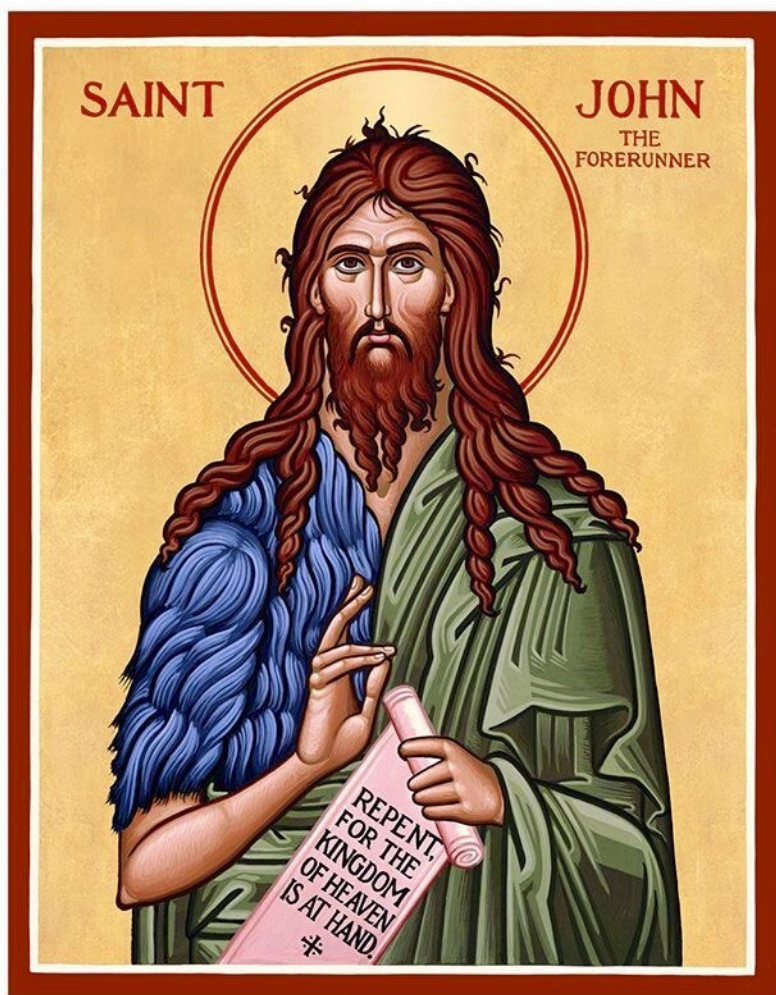


# SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Peace*



December 7, 2025

10:30 am

"A dream is the bearer of a new possibility, the enlarged horizon,  
the great hope."

— Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart* (1953)

*Note: We are a Scent Free Facility for the health and comfort of those with allergies. Thank you for helping us care for one another.*

All are warmly welcomed to our worship.

We ask visitors to introduce themselves and to join us  
for social hour after the service.

Kids Church is offered during the 10:30 am service.

The children will leave for age appropriate activities part way through.  
Children are also welcome to stay at the activity table.

## Welcome, Introduction & Invitation to Stillness

Presider We acknowledge with gratitude that we live and worship on  
the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of the  
k'w'ikwəłəm (Kwikwetlem) First Nation, shared historically  
with the q'icəy' (Katzie) and other Coast Salish Peoples.

We give thanks for their care of the land,  
waters and creatures through the generations,  
and we commit ourselves to walk gently upon this earth  
and to live as good neighbours.

As we begin, let us settle into stillness. Breathe deeply.  
Let go of what you carry.  
In this season of waiting,  
we make space for God to meet us in the quiet.  
We arrive, just as we are,  
open to whatever God has for us today.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God who lights our path.

**All And blessed be God's kingdom, now and always.**

Presider The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (OCP 380)*

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear

### ***Refrain:***

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

5. O Come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery ***Refrain***
6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadow put to flight ***Refrain***
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all humankind  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease  
And be thyself our Prince of Peace ***Refrain***

Text John M Neale, Music Thomas Helmore

Presider God is with us,  
**All here in our midst and always,**  
Presider the love at our beginning and without end.  
Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
**All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Holy One, you know our hearts: our hopes and fears,  
our joys and sorrows, all our daily challenges.  
In your mercy, help us. By your Spirit,  
inspire and deepen your love in us.  
We pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - *The Candle of Peace*

Hymn - *On Christmas Morn* - Jason Wood

2. Halt, clashing nations! Cease your noise  
*For peace is born on Christmas morn*  
Bend chastened to this radiant boy  
*For peace is born on Christmas morn*  
The heir of David's throne shall mend  
Our enmities and violence  
Proclaim his kingdom without end  
*For peace is born on Christmas morn.*

Lighters Today, we light the second candle of Advent,  
the candle of Peace.

