



St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025,

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted." Isaiah 61.1

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin is a member of the Diocese of British Columbia and the Anglican Church of Canada. We are an inclusive and welcoming parish: the sacraments of the church (baptism, communion and marriage) are available to all people on equal terms. Christ welcomes you, and so do we. As a parish we acknowledge with gratitude that we live, work and play on the traditional lands of the Lekwungen peoples. We commit ourselves, as a settler church and people, to continue with our First Nations hosts on the journey of truth-telling, healing, and reconciliation.

The Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion. Please also consider one of the other available means of giving regularly: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or monthly direct debit donations via the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance program - details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

At St Mary's it is our tradition to refrain from displaying memorial flowers during Advent and Lent. If you would like to schedule a memorial arrangement at the next opportunity, contact Anne Underhill, 250-370-5027

10:00am Service

From the Church of England, Common Worship

Minister of Welcome:	Pat Taylor	Lay Eucharistic Ministers:	Karen Wilson,
Presider:	The Rev'd Dr John Macquarrie		David Stewart
Preacher:	The Rev'd Dyan Davison	Organ:	Marianne Robinson
		Music:	St. Mary Singers

Please note that this service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending in person, you are acknowledging and consent to the fact that the video images of you may appear online.

*In the service order, words set in **bold italic type** are said by the congregation.*

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

The Lord is my light and my salvation:

Our God shall change the darkness to light.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts

that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God for ever.

The Advent Wreath is lighted.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, vs 1-2, 5, 7 (89)

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 you, O Israel.*

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who orders all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go. R

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. R

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
O bid our bitter conflict cease,
and be for us our Prince of Peace. R

GREETING

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

And also with you

CENTRING STILLNESS

Silence is kept.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

God of glory and compassion,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms.
Grant perseverance and patience
to all who long for your Son's return,
so that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.
We ask this through Christ whose day draws near. Amen.

The congregation sits.

Opening Prayers (1997) alt

THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 35. 1-10, Sherry Armstrong

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
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.]]

³Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say 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.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶then 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;

⁷the 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.

⁸A 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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No 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.

¹⁰And 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.

Holy word, holy wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146. 4-9

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

***Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
For their hope is in the Lord their God,***

who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that is in them;
who keeps promises for ever;

***who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
food to those who hunger
and sets the prisoners free.***

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind!
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down
and loves the righteous.

***The Lord cares for the stranger
and sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

James 5. 7-10, Jackie Hiebert

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes (98)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song. | 3. Christ comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and from the treasures of grace
to bless the humble poor. |
| 2. Christ comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst;
the iron fetters yield. | 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name. |

GOSPEL

Matthew 11. 2-11

Before the Gospel is read, the reader says:

God is with you.

And also with you.

The Good News of Jesus according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As 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? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ “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.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

SERMON

ANTHEM

Never Weather-beaten Sail, Thomas Campion

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, (+) the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD

Jackie Hiebert

The congregation stands, sits, or kneels.

You come to rescue us.

Come, Lord our Saviour.

In your prayers this week remember the following: Those in need of healing and care, including Colin, Elizabeth F, Emma, Jeff, Gerald, Gina, Ken, Richard, Samantha, Scott, Scottie and Sherry. In our diocese of islands and inlets pray for Anna, our Bishop; John, our Metropolitan; Chris, our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop; and Shane, our Primate; and for The Abbey Church + Emmaus Community. In our province, pray for Bishop Lynn McNaughton and the Diocese of Kootenay, and in the church further afield pray for Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil. Pray for the unhoused in our region, and for the agencies who are providing shelter from the severe weather of this season.

A Note About Our Prayer Ministry: *If you wish to request prayers for yourself or for someone else, please send the information to the office: admin@stmarysoakbay.ca. Requests received by end of day Wednesdays will be included in the leaflet for the following Sunday and for three weeks following. Prayers will also be included by the members of the Angel Wings Prayer Team. A new request may be made if you wish specific prayers to be continued. We require only a first name, but it is helpful if an area of need is included, eg, in need of prayer; sickness; awaiting surgery; recovering from surgery; ongoing treatment; death; grieving.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into the peace of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You come in word and sacrament
to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You will come in glory
with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider reminds us of God's healing and forgiveness

PEACE

The congregation stands

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

We share signs of Peace with those around us.

