



December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday/Sunday of Joy

St. Catherine's Mission, Vision and Values

St. Catherine's Anglican Church, at the heart of Edgemont Village in North Vancouver on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, is a contemporary community of Christian seekers.

We welcome you to join us in the journey. We provide a place of spiritual growth through Christ and we respond with gratitude for God's abundance in our lives through service to our brothers and sisters in the world.

Our **Vision** is to:

- Be an inclusive and thriving community of faith for all generations
- Continually invite others to join us in our journey of faith and Christian discipleship
- Honour the strengthening of relationships and development of community, both within our walls and outside them
- Minister to those in need in Christ's name

Our Values:

St Catherine's is a community that aspires to be:

Welcoming, Inclusive, Curious, Creative,
Sustainable, Caring and Humble

*All songs not in the hymnal are licensed with:
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As you enter the church, we invite you to light a votive candle to remember a person or situation that you carry on your heart. Candles are also available during Communion.

Liturgical Note

In the context of Christian liturgy, Israel and Zion do not refer to the current political state, but to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Edgemont Bells
There Comes a Galley Laden

Welcome

The. Rev. Sarah Lehman

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

Presider We acknowledge that we live, work, and worship on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We are grateful for and will advocate for Indigenous communities, we mourn those who were forcibly removed, and we grieve the legacies of colonialism. We seek to hold ourselves accountable to taking up the work of truth and reconciliation ever more meaningfully, day by day.

A// May we be ministers of the reconciling love of the Risen Christ.

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

A// And also with you.

CANDLE LIGHTING: JOY

Presider Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Today, the candles of Hope and Peace continue to burn in the Advent Wreath. On this third Sunday in Advent, we light the candle of Joy as we continue to prepare for the joyful celebration of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The prophet Isaiah said "Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight." (Isaiah 65:18). As we continue our journey through Advent, let us pray that we may, in every circumstance, find true joy in God's presence, and share this joy with others.

People **Lord, kindle your joy in our hearts.**

The third candle is lit.

Presider Let us pray:

All ***We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Saviour and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of renewal through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with peace, hope and joy. Amen.***

GATHERING HYMN: PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION(CP102)

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet one who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.

Refrain

Oh, blest is Christ that came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.

(Refrain)

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Saviour's rule embrace.
His tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow before him,
their voices will adore him.

(Refrain)

THE COLLECT

Presider

Let us pray.

All

**God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

We sit to listen for the word of God.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

CANTICLE 18: THE MAGNIFICAT (Luke1:47-55)

Led By Sharon Fedorak

Leader My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

***People* My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Leader He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

***People* My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Leader He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

***People* My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Leader He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

***People* My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.**

Leader Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

***All* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

Reader *A reading from the letter of James*

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

GOSPEL HYMN: YOU SERVANTS OF THE LORD (CP 93)

You servants of the Lord,
each in his office wait,
observant of his heavenly Word,
and watchful at his gate.

Let all your lamps be bright,
and trim the golden flame;
attentive stand, as in his sight,
for awesome is his name.

Watch! 'tis your Lord's command,
and while we speak, he's near;
mark the first signal of his hand,
and ready all appear.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

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

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN (continued)

How happy shall we be
if in his service found!
We shall our Lord with rapture see
and be with honour crowned!

Christ shall the banquet spread
with his own royal hand,
and raise each faithful servant's head
amid the angelic band.

HOMILY

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

Presider Let us affirm our faith, saying,

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary and became
truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION

Presider Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love
and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners
and inviting us to this table. Let us confess our
sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Presider
All

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart; we have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we
humbly repent. For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive
us, that we may delight in your will, and
walk in your ways, to the glory of your
name.**

Please rise, in body or in spirit.

Presider

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and
deliver you from all your sins, confirm and
strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in
eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Presider

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

*The community, standing at our seats, greet one another
saying or gesturing: "Peace be with you".*

COMMUNION

PREPARING THE TABLE: I COME WITH JOY (CP 60)

I come with Joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| <i>Presider</i> | Let us pray. |
| All | God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord. Amen. |

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 3

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Presider</i> | The Lord be with you. |
|-----------------|-----------------------|

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| People | And also with you. |
|---------------|---------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <i>Presider</i> | Lift up your hearts. |
|-----------------|----------------------|

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| People | We lift them to the Lord. |
|---------------|----------------------------------|

Presider
People

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presider

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who in the fullness of time came among us
in our flesh, and opened to us the way of
salvation. Now we watch for the day
when he will come again
in power and great triumph to judge this world,
that we, without shame or fear,
may rejoice to behold his appearing.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full,
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Presider
All

Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Presider

and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung):*

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
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 forever.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

Presider God of promise,
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God
People **Thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion of one kind (Bread or Wafers), or in both kinds (Bread and Wine).

Please sanitize your hands before receiving.

Please do not instinct (dip) the Bread or Wafer in the cup.

While the Communion is being administered, we respectfully ask that you keep the silence. Communion is not filmed or live-streamed for worshippers' privacy.

Candle lighting during this time is welcomed.

COMMUNION MUSIC: DONA NOBIS PACEM

Edgemont Bells

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider

Let us pray.

All

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A Churchwarden

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.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN: JOY SHALL COME (CP 104)

Joy shall come even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.

For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: BRING A TORCH, Edgemont Bells
 JEANNETTE ISABELLA

***Please join us after the service for coffee
at the back of the church.***

Thank you for ministering this morning:

Presider & Preacher:

Priest-in-Charge & Curate

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

rev.sarah@saint-catherines.org

Music

Hyejung Jun & Choir

Edgemont Bell Choir

Altar Guild

Greeters

Eucharistic

Administrators

Intercessor

Readers

Coffee Group

Bonnie Grundy

Bob Paxton and Marion Porter

Gillian Holland, Elizabeth Barratt

Heather Luccock

Sharon Fedorak and Tony Dodd

Penny Zuk, Alison Watt and

Gillian Holland

Shaunti Bains

Ashkon Vahedi

Sunday School

Livestream

Wardens:

Vivian McGie & Rhonda Garton

Building/

Office Administrator:

Natasha Stegemann

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