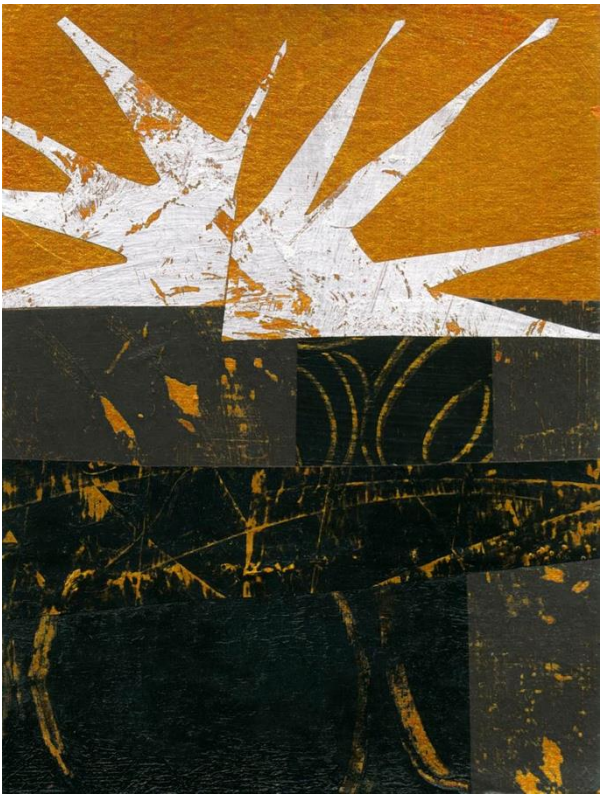
Open To The Light

St Catherines ANGLICAN CHURCH



Advent 3: Joy
Traditional Service with Communion
December 17, 2023 at 10 am

Priest: The Reverend Sharon Smith
Musician and Choir Director: Rob Gloor
Building and Office Administration: Natasha Stegemann
Facilities Coordinator: Ashkon Vahedi
Community Engagement Coordinator: Marymil Cabrera
Wardens: Vivian McGie, Linda Robertson, Chris Wensley

St. Catherine's Mission, Vision and Values

St. Catherine's Anglican Church, near the heart of Edgemont Village in North Vancouver on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səl̓il̓ilw̓ətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, is a contemporary community of Christian seekers

We welcome you to join us in the journey. We provide a place of spiritual growth through Christ and we respond with gratitude for God's abundance in our lives through service to our brothers and sisters in the world.

Our **Vision** is to:

- Be an inclusive and thriving community of faith for all generations
- Continually invite others to join us in our journey of faith and Christian discipleship
- Honour the strengthening of relationships and development of community, both within our walls and outside them
- Minister to those in need in Christ's name

Our Values:

St Catherine's is a community that aspires to be:

Welcoming, Inclusive, Curious, Creative,
Sustainable, Caring and Humble

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SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Anglican Church of Canada - Diocese of New Westminster
Situated on the unceded traditional Coast Salish territory of the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilw̓ətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations

Votive candles are available to light during communion. Please consider a donation to the candle fund. We ask that you light candles with care and extinguish the lighting taper immediately after lighting

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTENTION: Rev. Sharon

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Presider: In this time and place we gather
on the ancestral lands of the
Sḵwx̱ wú7mesh (Squamish) and
səlilw̓ətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations.

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

Presider: In this time and place we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.

All: Maranatha, come Christ come.

Presider: In this time and place,
we await God's transformation of the world.

All: Maranatha, come Christ come.

Presider: In this time and place,
we await the coming of peace on earth.

All: Maranatha, come Christ come.

GATHERING HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear

Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightly;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing night;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O Come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
And be for us our Prince of Peace. *Refrain*

GREETING:

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all

People: And also with you.

Presider: Loving God,
All: **to you all hearts are open,**
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy Name
through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Silence is kept.

LORD HAVE MERCY (Kyrie Eleison)

Lord Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy

Christ Have Mercy
Christ Have Mercy

Lord Have Mercy
Lord Have Mercy

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Presider: O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist,
All: **through all such faithful ones**
you proclaim the unfolding of future joy
and renewed life.
Strengthen our hearts to believe
your advent promise
that we will walk in the way of Christ,
whose coming draws near.
Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.
People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE: LUKE 1:46-55
The Canticle is led by…Gordon Lee

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

People: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

Leader: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

People: You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

Leader: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

People: casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

Leader: You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

People: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

Leader: the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever. Amen

SECOND READING: HOW THE LIGHT COMES
By Jan Richardson

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.
What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.
That it travels
across an astounding
expanse
to reach us.
That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,

what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.
That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.
I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

Reader: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: JOY SHALL COME

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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.

