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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"***

First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Service

November 30, 2025



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash

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

10:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

Office Hours Mon to Thurs 9:00-Noon

Online Bible Study Thursdays at 6:00 p.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.

The Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen preaches & 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.

Please have your electronic devices on silent mode during the service.

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

*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Paul Francoeur
Sidespeople are Rose Chandler & Mary Ellen Skinner
Ministry of the Chalice – Mike Armstrong & Lydia French
Director of Music is Nell Howard*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Leader: As we meet today, we begin by remembering the Songhees and x^wsepsəm 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 1 Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome)

Author: Marty Haugen © 1994 by GIA Publications, Inc.

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **[R]**

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **[R]**

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: **[R]**

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **[R]**

LIGHT OF LIGHT – A CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR ADVENT

Words & setting by Joel Raney. © 2019 Hope Publishing.

First Sunday of Advent - Light of Hope

Advent is a time of reflection and renewal.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.

Advent is a time of self-examination.

God of light, shine in our hearts and strengthen our resolve.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation.

God of light, shine in our hearts and renew our faith.

Advent is a time of service and searching.

God of light, shine in our hearts and ignite our compassion.

Candle Lighting

Azeita Harding

Today we light the first candle -the candle of hope- reminding us that in sending Christ, God sent hope to the earth. Hope for a world free from war and pain, hope for a sense of purpose and belonging, and hope for peace and prosperity for our children and our children's children. When Christ came, he brought us the Light of Lights. Light that fills us with hope, illuminates our lives, and shines in our hearts.

Light of Light (Sung)

**Voices cry out from a world in grief:
Prayers of those who seek relief.
End their darkness, hear their call for
Peace on earth, good will for all.**

Closing Prayer: God of our past, present, and future, bless our time together over the next four weeks. Guide us in this Advent season as we learn and draw inspiration from those who came before us. Help us live into the memory of all the ways that you enter the world and help us see those about us in a new way, knowing the stories of Jesus' birth. May we grow through the wisdom of your people and through your word. **Amen.**

-Adapted from: Levine, Amy-Jill. Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent, Abingdon Press.

Sentence of the Day: Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

Chat at the Chancel:

Hymn: SNC 39 Stay Awake, Be Ready (Vs 1)

Author: Christopher Walker (1988); © 1988 Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications

Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming.
Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon!

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Sharon Taylor

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 122 (Pg. 882)

I was glad when they said to me, * **"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

Now our feet are standing * **within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem is built as a city * **that is at unity with itself.**

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, * **the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

For there are the thrones of judgement, * **the thrones of the house of David.**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: * **"May they prosper who love you.**

Peace be within your walls * **and quietness within your towers.**

For my brethren and companions' sake, * **I pray for your prosperity.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, * **I will seek to do you good."**

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Rob Taylor

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and

drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able for the Gradual Hymn.)

Gradual Hymn: CP 114 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

(Please remain standing for the Gospel reading)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People:

Janet Denford

(Please be seated for the prayers)

Each petition will end with – God of hope.

Please respond with – **Hear my prayer.**

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 welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. If you prefer not to receive communion but to receive a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest. Gluten-free bread is available upon request. Please leave your communion glasses in the bowls on the left and right as you return to your seat.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

Offertory Hymn: MV 220 Hope Shines as a Solitary Star

Author: Catherine Faith MacLean © Catherine Faith MacLean; Tune © Janet Bauman Tissandier

Hope shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Peace shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

Joy shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights
and illumine the pathway home.

Love shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home

Prayer over the Gifts: God of love and power, **your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer: *Lutheran Church*

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Holy One.

Let us give thanks to our loving God!

It is right to offer thanks and praise!

It is right to give you thanks and praise, Great God of the Coming Dawn, for in each new day you surprise the earth with splendor.
Be with us in this Advent season, as we wait and watch for your coming amongst us together we raise our voices with all the saints to proclaim

The Sanctus:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might adored,
Heaven and earth are shining bright with the glory of your light.
Loud hosannas now we sing! In the highest may they ring!
Blessed is the Coming One, Christ, Emmanuel, your Son.
Glory in the highest! Holy God, your name be blessed!**

Blessed are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ whose coming was announced by wilderness prophets and who arrived to the song of angels in the choir stall of a manger. In Jesus you not only took our name but our flesh. He was the One promised. He announced the new day and the acceptable year when the blind would see, the poor rejoice, when captives would be set free, and the oppressed would once more walk in liberty. In stories he spoke of waiting bridesmaids and prodigal sons, with tears and compassion, he brought a dead man to life and gave a woman at a well the living water she sought. With anger he overturned tables and challenged the powerful. On the cross he revealed the power of weakness and in the emptiness of the tomb. he gave us a glimpse of your tomorrow that does not end in death.

On the night when he was betrayed, he sat at a table with his friends. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, served it to them, and said, "Take this. Eat it. It is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way he took the cup, Blessed, served it to them, and said, "Drink from this every one of you. This is my blood poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

And so we remember.

And so we offer our praise and thanks and our very selves.

As a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.

As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

So we await your new day. We call on you to send your Holy Spirit on us and on these elements of bread and wine. Let them be for us once more Christ's body and let us be for you once more Christ's body. Make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,

God of the Dawn,
Christ of the new Day
Spirit who is Ever Present,
we wait for you this day, your day. **Amen.**

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 Communion:

Communion Anthem: Creator of the Stars of Night *(Sung by Choir)*

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

Prayer after Communion: God for whom we wait, **you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. 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:

Sending out of Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in Christ's body and blood.