*The candles are lit.*

We light this candle remembering that God's peace is not  
the absence of trouble, but the presence of love.  
When conflict surrounds us, peace roots us.  
When anxiety rises, peace steadies us.  
Longing for peace in this season of anticipation,  
watching and waiting for the Holy Light,  
we come in faith and say:

**All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Collect of the Day *(the special prayer which 'collects' the theme of the day)*

Presider Peace-maker,  
from the stump of our despair, you bring forth new life:  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
that by the power of your Spirit we may abound in hope.  
Help us to welcome one another as Christ has welcomed us,  
that wolf and lamb, leopard and kid,  
those who differ and those who disagree,  
may learn to dwell together in your love;  
through Jesus Christ, the root of Jesse,  
in whom all peoples hope. **Amen.**

## Gathering of Children

*Children and their leaders are invited to come forward for a prayer before heading to Kids Church. They will rejoin us in time for Communion. If your child prefers to stay in the service, they are welcome here, and activities are available at the table ,at the rear of the sanctuary.*

Presider Loving God,  
**All as we gather together,  
we pray for open hearts and minds.  
Help us all to grow in faith, love, and understanding.  
May your Spirit guide us as we watch and wait  
for your light, and may your love unite us,  
now and always. Amen.**

*(Children leave for Kids Church)*

**Kyrie - *Lord Have Mercy* - Mass of Communion**

Ky - ri - e, e -  
**VERSE 2**  
 le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy. Chri - ste, e -  
 le - i - son. Christ, have mer - - cy.  
**VERSE 3**  
 Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son. Lord, have mer - cy.  
 Lord, have mer - - - - cy.

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## Proclamation of the Word

## The Readings

Presider Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us through the reading of the Holy Scriptures.

**All      Our hearts and minds are open.**

First Reading - *Isaiah 11:1-10*

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm - Psalm 72



1. O God, with your judgment endow the king  
and with your justice, the king's son  
he shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgement **Refrain**
2. Justice shall flower in his days  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more  
May he rule from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth **Refrain**
3. For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him  
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor  
the lives of the poor he shall save **Refrain**
4. May his name be blessed forever  
as long as the sun his name shall remain  
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed  
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness **Refrain**

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## Second Reading - Romans 15:4-13

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying  
All Thanks be to God

*Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Reading*

## Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu, al - le -

7 Dm C Dm C Dm

lu - ia. lu, al - le - lu - ia. *(Cantor intones appropriate verse with*

13 Gm7 C7 Fmaj7 Dm

Gm7 C7 F Fsus *D.C. al Coda*

20

27 Gm Coda Dm C Fsus F

lu, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - - ia.

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

All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Gospel – *Matthew 3:1-12*

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily - *Rev. Carla McGhie*



## Special Christmas Song - *Every Soldier's Boot*

We who walk in darkness  
Have seen a great light  
Illuminating the darkest of lands  
As in days of old  
He has shattered our heavy yoke  
The rod held by oppressive hands

### ***Refrain***

*Every soldier's boot shall burn  
Every soldier's boot shall burn  
And our garments dripped in blood  
Could not burn hot enough  
For a child is born unto us*

He shall bear our sin  
His foes shall never win  
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace  
Like one whom men disdain  
His almighty reign  
By affliction shall increase ***Refrain***

So we watch and pray  
For promised judgment day  
When swords the nations no more swing  
'Til prideful wars desist  
With patience we resist  
And haste the coming of our king ***Refrain***

© Jason Wood 2011

## Affirming Our Faith

Presider In this season of waiting, we declare the faith  
that holds us and the hope that draws us forward.

**All      We believe in God, the Source of Life,  
by whom every being in heaven and earth  
is created, named, and sustained.**

**We believe in God, the Living Word,  
who restores us to relationship  
and speaks to us through faith.**

**We believe in God, the Holy Spirit,  
who comforts, guides, and strengthens us  
to share the good news of grace.**

**We believe in God,  
one, holy, undivided Trinity:  
Source of Life, Living Word,  
Comforter: Mystery. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

## Confession & Absolution

Presider We come before God, not in fear, but in trust.  
God knows us completely and loves us still.  
In the light that is coming, let us acknowledge  
the shadows we carry: the times we have lost hope,  
the moments we have turned from love,  
the places where we need healing.

*We keep a moment of quiet for reflection*

Presider God of all mercy,  
**All we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have  
done, and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our  
Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in  
eternal life. **Amen.**<sup>1</sup>

## The Peace

Presider In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of Christ be with you.