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" [20]He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Presider: The Gospel of Christ.
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL HYMN CONTINUED

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

HOMILY: Rev Sharon Smith

Reflective silence follows.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Presider: We believe in God

All: Who is older than eternity
and younger than our next breath;
who is beyond describing
yet knows us all by name;
who inspires faith
yet cannot be contained by religion.

All: **We believe in Jesus Christ;**
flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;
He came in the body
to give worth to every human life.

He touched the untouchable,
loved the unlovable and endured slander,
persecution and death.

We believe that God's Kingdom
comes on earth
Through Christ's suffering love.
He rose from the grave as living proof
that what is laid down in faith
will be raised in glory.
He ascended to heaven
to be present at all times to all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who leads us into truth and freedom,
who gives good gifts to all God's children,
who works through prayer and politics,
through justice, care of creation
and the healing of the nations.

We celebrate the potential
God has given; the life in our bodies,
the yearning in our souls, the promise of
good things in store for those who love
and serve their maker.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION:

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: **forgive us where we have not touched but trampled you in creation,**
where we have not honoured but avoided you in one another,
where we have not received but rejected your goodness.

Presider: Loving God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **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: HOPE IS A STAR

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. *(Refrain)*

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. *(Refrain)*

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart. *(Refrain)*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider: God of hope,
People: renew in us the joy of your salvation and make our lives a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(ELCIC III for Advent)

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.
And so, together with all the choirs of angels,
your peoples on earth and in heaven, we
praise your name and join the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
are full of your glory.

Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. (x3)

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.

Presider: 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.
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.

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.

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

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)***:**

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 forever.

FRACTION (BREAKING OF BREAD):

Presider: As Jesus broke bread,
People: We break bread.

Presider: As Jesus shared wine,
People: We share this cup.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God
People: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION:

All people are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (wafers or fresh bread) at the base of the stairs, or Communion of one or both kinds at the Altar.
We receive wine from a common cup. Gluten free wafer are available upon request.
Please sanitize your hands before receiving.

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

Candle lighting during this time is welcomed.

COMMUNION HYMN:
THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS JUSTICE AND JOY

The kingdom of God is justice and joy;
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know;
And here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The prisoners are freed, the sinners find place,
The outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share;
And hope is awakened in place of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross:
Our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal;
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call;
And all things cry "Glory!" to God all in all.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: God for whom we wait,
All: in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Help us to live into the surprise of Christ who comes again and again and again into our midst. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Vivian McGie

BLESSING: Rev. Sharon

SENDING HYMN:
JOYFUL, JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise;
field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Fathe and our Mother.
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go forth in the way of love,
as instruments of peace.
People: Thanks be to God.

Please join us at the back of the church
for coffee and conversation.

Thank you for ministering this morning

Music:	Rob Gloor & Choir
Greeters:	Tony Dodd and Sharon Fedorak
Altar Guild:	Sharon Fedorak
Coffee Group:	Penny Zuk, Julia Hadrill and Susana Wensley
Readers:	Penny Zuk, Gordon Lee
Intercessor:	Written by Hugh Crosthwait
Eucharistic Administrators:	John Luccock, Lori Burns, Elizabeth Barratt
Livestream:	Ashkon Vahedi
Sunday Teacher:	Ethan Spence

Advent and Christmas

SAVE THE DATES

December 21st, 2023, Thursday, 7-8 pm	**Service of Loss and Light** with Rev. Anne Crosthwait, in partnership with Highlands United Church, at Saint Catherine's Church.
December 24th, 2023 10 a.m.	**Fourth Sunday of Advent** Spoken Eucharist in the chapel with instrumental music.
	CHRISTMAS EVE
3 p.m.	**Children's service and pantomime**
5 p.m.	**Traditional Family Christmas Service**
December 25th 10 a.m.	**Regional Christmas Day Service** at Saint Catherine's
December 31st 10 a.m.	**Lessons and Carols** Praying for Peace in our troubled world

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