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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"***

Second Sunday of Advent & Hanging of the Greens

10:00 a.m. Service

December 7, 2025



Photo by Annie Spratt 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.

<p>10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist A Service from “Evangelical Lutheran Worship”</p>
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*Lay Eucharistic Minister is Shaena Wallace
Sidespeople are Marlyn Butler & Sharon Crews
Ministry of the Chalice – Joan Hoffman & 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: CP 593 O God of Every Nation

LIGHT OF LIGHT – A CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY FOR ADVENT

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

First Sunday of Advent - Light of Peace

Advent is a time to turn away from meaningless distractions.

Prince of Peace, clear our minds and calm our hearts.

Advent is a time to notice and count our many blessings.

Prince of Peace, help us recognize all that is good in our lives.

Advent is a time to let go of bitterness and resentment.

Prince of Peace, make us slow to anger and quick to forgive.

Advent is a time to spread peace to the world around us.

Prince of Peace, open our eyes to the needs of others.

Candle Lighting

Bill Van Sickle

Today we light two candles - the candle of hope and the candle of peace. This second candle reminds us that in sending Christ, God sent us peace that passes all understanding. Peace of heart and mind, because through God's grace, we were given a Savior. Because of Christ we can live our lives with a sense of calm assurance, and we can be instruments that spread that peace out into the world.

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: Come, Lord Jesus. Guide us as we seek to encounter you in Scripture and in our interactions with one another. Help us to see your light shining in each person we meet. Grow in us the trust of Mary and Joseph to be open to your word and your will. Grant us peace, so that we, too, can trust you in all things. Give us the courage to say yes to the difficult challenges we face in our own lives, now and forever, **Amen.**

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

Sentence of the Day: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, **who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive 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 2)

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

Change your lives, he's coming. The one who is the light of the world is coming.
Change your lives, he's coming. The reign of God is near!

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

The Poinsettia: A Symbol of the Unexpected

The poinsettia, which looks like the flaming star of Bethlehem, comes from Central America. There is a charming Mexican legend about a poor girl, Pepita, who had no present to give to baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Service. On her way, she picked some weeds for a bunch of flowers from the side of the road. When she reached the chapel, she hung her head in shame as she placed her humble offering at the creche. Suddenly the weeds burst into bright red flowers. Everyone who saw them was sure they had seen a miracle. From then on, the bright red flowers were called "Flores de Noche Buena", or "Flowers of the Holy Night."

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Jose Perena Pratt

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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear what the Spirit says to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 72: 1-7, 18-19 (Pg. 797)

Shaena Wallace

Give the king your justice, O God, * **and your righteousness to the king's son;**

That he may rule your people righteously * **and the poor with justice;**

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, * **and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people; * **he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, * **from one generation to another.**

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, * **like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; * **there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, * **who alone does wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be his glorious name for ever! * **and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.**

The Wreaths: A Symbol of Never-Ending Love

The first Advent wreath is said to have been created by a German Lutheran pastor named Johann Hinrich Wichern, who added lit candles of various sizes and colors in a circle as Christmas approached. The evergreen foliage, which survives the harshness of winter, is a symbol of resilience and hope in adversity. The circle shape of the wreath symbolizes the never-ending, eternal nature of our all-powerful God.

Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

Kathy Middleton

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony

with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness

(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 3: 1-12

Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more

powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Rev. Sr. Ingrid Andersen

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People:

Sue Hamblin

(Please be seated for the prayers)

Each petition will end with – God of Peace.

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

The Nativity Scene

Tradition has it that Saint Francis of Assisi created the first crèche in 1223, 800 years ago, when he staged a living nativity scene, consisting of a manger, an ox and a donkey, as part of a Christmas Eve Mass he had organized. For St Francis, the incarnation, the fact that God came to us in human form, is central to our faith. After that first nativity scene, the practice became popular and spread far and wide. Within a century, virtually every church in Italy, had taken up the practice. Over time, statues, rather than living people and animals, were used, which eventually led to the nativity scenes that are so much a part of Christmas today.

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: G 819 Peace is Flowing Like a River

Arr. © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me;
flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

Joy is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me;
flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

Hope is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me;
flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

Love is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me;
flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me;
flowing out into the desert, setting all the captives free.

Prayer over the Gifts: God our strength, **we are nothing without you. Receive all we offer you this day as you sustain us with your mercy; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer:

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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: Wood of the Cradle *(Sung by choir, featuring Bonnie Stuart)*

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

Prayer after Communion: Faithful God, **we thank you for feeding us with this heavenly banquet. Help us always to hear the prophet's call to turn our hearts to you; in the name of Jesus 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:

(Please stand and face each other across the aisle.)

Commissioning Hymn: G 829 Let There Be Peace on Earth

© 1955, 1983, Jan-Lee Music; Acc. © 1993, GIA Publications, Inc. Author: Jill Jackson, 1913-1995

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.
With God our creator, family all are we.
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment, and live each moment
in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Commissioning:

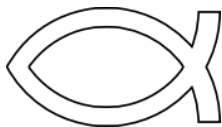
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ!

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Our Chrismons

Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas trees in churches and Christians homes.



The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S). Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



The Trefoil represents the Christian 'Trinity' of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is three equal circles intertwined to form a whole.



The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptised.



The Candle represents that Christians believe Jesus is the Light of the World.



The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptised in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land (Israel) would use a shell as a drinking vessel. Pilgrims wear the shell as a sign of their pilgrimage.



The Heart is a symbol of love and reminds Christians that God is love.

INTERCESSIONS

TODAY WE PRAY

We pray for the Church of Bangladesh.

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 parish and neighbourhood of
St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak, and the Very Rev. Ansley Tucker.*

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 Steve, 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
The Priory.*

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 35:1-10; Canticle 18a; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

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 rudodmgori@gmail.com. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Caroling – You're invited to join the caroling group on Sunday, December 14th at 2 pm and help spread Christmas cheer among some of our homebound parishioners! Please let the parish office or Joan Hoffman know if you would like to participate.

Christmas Day Home Alone Luncheon – Last year's Christmas Day Lunch for anyone who was alone was yet another great success. So, mark your calendars because Church of the Advent will host the lunch again this year! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. **If you can contribute food (see list in the newsletter), please indicate on the sign-up sheet by December 14th. And if you can help with setting tables, this will happen on Monday, December 22nd at 10 am. Thank you!**

Advent Creative Meditations – Tues. 6-7 pm - Make the most of this season with some creative quiet time, with special Advent colouring-in sheets and readings from much-loved author, Henri Nouwen. Bring your coloured pencils and markers.
Where: St John's Room - Dec 9, 23. Hall - Dec 16

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**

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. 5 pm

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services:

Carols at 6:30 pm

Family Eucharist Service at 7 pm

Eucharist Service with Choir at 10 pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Home Alone Luncheon

Dec 26-Jan 12 Sr. Ingrid away on holidays

Jan 7 Community Coffee Social, 9:30 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