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*The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop*

*The Rev. Ingrid Andersen, Priest*

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

**Christmas Eve Service 10 PM  
December 24, 2022**



**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

**Midweek Prayer Service** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (Chapel)

**Online Bible Study & Discussion** Thursdays 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 help you to enjoy the service.*

*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.*

*Reverend Ingrid Andersen preaches & presides.*

*This service is being broadcast live on the Internet.*

*By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.*

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

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Mike Armstrong*

*Sidespeople are Neil & Mary Ellen Skinner*

*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.

**Opening Sentence:** I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

**Opening Hymn:** CP 123 Once in Royal David's City

## Welcome:

### 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.*

### **Christmas Eve - The Promise of Arrival** *Led by Jim & Caroline Hamar*

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

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!**

Tonight, we long to worship the newborn King.

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!**

Tonight, we long to hear the good news proclaimed by the angels.

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!**

Tonight, we long to receive the promise foretold.

**Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!**

### **Candle Lighting**

Tonight we light all the candles. The first candle ignites the thrill of hope in the hearts of weary people. The second candle shines peace that surpasses understanding into a conflicted and confused world.

The third candle expresses the joy of fulfilled promises and the anticipation of those yet to come. The fourth candle shines with grace and new life in God's unconditional love. Tonight, we light the Christ Candle in celebration of our Messiah's birth. As God's promises continue to shine, we echo the words shared through the ages – Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!

### **Sing:**

**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:** Gracious God, in the wonder of this night, we hear the Christmas proclamation. The cry of “Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” has become “Joy to the World!” Like the shepherds on that starry night when in a moment of majestic humility, may we now come to worship Christ the newborn king. Amen.

**Collect of the day:** 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 splendour 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.

### **THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62:6-12

**Lydia French**

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, ‘See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.’ They shall be called, ‘The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord’; and you shall be called, ‘Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.’

For the Word of God in scripture, For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us, **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: 97 (Pg 835)**

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; \*

**let the multitude of the isles be glad.**

Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*

**righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**

A fire goes before him \* **and burns up his enemies on every side.**

His lightnings light up the world; \* **the earth sees it and is afraid.**

The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \*

**at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**

The heavens declare his righteousness, \*

**and all the peoples see his glory.**

Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! \* **Bow down before him, all you gods.**

Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*

**because of your judgements, O Lord.**

For you are the Lord, most high over all the earth; \*

**you are exalted far above all gods.**

The Lord loves those who hate evil; \* **he preserves the lives of his**

**saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*

**and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.**

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \* **and give thanks to his holy**

**name.**

**Solo: Kathy Middleton GESU BAMBINO**

Music: Pietro Yon Words: Fredrick H. Martens Arranged: Mark Hayes

**Second Reading:** Titus 3:4-7

**Janet Denford**

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

For the Word of God in scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**Gospel Hymn: CP 135 Shepherds In The Field Abiding**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:1-20

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.**

*(Please be seated after the reading)*

**Sermon:** Rev. Ingrid Andersen

*(Please stand if you are able)*

**The Creed:** *(Adapted from Shore to Shore)*

**We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant, so we commit ourselves to serve others.**

**We believe that God is love, so we commit ourselves to reconciliation.**

**We believe that Jesus gives us the Spirit, so we commit ourselves to her work in the world.**

**We believe that God is the light of life, so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light to this world.**

**We believe that the Holy Spirit speaks through us, so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news of God's gift of abundant life for all, in the world that God loves. Amen.**

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **Prayers of the People:**

*(Please be seated for the prayers)*

Each petition will end with: **Come Lord Jesus**

Please respond with: **Hear Our Prayer**

#### **The Peace:** *(Please stand if you are able for the Peace)*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. Peace be always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED**

#### **Offertory Hymn:** CP 122 In the Bleak Midwinter

**Prayer over the Gifts:** Source of light and gladness, **accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever.**

#### **Eucharistic Prayer:** *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship)*

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **Sanctus: Mass of Comfort & Joy**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of power and might,**

**Heav'n and earth are full, are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

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 promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets hope and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and this cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming:

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

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.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer:

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

**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 pow'r and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

### The Communion:

Communion Anthems: O Holy Night Soloist Keith Denford

## **Make My Life a Bethlehem** *(Sung by Choir)*

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*(Please stand if you are able for the Prayer after Communion)*

**Prayer after Communion:** Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Doxology:** 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.

### **SENDING FORTH**

**Candle Lighting:** CP 119 Silent Night

**Blessing:** *(Please stand if you are able)*

**Commissioning Hymn:** CP 154 Joy to the World

**Commissioning:**

Go now with joy in your hearts and peace in your mind.

Go now, looking into each other's eyes as you would the eyes of the baby Jesus. Go now with gifts received from God, and gifts of love for one another.

We Go in Peace.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Thank you for visiting with us tonight. Please fill in the form above if you would like to stay in touch