



# St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

serving North Vancouver since 1899

# December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Service 8:00 p.m. Candlelight Eucharist

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Blaney

#### St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

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**Welcome** We are glad you have joined us for worship this evening. Please turn all cell phones and other electronic devices off or to "silent". Thank you.

#### **Christmas Letter 2023**

I am always moved by the fact that each Advent week has its own theme. The movement toward Christmas gives us the Sundays of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These words for me express the monumental importance of the celebration of Christmas. When God thought we needed it most, God sent Jesus to be born to a poor, young, unmarried couple in a dusty cold barn. God was finally living amongst us and living as we do. This child would grow up to teach that the least among us are valued children of God and humanity. This child would grow up to teach that forgiveness is the way of God and that we should, as best we can, live a life forgiving others. This child would grow up to teach that love is the way, the life and the truth and that to love each other unconditionally is our calling as Christians, and the means by which we involve ourselves in personal growth and help build a better world for all.

Our world and our community have certainly faced challenges this year. The terrible war in Ukraine carries on. As well, the tragic war in the Holy Land deeply saddens the soul of us all. We pray for peace and the end to all human hostilities. In our community we have carried the grief of the deaths of a number of parishioners. We fondly cherish their memory in our hearts and hold on to their vision of a world of love. As we move our way through Advent, we get the time to dream once again of exactly that vision – a world of love. When we light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve, we see it as a symbol that once more opens us to the idea that all things are new again, that anything is possible with the love of God.

At Christmas God sends us a message, as he did to the poor shepherds, that our saviour is born. Two thousand years ago abiding in their fields an angel told them this good news of great joy. Imagine knowing and feeling and living a life of impoverishment, and fear and hunger and prejudice and injustice. Then imagine a host of heavenly

angels coming to you, to you specifically, and announcing the Son of God has been born for you. It would be inspiring. It would be fulfilling. It would be life changing, and it still is today for all of us.

My wish for you and your family and loved ones this Advent and Christmas season is that the peace, joy, hope and love of the Christ child be with you and guide you and inspire you. As you share wonderful moments with family and friends in this blessed time of year, please also put aside the time pray for those less fortunate than us and those in hardship. The Christ child came for all of us and let us rejoice and sing and be not afraid to say aloud the dreams that we dream, because it was a miracle, and it still is today for all of us. Joy to the world!

The Reverend Patrick Blaney

#### Ministering this evening at our 8:00 p.m. service:

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Blaney

Liturgical Assistant: Jill Parsons Crucifer and Seever: Hazel Breakey

Music Director: Galina Martyniouk, piano and organ

Choir Director: Christie Smith

Guest Musician: Genevieve Mackay, Violin Guest Musician: Martha Kendall, Soprano Readers: Donna Lawrence, Jill Parsons



#### **Processional Hymn**



and heaven and na-ture sing,

#### Territorial Acknowledgement

Priest

The community of St. John's acknowledges that we live, work and worship on the ancestral and unceded land of the Coast Salish Peoples: The Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh Nations. May the reconciling love of Christ be reflected in our words and in our actions.

#### The Gathering of The Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with you all.

All And also with you.

Celebrant

ΑII

Almighty God,

to you all hearts are open,

all desires are 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.

#### The Collect

Celebrant

ΑII

**Eternal God** 

who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your

heavenly glory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Advent Candle-Lighting We sing all verses of the hymn.

#### Hymn 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

We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame. Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

Refrain

#### Liturgy for the Christ Candle at Christmas - Fulfillment

First Voice

The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We have lit four candles that remind us about longing and peace and joy and love.

(The four Advent candles are lit)

Second Voice

These candles remind us that God promises to be with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.

Today we celebrate that God has come to be with us in the baby called Jesus.

Today we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ candle.

(The white Christ candle is lit)

First Voice

This candle reminds us of all God has done for us. God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and always.

ΑII

O God, come, travel with us through our lives. Give us courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.

#### The Proclamation of the Word

**The First Reading:** read by Donna Lawrence. A reading from the Book of Isaiah

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the voke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 96

Please remain seated for the reading of the Psalm

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him, all the earth.

Say among the nations, 'The Lord is king!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.

He will judge the peoples with equity.'

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

#### **Psalm Prayer**

We worship you, God of glory, in the beauty of holiness, and we joyfully proclaim your just and righteous rule, established for all, through your Son Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

**The Second Reading**: read by Jill Parsons.

A reading from the letter to Titus.

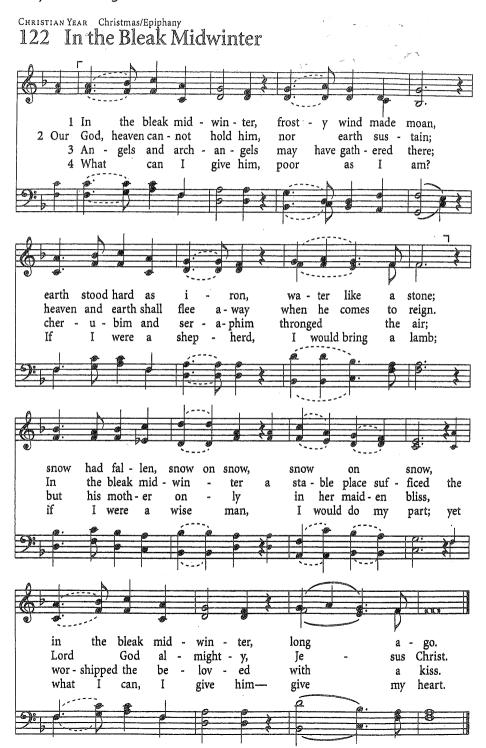
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn** All stand for the Gospel. Before the reading of the Gospel, the first half of the Gradual Hymn is sung.