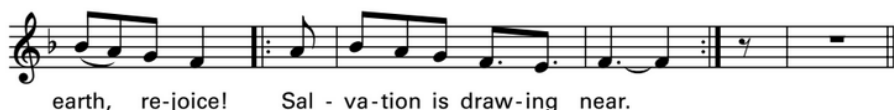
**All And also with you.**

*(The congregation greets one another with a sign of peace.)*

## Offertory

*In gratitude for all we've received, we offer of ourselves back to God. Bread, wine, and money symbolize the fruits of our labour. If you give through Pre-Authorized Donations or e-transfer ([office@saintlaurence.ca](mailto:office@saintlaurence.ca)), you're welcome to use a blue card to represent your offering to the glory of God.*

### Offertory Hymn - Emmanuel (S&S 290)



1. O come, O come, Em-man - u - el,  
That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,  
To us the path of knowl-edge show,
3. O come, O Rod of Jes - se's stem;  
That trust your might - y pow'r to save,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind  
Make all our sad di - vi - sions cease,
5. Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



1. And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2. Who or - dered all things might - i - ly;  
And teach us in her ways to go.
3. From ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them  
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
4. In one the hearts of hu - man - kind;  
And be for us the King of Peace.
5. shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.  
shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el. (Fine)

Text: Refrain, Steve Angrisano; verses based on Advent 'O' Antiphons.  
Music and refrain text © 2004, Steve Angrisano. Published by OCP.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Eternal One,  
risking hope in this season of anticipation,  
watching and waiting for your Holy Light,  
we bring our offerings to you and say in faith:

**All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider We thank you for this bread and wine, gifts of your creation,  
and for the gift of Emmanuel: God with us. **Amen.**

## Celebration of our Sacred Meal

### The Great Thanksgiving

Presider God is with you.

**All And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them up to God.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**All We give our thanks and praise.**

Presider Creator, you made our world - beautiful and good.  
You made us to live in right relationship with you  
and all creation. You sent Jesus to live among us  
and show us what you are like.

We give all thanks and praise to you, our true  
and loving God. You laid the foundations of the earth  
and enclosed the seas. You brought forth all creatures  
and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One.

All you create is a sign of hope for our journey.  
And so, we join with the heavenly beings  
and all of creation as we sing:

## Sanctus - Holy - Mass of Communion

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

Heav - en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high -

est. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Presider Glory and honour are yours, Creator of all,  
your Word has never been silent.

Of your grace, you sent Jesus to be human,  
to share our life,  
to proclaim the coming of your holy reign,  
and to give himself for us.

Through Jesus Christ you have reconciled us to you  
and restored the glory you intended for us.

Presider    On the night before he died, Jesus ate supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

*“Take and eat. This is my very self given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

Then he took the cup of wine, again he gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying:

*“Drink it all of you. This cup is a new covenant  
poured out for you and all people.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

And so, we remember: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, and, longing for Christ’s coming again in glory, we present these gifts to you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, so that we who share this bread and wine may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Draw us together in Christ, and, in the fullness of time, gather us with all your people into the joy of your eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator and give you our unending praise. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en, hal-low-ed be  
thy name; thy king-dom come; thy will be done on  
earth as it is in heav-en. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread; and for - give us as we for - give  
oth - ers; and lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,  
but de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom and the pow - er and the  
glo - ry are yours for - ev - er. A - men.

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## The Breaking of the Bread

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.*

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

All **Though we are many, we are one body,  
watching together for the coming light.**



## Lamb of God - *Mass of Communion*

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, mi - se - re - re  
no - - bis. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
sins of the world, mi - se - re - re no - - bis.  
Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, do - na no - bis pa -  
cem, do - na no - bis pa - - - - cem.

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## The Invitation

Presider This is the table of the Lord,  
spread for all who hunger for hope and long for the light.  
You do not need to be certain, only seeking.  
You do not need to be whole, only willing.  
Come, receive what God offers.  
Come, be fed for the journey.

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## The Distribution

*At St. Laurence, everyone is invited to the table. You may receive only the bread or both bread and wine. Non-fermented grape juice is available in the ceramic chalice, and gluten-free wafers are offered, just ask at the distribution. If you prefer a blessing, simply cross your arms across your chest.*

# Communion Hymn - *Come and Fill* (CP 402)

## Ostinato Refrain



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.  
*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.*

The first system of the Ostinato Refrain is written in treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody in the treble staff consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a steady accompaniment of chords. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the English text in italics.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no, Al - le - lu - ia!  
*Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al - le - lu - ia!*

The second system of the Ostinato Refrain continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a repeat sign at the end of the system. The lyrics are written below the staves, with the English text in italics.

Text: Psalm 137, Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; Taizé Community, 1982  
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
© 1982, 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

# Communion Hymn - *Come to Us*

Verses

1. Scat-tered and bro - ken, bent in our way,  
 2. Come, Lord, our day-spring, come from on high,  
 3. Come, Root of Jes - se; come, Da-vid's son;

1. we are your peo - ple gath-ered to praise you.  
 2. as we your peo - ple gath - er to praise you.  
 3. come, Star of Morn-ing; we come to praise you.

