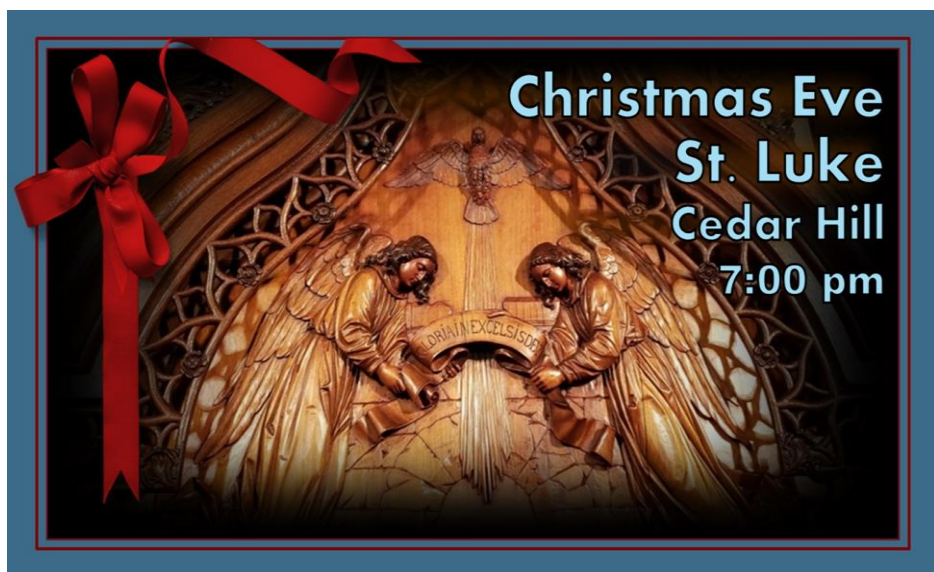


The Anglican Parish of
St. Luke Cedar Hill

Christmas Eve 2023

7:00 pm Holy Communion



3821 Cedar Hill Cross Rd, Victoria, BC V8P 2M6

Email: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca

Web: www.stlukesvictoria.ca

Phone: 250-477-6741

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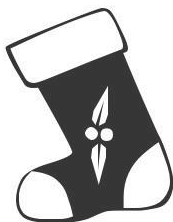
*We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional
territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples, known in our day as the Esquimalt
and Songhees Nations, the traditional custodians of these lands.
We are grateful for their hospitality.*

Welcome to One and All, and Merry Christmas to You!

Please use this leaflet to follow the order of service tonight. You are invited to join in the **carols and prayers** printed in **bold**. Please stand as you are able when we sing the hymns once the service has started and where indicated. For those who wish to follow the music, numbers are provided for the **large blue hymn book** (Common Praise, **CP**).

If you have any questions about the service, please speak to one of the greeters at the door.

Our well stocked **nursery** for infants and toddlers is located on the lower level of the church. Look for the stairs by the main door. It is open before and during the service to all parents and caregivers whose children need a short break.



Our Christmas Stocking Project

This year our project is buying goats for Community Health Workers in Malawi in Africa. Please drop your gold coins (Loonies or Toonies) or bills into the Christmas stocking at the back of the church or to put a special donation into the collection plate labelled "Goats Project". Money designated in the collection or collected in the stocking from now to Christmas Day will be sent to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund to buy goats buy goats for Community Health Workers in Africa.

Organ Prelude (*Please be seated*)

Welcome and Introduction (*The Rev. Daniel Fournier*)

Bell Choir: *Silent Night*, arr. Muriel Ali

Processional Hymn: CP 118 O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1-5)
(*tune: Adeste fideles*)

**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, (three times)
Christ the Lord.*

**God of God, Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created; *Refrain***

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, in the highest; *Refrain***

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain***

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain***

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Advent wreath candles for hope, peace, joy, and love are already burning. Tonight we light the Christ Candle.

Priest: Our Lord is here!

All: God's Spirit is with us!

Priest: Let us open our hearts to God's presence.

All: With joy we open our souls to Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Prayer

Priest: God our Father, today the Saviour is born
and those who live in darkness
are seeing a great light.
Help us, who greet the birth of Christ with joy,
to live in the light of your Son
and to share the good news of your love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who has come into the world.

All: Amen.

