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*The Right Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, Bishop*

*Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen, Priest*

***“Together in Christ  
we seek to love God and  
to love and serve all others”***

**Pageant Sunday & Advent Three**

**10:00 a.m. Service**

**December 15, 2024**



**Sunday Services** are at 8:30 a.m. (Traditional Rite)

10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

**Office Hours** Tues to Thurs 9:00-Noon (closed Monday & Friday)

**Online Bible Study** Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

## **WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE ADVENT**

*If you are new to our parish, please identify yourself to the sidespersons or priest so we can welcome you and tell you about our church.*

*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.*

*Rev. Ingrid Andersen preaches and presides.*

*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.*

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Book of Alternative Services, p. 185**

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Zoe Urquhart  
Sidespeople are Elaine & Art Youngson  
Chalice – Joan Hoffman & Lydia French  
Director of Music is Nell Howard  
Livestream – Mike Armstrong*

## **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.

### **Opening Hymn: MV 120 My Soul Cries Out**

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My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the Wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:** My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.  
[R]

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. [R]

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. [R]

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Where the Promise Shines**

(A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent Words by Sylvia G. Dunstan Music by Bob Moore, Setting by Joel Raney)

#### **Third Sunday of Advent - The Promise of Joy**

Terry Mikkonen

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning**

In the darkness, we long to see the light.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

In the silence, we long for a comforting word.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

In hardship, we long for an act of love.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning**

In Christ, we celebrate and rejoice in the promise of joy.

**Sorrow may last for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

#### **Candle Lighting:**

Today we light three candles. The first candle radiates the hope given through Jesus Christ. The second candle calls us to embrace and extend Christ's peace to an unsettled world. The third candle extends the promise of joy to restless souls. Though darkness is present and earthly trials weigh heavy, the promise of Advent offers true joy that sustains a weary people.

*Sung:*

**Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.**

**Lead us on, lead us on – to a morning where the promise shines.**

**To a morning where the promise shines.**

**Sentence of the Day:** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted.

**Collect of the Day:** God of power and mercy, **you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED**

**Canticle:** 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Zoe Urquhart

**REFRAIN: Ring out your joy, for the Holy One of Israel is in your midst.**

Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, and he will be my Saviour. **R**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation. And on that day you shall say, Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make his deeds known among the peoples; see that they remember that his name is exalted. **R**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world. Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

**Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

Carolyn Hamar

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn: MV 146 The Kingdom of God**

Words & Music: Taizé Community Used by permission

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit  
Come Lord, and open in us the gates of your kingdom.

**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

**Narrator Lenn Enns**

**Part 1**

**CP 120 Oh Little Town of Bethlehem** *(First and last verses only.)*

**Part 2**

**VU 38 Angels we Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain:** Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song **Refrain**

**Part 3**

**We Three Kings**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

**Refrain:** *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to the perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. **Refrain**

**Part 4**

**CP 126 Away in a Manger** *(First and last verses only.)*

## Part 5

### CP 139 The First Nowell *(First and last verses only.)*

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### Prayers of the People:

Sue Hamblin

*(Please be seated for the prayers)*

Each petition will end with – To you we pray.

Please respond with – **Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### Confession & Absolution:

God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith and are themselves forgiving. In silence we call to mind our sins.

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

*-From A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*(Please stand as you are able for the Peace)*

#### The Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you!**

*All are warmly welcomed to join us at the Lord's Table. If you prefer not to receive communion but prefer to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

## THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

**Offertory Hymn:** CP 102 Prepare the Way, O Zion

**Prayer over the Gifts:** God of hope, renew in us the joy of your salvation and make us a living sacrifice to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Eucharistic Prayer: #3 (BAS Pg. 198)**

**The Sanctus:** VU 951 Santo, Santo, Santo (Anon., Argentina)

Santo, santo, santo. Mi Corazón te Adora!  
Mi Corazón te sabe decir; Santo eres Dios!  
Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy, God!

**Lord's Prayer:**

Music by Gordon Light © Common Cup Company

Our Father in heaven, hallow'd be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heav'n. 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.

**The Breaking of the Bread:**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Communion:**

**Communion Anthem:** Mary, Did You Know

*Sung by Bonnie Stuart*

Lyrics by Mark Lowry. Music by Buddy Greene.

*(Please stand as you are able for the Prayer after Communion)*

**Prayer after Communion:** Merciful God, may this eucharist free us from our sins, fill us with unending joy, and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who is Lord now and forever. Amen.

**Doxology:** Glory to God, 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.

## **SENDING FORTH**

**Shared Ministry:**

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

**Blessing:**

**Commissioning Hymn: VU 578 As a Fire is Meant for Burning**

Words: Ruth Duck Music Marty Haugen © 1987 GIA Pub.