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

For safety, the Collection Plate has been placed at the back of the church for use as you arrive. It will be moved to the front of the church during the Offertory hymn and placed in a location where you may place your gifts as you come to receive Communion.

Please also consider one of the other means of giving that do not require our volunteers and staff to handle cash and cheques: electronic donations on our website via CanadaHelps, or bi-weekly or monthly direct debit donations via our diocesan Electronic Collection Plate (details are available in a brochure at the entrance, or on the website: www.stmarysoakbay.ca/donate).

OFFERTORY HYMN

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (88)

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever:
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
4. By thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

*Common Worship (CW) Prayer A
with Advent Extended Preface M1*

The congregation remains standing, as they are able

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

The prayer continues until:

sung 735

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.

The prayer continues until:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The prayer continues until:

Through him, and with him, and in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*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 for ever. Amen.*

Silence is held

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.*

The gifts of God, for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

sung 747

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

*Jesus redeemer, redeemer of the world,
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

THE COMMUNION

All are invited to receive Communion.

The sacrament will be offered in both kinds (bread and the common cup) but be assured that in the Anglican Church of Canada it has always been our tradition that receiving only one of the elements is considered full Communion. Gluten-free wafers for communion are available. Please request it from the person who is distributing the bread.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are also welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. This is signified by folding your hands across your chest as you approach the presider.

COMMUNION HYMN

Prepare the Way (107)

Prepare the way of the Lord
prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006) alt.

COMMUNITY NOTES

DOXOLOGY

The congregation stands

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

HYMN

People Look East! The Time is Near (91)

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 fledging time has chosen.
 People, look east and sing today:
 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 and sing today:
 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 and sing today:
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

The musical postlude is a part of worship, extending the beauty of holiness so that the congregation can remember and give thanks for our encounter with God's Word as it has been experienced this day. You are invited to use this time for reflection, remaining seated.



Notes of Joy

Noon Concerts for Advent

Concert CANCELLED: 17 December

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the final concert in our series has been cancelled. To date, the series has raised \$1,900 in support of Victoria Hospice Bereavement Services. *Thank-you for your generosity!*

Tony Booker has been rescheduled to our Lent Concert series on 18 March 2026, so mark your calendars!




St Mary's ✠ **Oak Bay**
1701 ELGIN RD | WWW.STMARYSOAKBAY.CA

Sunday, December 21, 4 pm



a unique blend of exceptional jazz
rooted in Anglican meditation and prayer

featuring

the Kim Greenwood Trio
with special guest Megan Greenwood

*Kim Greenwood - vocals
Megan Greenwood - vocals
Karel Roessingh - piano
Louis Rudner - double bass*

suggested donation \$20
A portion of the proceeds will be donated to CFAF Santas Anonymous

www.stmarysoakbay.ca/jazz-evensong



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

6:30 pm Treats & Carol Sing

7:00 pm Family Communion *with*
Readings & Carols

*A warm combination of tradition and family cheer —
with hot spiced apple cider and treats after!*

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th

10:00am Holy Communion

*Help us celebrate the coming of Light into the world,
and join us as we pray for Peace to break out anew.*



1701 ELGIN ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8R 5L7
250-598-2212 • INFO@STMARYSOAKBAY.CA
WWW.STMARYSOAKBAY.CA

Incumbent: The Venerable Craig Hiebert
incumbent@stmarysoakbay.ca

Priest Associate: The Reverend Dyan Davison
associate@stmarysoakbay.ca

Parish Administrator: Marianne McGahon, 250-598-2212
admin@stmarysoakbay.ca

Honorary Associate: The Reverend Dr John Macquarrie
jmacquarrie@stmarysoakbay.ca

The Stewards of St Mary's
wardens@stmarysoakbay.ca

Rector's Warden: Lorna Bampton, *lbampton@stmarysoakbay.ca*

People's Warden: Jane Anderson, *janderson@stmarysoakbay.ca*

Deputy People's Warden: Amanda Bolt, *abolt@stmarysoakbay.ca*

Envelope Secretary & Flower Dedications: Anne Underhill, *givings@stmarysoakbay.ca*

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