St Catherines Church

First Sunday after Christmas
Lessons and Carols – Prayers for Peace
December 31st 2023
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

Bulletin Image: "Nativity scene @ Eglise Saint-Séverin @ Quartier Latin @ Paris" is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

***All songs not in the hymnal are licensed with: CCLI License # 2890999, and A 711268 Onelicense.net**

SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Anglican Church of Canada - Diocese of New Westminster

Situated on the unceded traditional Coast Salish territory of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations

Votive candles are available to light. Please consider a donation to the candle fund. Please light candles with care and extinguish the lighting taper immediately after lighting.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTENTION: Rev. Sharon

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

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

Presider: In this time and place we meet
in the presence of the living God,

All: **The living God who creates us and all that is.**

Presider: In this time and place
the risen Christ stands in our midst.

All: **The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.**

Presider: In this time and place God's Holy Spirit
breathes in and through us

All: **The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.**

Presider: In this time and place
Together, one people of God.

All: **In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

OPENING CAROL:
ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY (123)

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

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.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider*:* Ever-present 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT):

Presider*:* Holy Word, Holy Wisdom,
All: **You move within us to bring peace.**
We treasure every nuance
of generosity and compassion
which springs from your Word within us.
May we respond in peace and with Love
to all the peoples and creatures of this
Earth. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD
& PRAYER

Please be seated for the readings and prayers; stand as you are able for the singing of the carols.

Liturgical Note:
In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus the Christ.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34
Sarah

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.
But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

FIRST PRAYER
Sarah

God of new beginnings, write your law of Love is
on our hearts. May we offer peace and friendship as freely as we think and breathe, and may we seek reconciliation as naturally as children play.
Make we herald your new creation in our fragmented world. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus the Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FIRST CAROL:
IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR (140)

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will,
from heaven's most gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when the new heaven and earth shall own
the Prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

SECOND READING: ISAIAH 11:1-9
Heather Luccock

A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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.

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

SECOND PRAYER
Heather Luccock

Labouring God, you clear a holy space
where hurt and destruction have no place
and a little child holds sway.
Clear our lives of hatred and despair,
sow seeds of joy and peace,
that shoots of hope may spring forth
and we may live in harmony with one another. Amen.

SECOND CAROL:
LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING (117)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispel with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death now save us
And share our every load.

THIRD READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25
Tony Dodd

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

THIRD PRAYER
Tony Dodd

Holy Comforter, you are near when our dreams die.
You are near the brokenhearted. Thanks be to you for a new dream and a future beyond our imagining.

Maker of Miracles, you are near when we cannot see your will. When a good choice, even a merciful choice, is not your choice. Thanks be to you for correction and clarity.
Divine One, you are near when we dismiss the holy - when we say no to your call. Thanks be to you for your patience, your persevering grace, and second chances.
O come, O come Emmanuel, strengthen us with the promise of your steadfast presence and saving love, set our hearts and steps to your righteous ends. Amen.

THIRD CAROL: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (121)

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.

For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
As love imparts to human hearts
the blessings of God's heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still
the dear Christ enters in**.**

FOURTH READING: LUKE 2:26-38
Sharon Fedorak

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

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

FOURTH PRAYER
Sharon Fedorak

God of impossible love,
announcing to us a new way of being,
an unconventional birth:
give us the faith of Mary to work with the Spirit of life;
give us her perplexity an opening to the event;
give us her deep thought which delves beyond the norm;
through Jesus the Christ, long awaited, unforeseen,
Amen.

FOURTH CAROL:
THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

`For known a blessèd Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honour thee,
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

FIFTH READING: JOHN 1:1-5
Elizabeth Barratt

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.

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

FIFTH PRAYER
Elizabeth Barratt

Eternal Wisdom,
Your Light is within the morning light
Your Soul is within the human soul
Your Presence beckons to us from the heart of life.
We rejoice in this mystery
that in love you chose to be close to us,
to be with us even in our deepest darkness.
Let this be our light. Amen.

FIFTH HYMN: OF ETERNAL LOVE BEGOTTEN (132)

Of eternal love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

At his Word the worlds were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
in their threefold order one;
all that grows beneath the shining,
of the moon and burning sun,
evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore.

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 faithful God,

All: Remind us of your love and healing power. Forgive us that we may forgive one another. Renew us so that when we fail, we may begin again. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The community are invited to gesture to one another a sign of peace.

COMMUNION

SETTING THE TABLE:
SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW (148)

See amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Chorus:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies;
Who enthroned in height sublime
Sits amid the cherubim. *(Chorus)*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say
What your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep? *(Chorus)*

"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing 'peace on earth'
Told us of the Saviour's birth".