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,  
So the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,  
We join hands across the nations, finding neighbours every where.

We are learners, we are teachers, we are pilgrims on the way,  
We are seekers, we are givers, we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness mid earths peoples, many hues.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,  
May our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

**Commissioning:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ!**

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### **TODAY WE PRAY**

*We pray for the Province of The Anglican Church of Tanzania.*

*We pray for Anne our acting Primate, Anna our bishop, and Ingrid our Priest. In the Western, Peninsula & Gulf Islands region we pray for The Parish of Central Saanich, The Ven. Lon Towstego, Rev. Gil Shoosmith, retired clergy.*

### **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM**

*We pray for those who have asked for our prayers and for those we know and love, especially David, Cena, Kathy, Sherma, Peter, Susan, Barb, Marlene, Viv, Nolan, Kathy, Ann, Graham, Jim, Carol, Wayne, Neil, Christopher, Dianne, Brandon, Jo, the residents and staff of Sunset Lodge.*

### **READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

MICAH 5:2-5A; CANTICLE 18 (LUKE 1:46-55); HEBREWS 10:5-10; LUKE 1:39-55

### **Farewell to Taylor Smith:**

## **SHARED MINISTRY**

**5 PM Christmas Eve Service** – The 5 PM Children’s service will not be taking place due to low response.

**Christmas Caroling** – The Christmas Caroling that was scheduled for Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> will not be taking place.

**Blue Christmas Service** - For some, Christmas is not a time of joy and celebration, but a time of loss and grief - whether it be the death of a loved one, broken relationships, loss, or estrangement. This year, we will be offering a Blue Christmas service, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time. We can lift to God the reasons for our sadness. Join us in the church on Saturday December 21 at 5 PM for a short service of scripture and prayer in a safe, loving and healing space. Please consider inviting others who are in need of loving care during the Christmas season.

**Advent Creative Reflections – 4 Thursdays (Nov 28 – Dec 19, 6:30 PM)** - Journey through Advent with our ever-popular creative evenings for the whole family. We have four special clay Christmas tree ornaments for you to colour or paint, as you listen to meditations from "Preparing for Christmas", a much-loved book of Advent meditations by Richard Rohr. Our thanks to Bob and Charlotte Nichols for the clay ornaments. Bring your coloured markers. Paint and paintbrushes will be provided. St John's room. 20-person limit for each session. Sign up in the Narthex.

**Christmas Day Lunch** – Last year's Christmas Day Lunch for anyone who is alone was a great success with a large turnout and lots of happy faces. Church of the Advent will host the lunch again this year and needs your support. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for duties such as setting up and taking down, serving, and food preparation that can be delivered either on Christmas Eve service or Christmas Day.

**To attend the lunch, please RSVP to the church office at 250-474-3031.**

**Upcoming Combined Sunday Services at 10 AM –**

**December 29<sup>th</sup>:** Lessons & Carols service.

**January 5<sup>th</sup>:** Liturgy of the Word service led by Zoe Urquhart

**January 12<sup>th</sup>:** Bishop Anna preaching and presiding, followed by presentation.

Please note there are no 8:30 services scheduled for these dates.

**Church of the Advent Events Calendar 2025** – Be sure to collect your calendar from the back of the church today!

**Ladies Guild Lunch Gift Cards** – The Ladies Guild is offering complimentary luncheon tickets at \$10 each. These tickets are perfect for gift giving, have no expiration date, and can be used at any regular luncheon. To purchase them, please contact Jose or the Parish office.

**From the Parish Library** – From now through the New Year, the Top Shelf display will feature daybooks from the Library's devotional section. Daybooks feature food for reflection for each day and are available for loan for the period covered by the book, usually 1 January to 31 December. A year-long daybook borrowed today will be due back on the first Sunday in January **2026**.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 17 – Parish Council (hybrid), 7 PM

Dec 21 – Blue Christmas Service, Chapel, 5 PM

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Services:  
Family Service, 7 PM (Carols begin at 6:30)  
Service with Choir, 10 PM

Dec 25 – Christmas Day Dinner, Noon

Dec 25-Jan 1 – Parish Office Closed

Dec 26-Jan 14 – Rev Ingrid is on holidays

Dec 28 – Spanish Service, 6 PM

Dec 29 – Lessons & Carols, Combined Service, 10 AM

Jan 5 – Lay led Combined Service, 10 AM

Jan 11 – Environmental Expo, 9 AM

Jan 12 – Bishop Anna visits, Combined Service, 10 AM

Jan 19 – Jazz Vespers, 7 PM

Jan 21 – Parish Council Meeting, 7 PM

Jan 22 – Ladies Guild Lunch, Noon

Jan 25 – Spanish Service, 6 PM