#### The Gospel— Christmas Eve

Liturgical Assistant The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Liturgical Assistant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

All Glory 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.

Luke 2:1-20

Liturgical Assistant The Gospel of Christ.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Sermon** The Reverend Patrick Blaney

Time for Reflection

**Choir Anthem** Wondrous Star

Arranged by By Gene Grier

& Lowell Everson

#### **Nicene Creed**

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All

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 universal 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.

#### Prayers of The People



**The Church:** Archbishop Lynne McNaughton our Metropolitan, Bishop John Stephens, Linda Nicholls our Primate. We pray for Archbishop Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of the Sacred Circle. Also, we pray for Patrick our Priest. For Jill in her discernment, work and studies to become an Anglican Priest. Primate Brent Alawas, Bishop Benny Lang-akan and the Clergy and People of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines. Our companion parish, St John the Evangelist Mission and Outstations, Pasnadan, The Reverend Tristan Bati-el. Thanksgiving for the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**The Local Community:** City & District of North Vancouver, Queen Mary Community School.

**The World:** We give thanks for the words of your son, Jesus Christ, which shook the earth and opened our eyes to your coming reign, assuring us that even when the world is thrown into chaos your tenderness and lasting love remain as our sure hope.

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**Those in Need:** For those who are sick, hospitalized and in need of our prayers. This week, our prayers are requested especially for this member and friend of our St. John's faith community: The Sampson Family, Pat & John Riddell, Andy & Raili Mazurek.

**The Dearly Departed:** Those we no longer see, but they live forever in our hearts.

**In Thanksgiving:** In our cycle of prayer, we pray for these members of our faith community: Barbara Backer, Maurice Beasant, Kevin & Kathryn Benoy, Louann Berglof, Yasmine Bia.

#### Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ,

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;

God welcomes us

and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins,

confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant

ΔII

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.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

### Sharing of The Peace

We stand as we are able and greet our neighbours in the peace of Christ.

Celebrant May the peace of Christ always be with you.

All And also with you.

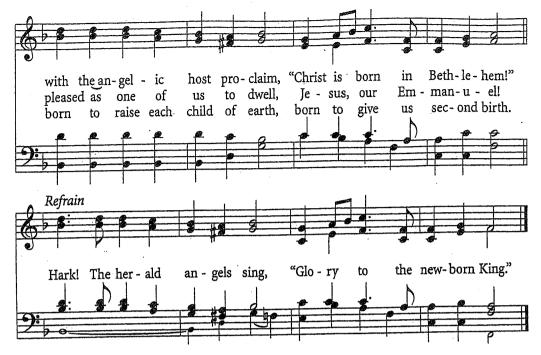
#### Offertory Hymn

CHRISTIAN YEAR Christmas/Epiphany
138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing









#### The Celebration of the Eucharist

#### Preparation of the Gifts

Representatives of the people present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist (with money and other gifts for the needs and responsibilities of the Church) to the deacon or celebrant before the altar. Your thoughtful and generous gifts enable our worship and ministry to our world. We thank you.

#### Doxology

All

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

#### The Prayer Over the Gifts

Celebrant

Source of light and gladness,

ΑII

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 for ever. Amen.

#### The Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer 3 (DoNW)

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

All

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

All

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ΑII

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful hymn of

praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

ΔII

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is The One who comes** 

in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

#### Celebrant

We give thanks to you, Lord our 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 isolation into community, 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, Father, according to his command,

AII

we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

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. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, 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 sons and daughters; 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, almighty Father, now and for ever.

# All Amen.

Celebrant As our Saviour taught us to pray, let us say,

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. Amen.

#### The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life,

and that life is the light of the world.

All God here among us,

light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

#### The Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

All Thanks be to God.

All who love God and desire Christ are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the Eucharistic Administrator know if you wish to receive one. Please note intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine), is not permitted.

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#### THE COVENTRY CAROL

(Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child)

**TRADITIONAL** 



#### O Holy Night

O holy night!
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees
Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine
Oh night when Christ was born
Oh night divine
Oh night divine

Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name

Christ is the Lord
O Praise His name forever
His power and Glory
Ever more proclaim
His power and Glory
Ever more proclaim



#### **Prayer after Communion**

Celebrant Father of all,

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.

#### The Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All 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.

#### The Blessing

#### Recessional Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

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. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation, sing all ye citizens of heaven above, glory to God in the highest:

#### Refrain

- O come, let us adore him,
- O come, let us adore him,
- O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 3. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory given, word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

#### Refrain

- O come, let us adore him,
- O come, let us adore him,
- O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

#### Dismissal

Celebrant Words of dismissal.

All Thanks be to God.

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas.



For those wishing to attend a Christmas Day, a service will be held on December 25th, 10 am, at St. Catherine's Anglican Church located at 1058 Ridgewood Dr, North Vancouver.

# **Christmas Flower Dedications**

Flowers in the Sanctuary were generously donated by members of our parish.

Donated by	Dedication	
Madeline Cooper	Jean Sampy	
Sandra Dunlop-Miller Ryley	George, Freda Batt, Tom and Rosemary	
Barbara Backer	The Ancestors, Gone before	
Howard & Cathy Dallimore	The Dallimore, Thomas & Miles families	
Brookfield and Friday Families	Hannah, Eveleen & Leonard Brookfield Hon & Fred Friday	