Chorus:
Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a mighty love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this. *(Chorus)*

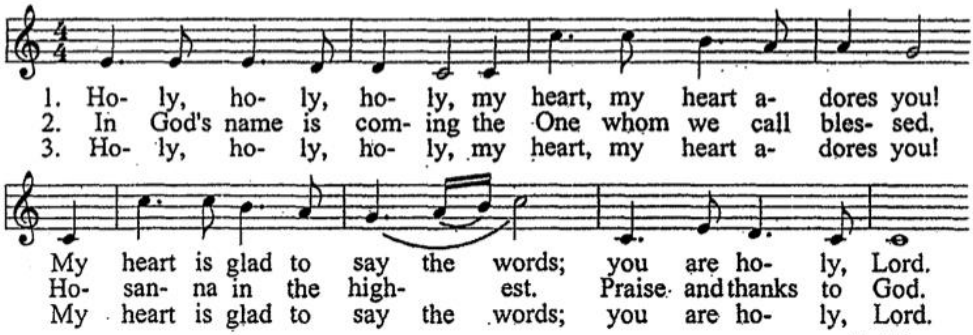
PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider: Good and loving God,
All: we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor
to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts,
let them be a blessing for others.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *(ELCIC III)*

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:

Hymn 48 "Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentina)"
(Music not in pews)

Words: Liturgy
Melody: Agentinian
Reprinted with permission under license #173
Licensing - Copyright Cleared Music for Churches

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 rejoice this day in Christ's coming.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus**

All: **Holy God,**
Send 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(said)*

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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.

Presider: 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.

WORDS OF INVITATION:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION:

All people are welcome to receive Communion at the base of the stairs.
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.

OFFERTORY:
If you wish to give a gift to support the ministry of St. Catherine's Church, offertory plates are available in the front of the church and at the entrances/exit.

Make use of an envelope provided in the bulletin. For donations of $20 or more, tax receipts will be issued; OR

Make use of this QR code with your device to donate through Canada Helps, tax receipts are sent by email.

COMMUNION MUSIC: INSTRUMENTAL

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Presider: Loving God,

All: **You have united earth and heaven in sending the Christ child to take our human nature.**
May we who have received these mysteries, walk in the Way that Jesus taught us.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presider: 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.

BLESSING: Rev. Sharon

CLOSING HYMN: GOOD CHRISTIANS ALL, REJOICE

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today,
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
Hear the news of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this.
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this.

Good Christians, all rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save,
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save.

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go now in peace to love and serve the Christ Child, born for us.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Presider:	Rev Sharon Smith
Music:	Rob Gloor
Readers & Intercessors	Sarah, Heather Luccock, Tony Dodd, Sharon Fedorak, Elizabeth Barratt
Eucharistic Administrator:	Gillian Holland
Livestream:	Ashkon Vahedi

COMMUNITY UPDATE: EVENTS | NEWS | PEOPLE

Starting January 14th, 2023 for 6 Sunday mornings after church from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, everyone is invited to join the Pilgrim, a course for the Christian Journey.

To attend, email Natasha: scadmin@shaw.ca and register.

The program will look at the Prayer that Jesus taught us to pray – the Lord's Prayer and how our prayers can be modelled on it. The program is open to everyone - those new to Christianity, those who want to learn more or life-long Christians.

EMERGENCY FOOD PROGRAM

In the last week of January, Saint Catherine's together with The Harvest Project will kickoff an Emergency Food Program where volunteers will distribute goods prepared by the latter to our neighbours in need at the church. The church will serve as an extension of the food bank with a goal of reaching out and providing aid to more people who are in need.

To get to know more about this program and to volunteer, please contact Marymil community_engagement@shaw.ca.

SAVE THE DATES

January 7th, Sunday	**Morning Prayer with Children** The Feast of Epiphany
January 9th, Tuesday	**Start of Spiritual Practice**
January 14th, Sunday	**Rev. Laurel's First Service** at St. Catherine's
	Sunday School Resumes
	Pilgrim, A Course for the Christian Journey

INTRODUCING REV. LAUREL

Saint Catherine's is delighted to introduce the newest member of our parish Reverend Laurel Dykstra. With a heart full of dedication and a spirit brimming with compassion, Reverend Laurel joins us as our Assistant Priest, ready to embark on a journey of faith, service, and shared moments at Saint Catherine's.

Their first service at the church will be on January 14th.

SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
1058 Ridgewood Dr, North Vancouver, BC, V7R 1H8
T 604.985.0666
| saint-catherines.org