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

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in the community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Commissioning Hymn: CP 506 Lord of All Hopefulness

Commissioning:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ!

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INTERCESSIONS

TODAY WE PRAY

We pray for The Anglican Church of Australia.

We pray for our Primate Shane, John our Metropolitan,

Anna our Bishop, and Ingrid our Priest.

*In the Western Peninsula & Gulf Islands region for the Reverend Ingrid Andersen
and the people and neighbourhood of The Church of the Advent.*

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 Alan, Frank, Linda, Darleen, Peggy, Jim, John, Tina, Jenny, Beth, Mike,
Trevor, Barb, Larry, Jim, Geoff & Kim, David, Cena, Kathy, Susan, Kathy, Jim,
Wayne, Neil, Christopher, Dianne, Brandon, Jo, and the residents and staff of
Westshore Lodge.*

For Those Who Are Mourning

*We pray for Gwen and Doug Doust and their family as they grieve the sudden loss
of their son Andrew, particularly for Scott, his brother, and for Melina,
Andrew's widow.*

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

SHARED MINISTRY

Pageant Sunday – December 14! - We all look forward to the Christmas Pageant on the third Sunday of Advent! Our Christmas Pageant this year will be held on Sunday, December 14th at the 10 AM service, with the Dress Rehearsal the day before, Saturday, December 13th at 11:00 to 12:30. The Pageant is open to all children and those young at heart. The children will be chosen to take on specific roles at the time of the Dress Rehearsal (we have a lot of costumes available). We'd also like to invite adults to participate - if you're interested, please email Rudo at rudodmgodi@gmail.com. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Caroling – You're invited to join us and spread Christmas cheer at our annual Christmas caroling outing! Please check your newsletter which will have a form for you to fill in your date of preference (this also lets us know the level of participant interest). We are considering planning the outing for either Sunday, December 14th in the afternoon or a later evening time, or the evening of Monday, December 15th. This is always a fun experience that allows us to connect with those who are homebound. **Please choose your date in the form that is linked in the newsletter.**

Compassion in Action - This season the Compassion in Action Ministry would like to support Connection Point. They provide a gift shop for parents to shop for their children and gifts for the unhoused. Please provide however you wish with a gift, gift box, or gift bag/ backpack for a child adult or senior. The gift box/bag could include toiletries, snacks and treats, cold weather items etc. **Items can be placed in the Narthex closet. The deadline for receiving donations is December 7th.**

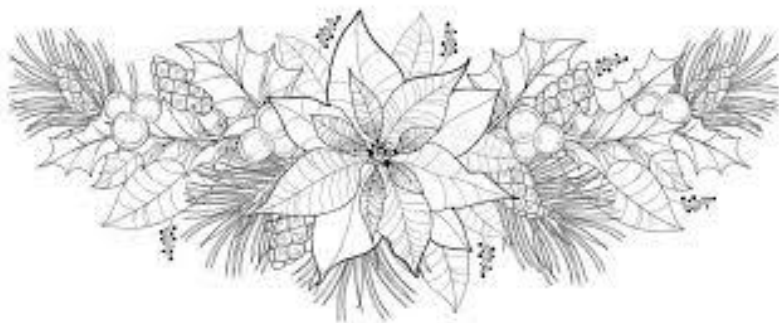
Christmas Day Home Alone Luncheon – Last year's Christmas Day Lunch for anyone who was alone was yet another great success. We had a large turnout and saw lots of happy faces. So, mark your calendars because Church of the Advent will host the lunch again this year! **Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.**

ALREADY? Yes, it's that time of year! - As you have noticed, our little brown envelopes for flowers are here again. As you may or may not be aware, your Altar Guild receives no money for flowers except from YOU, our wonderful parishioners. We ask for your support in purchasing flowers for Christmas. We also know at this time of year, most of us are short on cash. We are asking only for a small contribution of whatever you have in your pockets! Please help us with this special ministry. **Thank you so much. - Your Altar Guild**

Volunteer Forms – A reminder to please turn in your filled in volunteer forms. These forms were enclosed with the Harvest Stewardship letter. If you need another one, please notify the parish office. Once you have filled in the form, you can deposit it into the gold wrapped box sitting in the Narthex. Thank you!

Community Coffee Social – The Community Coffee Social for December has been cancelled. Please note that the schedule will change in the New Year, and the Coffee Social will take place on the **first Wednesday of the month**. Updates regarding changes of dates to certain months in the year will be shared well in advance.

From the Parish Library: This week's Top Shelf features books for Advent reflection. Check the children's table for Christmas stories.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Dec 10 Ladies Guild Appreciation Lunch
Dec 15 Christmas Caroling
Dec 16 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm
Dec 20 Blue Christmas Service
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services
Dec 25 Christmas Day Home Alone Luncheon
Dec 26-Jan 12 Sr. Ingrid away on holidays

Jan 7 Community Coffee Social, 9 am
Jan 14 Ladies Guild Mtg, 1:30 pm
Jan 18 Jazz Vespers, 7 pm
Jan 20 Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm
Jan 24 Spanish Service & Potluck, 6 pm
Jan 25 8:30 Breakfast
Jan 28 Ladies Guild Lunch, Noon