The Gathering of the People

Priest: 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.

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of
Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib,
that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary,
may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this night
your Son Jesus Christ was born
of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation:
bless this crib, which we have prepared
to celebrate that holy birth;
may all who see it be strengthened in faith
and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
who is alive and reigns for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: 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.

The Confession and Absolution

Priest: Dear friends in Christ,
Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:
'You shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.'
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.
Let us now admit to God our flaws and fears,
our sins and our brokenness,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Priest: Most merciful God,

**All: 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.**

Priest: May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself
and cleanse you from all your sins,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gloria: CP 135 Shepherds in the Field Abiding (v. 1)
(tune: Iris)

**Shepherds in the field abiding,
Tell us when the seraph bright
Greeted you with wondrous tiding,
What you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Solo: *Rejoice Greatly!* from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel;
Erika Pryer, soprano

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96: 1-4, 11-13

Response: *Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.*



Please stand as you are able.

Gradual Hymn: CP 121 O Little Town of Bethlehem
(v. 1 and 4)

(tune: Forest Green)

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**O Holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!**

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 1-20

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon *(please be seated)*

Anthem in memory of Frances Bennett:
Before the Paling of the Stars by S. Reul-Zastre

Please stand as you are able.

Apostle's Creed

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

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Sitting, standing or kneeling, as is your custom.

Leader: O God in whom we live and move and have our being,
in this season of Christmas,
we give you thanks
that your love took flesh in the Christ child
and that his story still fills us with wonder.
With all the to-ing and fro-ing
between family and friends this season,
we remember Mary and Joseph and their journey
in the midst of another busy time.
Watch over all who travel at this time of year,
for happy reasons or in the face of difficulties.

**All: May they find your peace
in the midst of their journeys.**

As we remember the innkeeper
who found space for Mary and Joseph,
we are grateful for the spaces we call home,
whether simple or sophisticated.
We pray for all those who are homeless,
and those who seek a welcome in strange places.

All: May they find an open door and kindness within.

As we remember the shepherds
watching over their flocks,
we give you thanks for those
who watch over us this night.
We pray for all those who must work on holidays,
tending the well-being of others.

**All: May they know a blessing
in the services they provide
and our gratitude for their efforts.**

As we remember the angels
and their message of peace and goodwill,
we are grateful
for peace and order in our communities.
We pray for all those
who work to establish and maintain peace
in troubled places and troubled lives,
knowing trouble rarely takes a vacation.

**All: May they be witnesses of God's greatest hope,
that all may know God's reconciling love
and compassion for all people.**

As we remember the Magi
and the gifts they brought to honour the Christ Child,
we thank you for the generosity
that overflows at this time of year.
May it touch the lives that need it most.

**All: May each of us find ways to offer you
what we value most in the year ahead.**

Hear these prayers
and all the silent prayers of our hearts, O God,
and cradle them and us in your holy wisdom.

All: Amen.

The Peace (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Priest: May Almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn: CP 139 The First Nowell (v. 1, 2, 4 and 6)
(*tune: The First Nowell*)

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
Who has made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood salvation bought. *Refrain*

The Preparation of the Table

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Generous Creator,
in faith and joy
we celebrate the birth of your Son.
Increase our understanding and our love
of the riches you have revealed in him,
who is Lord now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,
that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

(From Common Praise # 735)

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

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

Congregation may sit or kneel at this time.

Priest: How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled,
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them,
saying: Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Priest: Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes
for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit
as we bring before you these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body
and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things
in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with St. Luke
and all the saints to the vision
of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom,
and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth
and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
Blessing and honour and glory
and power be yours for ever and ever.

All: Amen. (*Sung 5 times - From Common Praise # 737*)

The Lord's Prayer (*Please stand as you are able.*)

Priest: In the words that our Saviour taught us, we pray:

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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread *(From Common Praise # 747)*

**All: Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.**

The Giving of Communion

Priest: The table of bread and wine is now ready.
It is the table of company with Jesus,
and all who love him.
It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
with whom Jesus identified himself.
It is the table of communion with the earth,
in which Christ became incarnate.
So come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been here often
and you who have not been for a while;
you who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who have failed;
Come.
It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please follow the directions of the sidespeople as the congregation is invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, please come forward for a blessing. Crossing your hands over your chest will signal the priest to give you a blessing instead.

