaven down to earth? Are heaven and earth now to be united?
Eternal God! Can my misery and distress bring you to human form?
What I lost by death through Adam and Eve, You, Jesus, have chosen again for me by life.
Gracious God! All my misery and distress ended when you were born.

HYMN CP 88 – "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

THE SECOND LESSON • Genesis 22:15-18... *The nations of the earth blessed through Abraham.*

HYMN CP 95 – "O Come, Divine Messiah"

THE THIRD LESSON • Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 ..... *The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.*

HYMN CP 116 – "'Your Kingdom Come'—On Bended Knee"

THE FOURTH LESSON • Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9..... *The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.*

HYMN CP 117 – "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

THE FIFTH LESSON • Luke 1:26-35, 38 ..... *The angel Gabriel greets Mary.*

HYMN CP 268 – "Gabriel's Message Does Away"

THE SIXTH LESSON • Luke 2:1, 3-7..... *St. Luke tells the birth of Jesus.*

HYMN CP 121 – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

THE SEVENTH LESSON • Luke 2:8-16.....*The shepherds go to the manger.*

HYMN CP 125 – "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

CHOIR "See Amid the Winter's Snow" *E. Caswall (1814-1878); J. Goss (1800-1800)*

VOLUNTARY Fugue on "I Saw Three Ships" *Richard Proulx (1937-2010)*

I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in On Christmas day in the morning.

THE EIGHTH LESSON • Matthew 2:1-12 .....*The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.*

For the singing of the hymns, the congregation are invited to light their candles as the Rector moves through the congregation with a lighted candle.

HYMN CP 119 – "Silent Night"

THE HOLY GOSPEL – THE NINTH LESSON • John 1:1-14..... *The Incarnation mystery.*

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

Priest 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. *NRSV*

Priest The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HYMN CP 118 – "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful"

THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

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

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that the light of Christ, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE VERSES

Priest When all was still, and it was midnight,

People **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

Priest Oh sing to the Lord a new song;

People **sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

Priest Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

People **tell of his salvation from day to day.**

THE BENEDICTION

Priest May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you this day and always.

All **Amen.**

HYMN CP 154 – "Joy to the World"

POSTLUDE *Pastorale,* Op. 6, No. 8 *A. Corelli (1653-1713)*

Leading the Service this Evening

THE LECTORS

John Dolman	Derek Simpkins
Pat Brandon	Mandi Holley
Brian Mix	Michael McKenzie
Deb Hamilton	Sheryl MacKay

THE CHANCEL CHOIR OF ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Michael Murray, Director of Music & Organist

Brian Mix, Cello Norah Mix, Violin

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RECTOR'S WARDEN ..... Brian Mix

PEOPLE'S WARDEN ..... Suzi Noetzel

ASSOCIATE WARDEN .....Debbie Matheson

ASSOCIATE WARDEN .....Catriona Wilson