1. A vine-yard up - root - ed, 7 nar-row in sight.  
 2. Un - wor - thy to taste from your heav-en - ly vine,  
 3. 7 Hope of cre - a - tion, of all hu-man - kind,

1. 7 Come, Lord of Glo-ry! Come, Lord of Light!  
 2. but your word will heal us. Come, Light Di - vine!  
 3. 7 reign o - ver bod-y, spir - it and mind.

Refrain

(Advent) Come to us, O Lord of Glo-ry and shine in our hearts.  
 (Christmas) Come to us, O Child of glo-ry, be born in our hearts.

Come to us, O Lord of Glo-ry and make us a - new. Lord, we  
 Come to us, O Child of glo-ry and make us a - new. We a -

wait dore for you. Lord, we wait for you. Lord, we  
 dore you, we a - dore you, we a -

wait dore for you. Come, Lord of Glo-ry.  
 dore you, sweet child of glo-ry.

## Moment of Silence

*Take a moment to be still and know God. Let the world's noise fade as you listen for the deep stillness beneath it all. The silence begins and ends with the ringing of a bell.*

## Prayer after Communion

Presider Gracious God,  
All **you have fed us at this table  
with bread for the journey  
and wine for rejoicing.  
As we wait for the fullness of your coming,  
keep us watchful and hopeful,  
ready to welcome the light.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the one who is and who was and who is to come. Amen.**

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.**

## Announcements

### Blessing

Presider Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
All **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Presider May the God of hope fill you with patience for the waiting.  
May Christ, the coming light,  
scatter the darkness before your path.  
And may the Holy Spirit keep you watchful and ready.  
And the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer,  
and Giver of Life, be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn - *People Look East* (VU 9)

1. People, look east, the time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east and sing today  
Love the guest is on the way
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish  
People, look east and sing today  
Love the rose is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled;  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledgling time has chosen.  
People, look east Love the bird is on the way.
4. stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east Love the star is on the way.
5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east Love the Lord is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon, Music Martin Fallas Shaw Copyright Oxford University Press 1928

Minister    Go in peace, watching for the light.  
All            **Thanks be to God.**

*The flowers on the altar this morning are given by  
Kathy (wife) and James (son) and family,  
in memory of Hugh MacCorkindale.  
He has rested in peace in the  
Memorial Garden for 19 years*



## Acknowledgements

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Deacon: The Reverend Patricia Ratcliffe  
Honorary: The Reverend Carla McGhie  
Music Director: Emilia Boronco  
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Trustees: Mitch Dodd, Brian Corbould, Detlef Beck,  
Anne Dennis, Susanne Stockdill  
Family & Youth Leader: Jason Wood  
St. Laurence Kids: Jason Wood  
Treasurer: Mori Mortezaei  
Envelope Secretary: Larry Hoad  
Privacy Officer: Allison Walker  
Operations Manager: Curt Bruniski

### *Office Hours:*

10:00am-3:00pm (drop-in)  
Monday - Friday

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Wednesday Morning Gathering - 9:00 am

*From silence to laughter, scripture to table - wrestling with faith, in good company.*

Join us midweek for Communion, scripture, and honest conversation. A safe space to share questions, explore diverse perspectives, and deepen fellowship. Start your day nourished in spirit and community.

### Lighting the Way: An Advent Vigil with Rev Philip

Join our Rector, Philip, this Advent for a season of intentional prayer and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

**Morning Prayer** (December 1 – December 24,  
**8:00 am - Monday - Friday**)

Each weekday morning, Philip will be leading Morning Prayer on our YouTube channel. It will be gently liturgical in shape to guide our prayer together. Each session includes biblical reflection and a time for open prayer.

You can join live or watch the recording whenever it fits your schedule. Submit prayer requests in the comments section.

### **The Advent Candles** (Wednesdays at **7:30pm**)

Wednesday evenings throughout Advent, we'll gather online for themed reflections exploring each of the Advent candles (Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love) using each week's theme as the basis for Evening Prayer. We'll conclude each evening with a time of Examen, an ancient practice of prayerful reflection  
*(don't worry, he will explain how it works!)*.

Whether you join daily or occasionally, these evergreen offerings are designed to help us keep the ancient discipline of Advent.

Let's light the way together toward Christmas.

**Find us:** <https://www.youtube.com/@StLaurenceCoq>

# Next Sunday Events



## Pageant Sunday

Joint Service with  
Good Shepherd Lutheran  
*10:30 Service at St. Laurence*  
*(regular service at 9:00 am)*

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## Community Christmas Big Sing

Sunday, December 14, 7:00 PM

Raise your voice and sing favourite Christmas carols with neighbours from across the Tri-Cities. Our amazing choir will lead the way, but this is everyone's night to sing.  
No tickets, no performance—just joy, harmony, and community.