

# **Second Sunday of Advent**

## **Dec 7, 2025**



**St. Helen's**  
**Anglican Church of Canada**  
**Diocese of New Westminster**

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*All stand*

OPENING HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed

CP 101

## GREETING

In this time and place  
we gather on the unceded, ancestral lands of the Musqueam nation.  
**From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.**

In this time and place  
we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.  
**Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.**

CP 113

In this time and place  
we await God's transformation of the world.  
**Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.**

CP 113

In this time and place  
we await the coming of the commonwealth of peace.  
**Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.**

CP 113

## CONFESSION

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

Holy One,

**we long for you.**

**You know our wounding and our broken-heartedness.**

**You know how others have hurt us,  
and how we have hurt others.**

**You alone have the healing we need.**

**Yours is the love that changes everything. Amen.**

## THE ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha.**

CP 113

*Strengthen the hearts of the fearful and weak; be strong; fear not,  
God is near, coming in power and loosing our bonds, setting the  
captives free.*

***Refrain.***

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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 LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 11:1-10

Tony Hodgson

A reading from the book of Isaiah

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.

**Thanks be to God.**

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. **R.**

In his time shall the righteous flourish;  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
Blessed be God, the Holy One of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
And blessed be that glorious name for ever!  
and may all the earth be filled with God's glory. Amen. Amen. **R.**

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Romans

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 is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand for the Gospel*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord**

**and all people will see the salvation of our God. x3**

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.**

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

**Prepare the way of the Lord**

**and all people will see the salvation of our God. x3**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

The Rev. Mark Munn

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*All stand*)

CP 681

Let us confess our faith, as we sing,

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and all things visible and invisible;  
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only begotten Son of God,  
begotten of the Father before all worlds,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one substance with the Father;  
through whom all things were made.  
Who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
And the third day he rose again**



according to the Scriptures;  
and ascended into heaven  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory to judge quick and the dead,  
whose kingdom shall have no end.  
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spake by the prophets.  
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom for prayer.*

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hepsi Chand

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid  
we pray to Jesus.

**Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near.**

CP 94

**Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.  
Help us to live in the light of your coming  
and give us a longing for your kingdom.  
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.  
Before you rulers will stand in silence.  
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.  
Break into our lives,  
where we struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha: **R.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.  
Give us with all the faithful departed  
a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: **R.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.  
Lift us up to meet you,  
that with all your saints and angels  
we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: **R.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;  
give new courage to your people,  
who trust in your love.  
By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom  
on earth as in heaven,  
where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*After the prayers, those who wish may gather in a circle around the altar.*

## THE PEACE

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

May the peace of God be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with signs of God's peace (a handshake, an embrace, or a nod and wave are all appropriate signs). Please remain standing.*

## THE OFFERTORY

*As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.*

OFFERTORY HYMN    Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring                      CP 97  
*Please remain standing until communion.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### 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.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Open your hearts.

**We open our hearts to God.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

**We give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**

CP 689

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 promise 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 your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for 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.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the spirit of Jesus' teaching, let us pray.

**Source of Life,  
holy is your name.  
May your community of shalom be realized,  
here on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us each what we need for today.  
Forgive us our wrongdoings,  
and help us release those who wrong us.  
Save us from times of duress,  
and deliver us from the effects of evil.  
For you hold truth and justice and love,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

God of promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.  
**Happy are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for all God's people.  
**Thanks be to God**

*All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.*

Lamb of God	Lamb of God	CP 690
COMMUNION HYMN	Prepare the Way, O Zion	CP 102
	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	CP 117

*All stand.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

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.**

## BLESSING

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much that God sent God's only Son,  
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.  
**Amen.**

May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.  
**Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help you bear the fruits of holiness.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God,  
Source of Life,  
Living Word,  
and Comforter  
be with you now and always.  
**Amen**



## DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to prepare the way for Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

RECESSIONAL HYMN Hark, a Herald Voice is Sounding

CP 108

*Please be seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence.  
In respect of those who may linger in contemplation,  
conversation is reserved for the narthex.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

14 December (Sun) 8am, 10am— Archbishop John's Visit

19 December (Fri) 7pm— St. Helen's Christmas Concert

20 December (Sat) 9am— Advent Quiet Morning

24 December (Wed) 8pm— Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist Service

25 December (Thu) 10am— Christmas Day BAS Eucharist Service

*For more information, visit [sthelensvancouver.com/events](http://sthelensvancouver.com/events)*

# ST. HELEN'S

WEST POINT GREY ANGLICAN CHURCH

## Discover the History + Imagine the Future of West Point Grey



Come learn about the history and future of our shared home, **West Point Grey**. Storytelling by former City of Vancouver planners Jeannette Hvalach and Christina DeMarco.

Connect with neighbours, reflect on the past, and dream about the future.

**Dec. 3, 2025 — 7 PM**

**Jan. 14, 2026 — 7 PM**

Everyone is welcome -  
come curious and leave  
connected.



**ST. HELEN'S**  
WEST POINT GREY ANGLICAN CHURCH

# Christmas at St. Helen's

Christmas Concert - Dec. 19 - 7pm

Christmas Eve Choral Service - Dec. 24 - 8pm

Christmas Day Service - Dec. 25 - 10am



[sthelensvancouver.com](http://sthelensvancouver.com)

## **How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially**

We deeply appreciate financial contributions to our shared congregational life and mission. The best ways to donate are:

- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation - simply send an email to [sthelenswpg@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenswpg@gmail.com) to get started or change your amount
- Donate via interact e-transfer to [sthelenswpg@gmail.com](mailto:sthelenswpg@gmail.com)
- Scan the QR code to the right or visit [sthelensvancouver.com/give](https://sthelensvancouver.com/give) to donate via credit card
- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate to donate via cheques or cash

### **Volunteers for this week:**

Intercessor: Hepsi Chand

Readers: Tony Hodgson, Angela White

Counter: Lynn Raymond

Lay Administrators: Rev. Jeffrey Priess, Tony Hodgson, Paula Pryce

### **Volunteers for next week:**

Intercessor: Liz Hodgson

Readers: Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Hepsi Chand

Counter and Zoom: Lynn Raymond

Lay Administrators: Suzanne and Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Claire Munn

### **Connect with us:**

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