NOTE: *Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

Solo during Communion: *O Holy Night*, arr. by M. Hayes;
Mary Byrne, flute

Please remain seated as we sing the hymn during communion.

Hymn: CP 126 Away in a Manger
(tune: Cradle Song)

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus – look down from on high
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay,
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

Trio during Ablutions: *The Snow Lay on the Ground*, arr. by
D. Besig; vocal solos by Matthew Robertson and Maria Ross,
with Mary Byrne, flute

Please stand for the lighting of the candles. The flame from the Christ Candle of the Advent wreath will light the tapers and then all the other candles in the church will be lit. When all the candles have been lit, the church will be darkened and we will say the Prayer after Communion.

Prayer After Communion

Priest: Carry the light of God's love and blessings
to friends and neighbours, to the lonely and lost,
and to all who need our care and love.

- All: We will let our lights shine before others.**
Priest: Go out from this place knowing that God's gifts
are for sharing with all God's people.
All: We will show our thanks in giving.
We will show our love in caring.

Hymn: CP 119 Silent Night

(tune: Stille Nacht)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

The Blessing

- Priest:** May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.
- All: Amen.**
- Priest:** May Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.
- All: Amen.**
- Priest:** May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing
Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.
- All: Amen.**

Priest: And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The lights in the church will now be turned on. Please extinguish your candle by pinching the wick. Return your candle to the sidesperson after the service.

Recessional Hymn: CP 138 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(tune: Mendelssohn)

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled”.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”.**

**Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.**

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”.

Dismissal:

Priest: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to all who assisted with tonight's service.

Special Thanks Tonight to:

Soloists Mary Byrne, Erika Pryer,
Matthew Robertson, and Maria Ross;
the St Luke's Bell Choir;
the Choristers of St Luke Cedar Hill; and
the Altar Guild and all who decorated the church
so beautifully for Christmas.



Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!
May the Peace of the Christ Child
be with you to guide your steps,
strengthen your resolve,
warm your heart,
and fill you with Love.

IN THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN PRAYER CYCLE, we pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines – The Most Revd Brent Alawas. **In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer, we pray for** The Rt. Rev. Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and the staff of Indigenous Ministries; the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples; Dawn Maracle, Indigenous Justice Animator (Anglican) **and for** Carmen Ramirez, Assistant to the National Bishop, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and Peter Wall, Assistant to the National Bishop for Worship (Lutheran). **In our Diocesan Prayer Cycle, we pray for** Anna, our Bishop, and for Christ Church Cathedral School, Victoria. **We also pray for** Lutheran Church of the Cross and Pastor Lyle and Pastor Lyndon, **and for** Diocese of Yukon and Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame. **This Christmas, we pray for** the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund, for its staff, volunteers and people it helps through the World of Gifts Programs including gifts such as buying goats for Community Health Workers in Malawi.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH NEWS
December 24th – December 31st
(New Items, *Revised Items)**

****The Christmas Day Service is at 10 am tomorrow.**

***The Church Office closed at noon on December 22nd and will reopen at 9 am on December 27th.**

****We will celebrate the Feast of Epiphany next Sunday, December 31st with a BCP spoken Service of Morning Prayer at 8 am and a Service of the Word at 10 am.**

****The Next Fantastic Friday will be on January 5th, 2024 –** We will have an Epiphany Party in the Hall at Fantastic Friday starting at 4:30 pm. The evening will include Fantastic Friday crafts and the Epiphany tradition of chalking the church door. Come and celebrate Epiphany at this month's Fantastic Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Everyone welcome!

Welcome To St. Luke Cedar Hill



Thank you for visiting today.
For more information about St. Luke's,
visit St. Luke's website:
<https://www.stlukesvictoria.ca>,
send an e-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca,
or phone: 250-477-6741.

We hope you will visit again!

Rector: **The Reverend Daniel Fournier**

E-mail: incumbent@stlukecedarhill.ca

For Pastoral Care Needs, please contact the office

Office Phone: 250-477-6741

Office E-mail: admin@stlukecedarhill.ca

Parish Administrator: Neil Patterson

Rector's Warden: Heather Simpson

People's Warden: Brenda Morgan

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 31, 2023 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72: 1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3: 1-12

Matthew 2: 1-12
