

The Anglican Parish of  
St. Peter and St. Paul  
December 7<sup>th</sup> 2025  
Home Church Connections Service  
Advent Two



*Look up and raise your heads, because your  
redemption is drawing near*

## Words of Welcome

### The Gathering of the Community

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

God of time and God of eternity

**For you we wait**

God of outer space and God closer than we can imagine

**For you we wait**

God of the roaring noise of the world and God of silence

**For you we wait**

In our work and play, our going out and our coming in

**For you we wait**

In this place and in this time

**For you we wait**

*(If you have an advent wreath at home you are invited to light a candle while Psalm 130 is read)*

### Psalm 130

(rewritten by Nan Merrill *Praying the Psalms* 2007)

I wait for you, my soul waits,  
for in your Love I would live;  
My soul awaits the Beloved  
as one awaits the birth of a child or  
as one awaits the fulfillment of their destiny.

O sons and daughters of the Light,  
welcome the Heart of your heart!  
Then you will climb the sacred Mountain of Truth;

You will know mercy and love in abundance,  
Then will your transgressions be forgiven;  
and you will know the Oneness of All.

### Collect

*Common Worship: Additional Collects (2004) alt.*

Let us pray,

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen.**

### The Proclamation of the Word

#### Reading One: Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*A shoot shall come out from the stock 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 is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Of Solomon.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon,  
throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers  
that water the earth.**

In his days, righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon  
is no more.

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous  
things.**

Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole  
earth.

**Amen and Amen.**

Reading Two: Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Paul's letter 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Good News 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 axe 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.**

Announcements

Affirmation of Faith

*(cf Ephesians)*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

*(Iona Traditional)*

Dear friends in Christ, not out of dread or fear, but believing that God is faithful to forgive, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer. *(Silence is kept)*

**Eternal God, maker of the skies above,  
Lowly Christ, born amidst the growing earth,  
Spirit of life, wind over the flowing waters,**



**in earth, sea and sky you are there.**

**O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns, soul behind all souls, in everything we touch, in everyone we meet, your presence is around us, and we give you thanks, but when we have not touched but trampled your creation, when we have not met but missed you in one another, when we have not received but rejected you in the poor, forgive us, and hear our plea for mercy.**

Listen to the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to renew their lives: “Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace, come, follow me.” And so we pray

**Lead us now, Holy God, to acknowledge your costly generosity by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice and the whole earth cries, Glory! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Going into the World

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

God of Advent,

**Among refugees and outcasts, you breathed your first breaths.  
In the cry of a newborn child you proclaimed Emmanuel God-with-us.**

**Come God in the margins, breathe into us the spirit of longing  
for your kingdom. Come this advent to make us dream and  
work for a better world of justice and freedom. Come, Lord,  
come.**

### Blessing

(Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies Iona Community)

May the light of God

**Lead us and make us unafraid**

May the power of God

**Protect us and make us strong**

May the joy of God

**Heal us and make us happy**

May the grace of God

**Bless us and keep us loving, now and evermore. Amen.**

### **Dismissal:**

Go now and walk in the light of the Lord.

**In the name of Christ we go in hope to love and serve the Lord.**

**Amen!**

### Weekly Cycles of Prayer

We pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines; for Shane Parker, our Primate; Bishop Chris Harper, t Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh, Bishop Lydia Mamkwa; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In our diocese and region, we pray for our bishop, the Right Reverend Anna Green-wood Lee; and St Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay, The Rev. Craig Hiebert and The Rev. Dyan Davison.

In our parish we pray for: Andrew Sebo; Pat Seilitz; Jean Smith; Rosemary Smith; Roland Stacey; Nathaniel, Ann and Eloise Sukhdeo.

In our community we pray for Rainbow Kitchen and those who are hungry in our society.

For the month of December in our parish ministry we pray for the members of our parish council.

We pray for parish members Cameron Lupton and Ayda Skara and their upcoming wedding on December 28 2025.

Welcome to all those visiting us at St. Peter and St. Paul.

We welcome saints, seekers and sinners as we live into a life in Christ, learning about and from one another as we worship God together. Christ binds us together in love through our diversity. If you are comfortable, please give us your name and address so we can add you to our weekly

prayer list. We are looking forward to getting to know you better.

### Territorial Acknowledgement

We worship on the traditional lands of the Esquimalt, Songhees and other Nations of the Salish and Coast Salish Peoples. We, who came from many lands to join the line of those worshipping here, commit our Church to continue the journey of truth and reconciliation with our First Nations' neighbours.

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ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL  
ESQUIMALT

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