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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”***

Festival of Lessons & Carols

9:30 a.m. Service

January 1, 2023



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.

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.

**9:30 a.m. Carols and Lessons
Book of Alternative Services, p. 185**

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Mike Armstrong
Sidesperson is Rose Chandler & Joan Hoffman
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 154 Joy to the World

Leader: Before the world was created the word already existed. The word became a human being, and lived among us, full of grace and truth. **This life brought light to all people.**

Leader: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out. **Thanks be to God**

Prayers

Kathy Middleton

First Lesson from Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

Mike Armstrong

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Hymn: G 443 Carol at the Manger

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Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;
come as friend to every stranger, come as hope for every fear.
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Once again we tell the story-- how your love for us was shown,
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.
May the fire of your compassion kindle every land and race.

Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,
so we see in every stranger how you come to us today.
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

Second Lesson from Genesis 22: 15–18

Jim Hamar

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Hymn: CP 89 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Third Lesson from Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Carolyn Hamar

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn: CP 140 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Fourth Lesson from Isaiah 11: 1–3a; 4a, 6–9

Janet Denford

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all

my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn: CP 575 Let Streams of Living Justice

(Please stand as you are able for the Gospel)

Fifth Lesson from the Gospel of Luke 1: 26–35; 38

Lydia French

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: G 436 Wood of the Cradle

Wood of the cradle, wood of the cross,
bearing a lifetime of joy and of loss, who is your loved one?
Who could it be, born in a manger to die on a tree?

Refrain: This, this is Jesus the Lord,
here in the body and blood outpoured.
Come, come, come walk in his ways.
Kneel at the manger and rise from the grave.

Shepherds lie sleeping, deep in their dreams;
angels awaken them. "What could this mean?
Whom do you herald? Whom must we find?
A child in a manger? Our God born in time?" **Refrain**

Star in the Heavens bearing new light,
guiding the sages and ages this night:
Where will you lead us? Where can he be,
the child born of myst'ry who died on a tree? **Refrain**

Come, all who hunger, come, all who thirst;
Come, all who seek him, God's joy on the earth.
Find him a shelter, bright, safe, and warm;
see in all people his love being born. **Refrain**

Sixth Lesson from Luke 2: 1; 3–7

Keith Denford

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

Hymn: CP 130 Born in the Night

Seventh Lesson from Luke 2: 8–16

Nell Howard

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Hymn: G 461 What Star is This

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More lovely than the noonday light?
tis sent to announce a newborn king,
Glad tidings of our God to bring.

'tis now fulfilled what God decreed:
"From Jacob shall a star proceed."
And lo! The eastern sages stand to read
in heav'n the Lord's command.

While outward signs the star displays,
an inward light the Lord conveys.
It urges them, with force benign, To seek the Giver of the sign.
O Jesus, while the star of grace invites us all to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit three in one
may ev'ry tongue and nation raise an endless song of thankful praise!

Eighth Lesson from Matthew 2: 1–12

Kathy Middleton

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it

stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn: CP 160 As With Gladness, Men of Old

Ninth Lesson from John 1: 1–14

Mike Armstrong

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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.

Hymn: CP 149 All My Heart This Night Rejoices

SENDING FORTH

(Please stand as you are able for the Blessing)

Blessing

Rev. Canon Trevor Wright

Shared Ministry:

Commissioning Hymn: CP 138 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Commissioning: People who have been found, loved, and forgiven, go into God's world bringing messages of peace, love and hope to all you meet. Be prepared for lives of service, helping others in all kinds of needs and conditions.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen. Alleluia!

INTERCESSIONS

TODAY WE PRAY

Pray for The Anglican Church of Mexico.

*Pray for Barry our Executive Archdeacon, Anna our Bishop,
& Ingrid our Priest.*

*In the Western, Peninsula & Gulf Islands Region for
Parish of Central Saanich.*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM

*Christopher, Dianne, Bill, Greg, Barbra, Charlotte, Bill, Colleen, Neil,
Aila, Greg, Caleb, Donnie, Jim, Margret, Kate, & Cheryl.*

The patients & staff of Sunset Lodge.

We pray for all those mourning the loss of loved ones.

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