



*This service is Livestreamed via Facebook and the Parish website.*

*We welcome everyone worshipping with us today whether in person or online. [www.sthelensurrey.ca](http://www.sthelensurrey.ca)*

*[www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey](https://www.facebook.com/sainthelensurrey)*

## **The Gathering of the Community**

### **Words of Welcome and Acknowledgment**

We give thanks that we live, work, play, and worship on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples including the Katzee, Tsawwassen, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen Nations. May our words and our actions reflect our awareness and appreciation of this.

### **Processional Hymn CP 88 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

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. Amen**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Advent Collect**

God of abundance, our hearts overflow with the gift of your Holy Spirit.  
As your light breaks through the darkest corners of this world, may we be renewed in your compassion for a world that yearns for the deep joy that your son brings into the world everyday. **Amen**

### **Kyrie Confessions**

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.**

### **Collect**

God of power and mercy,

**you call us once again**

**to celebrate the coming of your Son.**

**Remove those things which hinder love of you,  
that when he comes,**

**he may find us waiting in awe and wonder**

**for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

### **The Proclamation of the Word**

#### **Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10**

A Reading from the Prophet 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.

Listen to what the spirit is saying to the Church

**Thanks be to God**

### **Canticle 18: SNC 77 My Soul Cries Out**

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wonderful things that you bring to the ones that wait. you fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west, shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

#### *Refrain*

*My heart sings of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near and the world is about to turn.*

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last, from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name put the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

***Refrain***

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware, for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more for the food they can never earn; There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

***Refrain***

**Though the nations rage from age to age we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebearers heard is the promise which holds us bound till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

***Refrain***

**Second Reading: James 5 :7-10**

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.

Listen to what the spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God**

**Hymn: CP 107 Prepare the Way**

**Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11**

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**

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."

The Gospel of Christ  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

**Homily:**

**The Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder Celiz**

**Affirmation of Faith**

*Congregation Stands*

We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Is the Lord God almighty**

**Who was, and is, and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father,

who created all things

**for by his will they were created**

**and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son,

Who was slain

**For with his blood,**

**He purchased us for God**

**From every tribe and language**

**From every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come”**

**Even so come, Lord Jesus!**

**Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

## Confession & Absolution

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.

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. Amen.**

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. **Amen**

## The Peace

*Congregation stands*

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



**Offertory Hymn: SNC 36 O Ancient Love**

**O ancient love, progressing through the ages  
O hidden love, revealed in human form  
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages**

***Refrain***

**O living Love, within our hearts be borne  
O living Love, within our hearts be borne**

**O homeless love that dwells among the stranger  
O lowly life that knows the mighty's scorn  
O hungry love that lay within the manger**

***Refrain***

**O gentle love caressing those in sorrow  
O tender love that comforts those forlorn  
O hopeful love that promises tomorrow**

***Refrain***

**O suffering love that bears our human weakness  
O boundless love that rises with the morn  
O mighty love concealed in infant meekness**

***Refrain***

**Prayers over the Gifts**

*Congregation stands*

God of hope,  
**renew in us the joy of your salvation**

**and make us a living sacrifice to you,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

### **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in  
prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

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

Accept our praises heavenly Father  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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**

As we wait for the coming of the Lord, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## **The Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please proceed to the altar for communion as directed. Communion is offered in both bread and wine. If you only wish to receive the bread, you may touch the base of the chalice or give a slight bow in reverence to the Sacrament after receiving the bread.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*Please Stand as you are able*

Merciful God,  
**may this eucharist free us from our sins,  
fill us with unending joy,  
and prepare us for the birthday of our Saviour.**  
**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who is Lord now and for ever.**

## **Children's Focus**

## **The 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.**

### **Community Announcements**

#### **The Blessing**

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born  
of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a  
mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: CP 91 People, Look East! The Time is Near**

#### **Dismissal**

With love and compassion

**Come, Lord Jesus**

With judgment and mercy

**Come, Lord Jesus**

In power and glory

**Come Lord Jesus**

In wisdom and truth

**Come Lord Jesus**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Notices and Prayer List for the week beginning December 14, 2025

To assist the office, please ensure that any items for the Notices are received **before Noon on Thursday.**

**The flowers** at the altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Pat Nociar on her birthday as she gives thanks for good health and caring and loving family and friends and also Glenda Colquhoun in celebration of Joe's birthday.

**We pray for the whole Anglican Church of Canada** – we pray especially for our primate, Shane Parker.

**Anglican Communion** – we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicanado Brasil

**In our Diocesan Cycle:** We pray for Rt. Rev'd. John Stephens, Bishop, Robin our Rector, and Stephen our Deacon. We pray for Archdeacon Andrew Halladay (Lougheed); St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge - The Revd Vineet Samuel; St. Hildegard's Sanctuary @ St Faith, Vancouver – The Revd Melanie Calabrigo

We pray for our companion diocese of Northern Philippines. We pray for our own twinned parish of Holy Apostles, Abatan, and their priest, Father Joey Napat-a.

In all these prayers for the church near and far, we pray for the people and clergy and for the ministries flowing from these places into the communities.

**In our Parish Cycle** we pray for Beverly Akinkeyin and Cathy Anderson. We pray for their work, ministry, and families here and away.

## Notices

### **DECEMBER SERVICES:**

- **TONIGHT** December 14, 7pm: Multicultural 9 Lessons & Carols
- 4th Sunday in Advent, December 21 10:00 a.m. Service
- Christmas Eve Services 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day, December 25: Online; The Rector's Speech

**Christmas Market** - thanks to all who helped in any way with this - it was a wonderful day and truly a Parish Event. Lots of familiar faces from the past appeared and new people were introduced to our annual event. We made approximately \$6,700.00 which is a wonderful addition to the church coffers.



### **This Week's Ministry Team**

Officiant/Preacher.....The Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder Celiz  
Deacon.....The Rev. Stephen Thompson  
Music ..... Joel Adimatha  
Crucifer/Servers/Psalmist..... Maureen Thompson  
Prayers of the Community..... Cathy Anderson  
Readers ..... Abdull Sillah & John Palmer  
Lay Administration..... Ian Mulcaster & Lynn Turner  
Greeters ..... Heather & Wayne Herd  
Livestream Tech.....Z.Barabas, Tom B. S. Lee, L.Ronit, I. Nwaogu, A Sillah  
Altar Guild.....J. Francis, H. Herd, K. Foulds  
Fellowship Servers...Cynthia & Anil Richards. Catherine Hall, Diane Dronsfield

### **Next Week's Ministry Team**

Officiant/Preacher ..... The Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder-Celiz  
Rector.....The Rev. Dr. Robin Ruder-Celiz  
Deacon..... The Rev. Stephen Thompson  
Music ..... Joel Adimatha  
Crucifer/Server and Psalmist..... Kelly Foulds  
Prayers of the Community.....Lynn Turner  
Readers ..... Alejandro & Jo Ann Sotres  
Lay Administration..... Vee Villar & Edward Villar  
Greeters..... Glenda Colquhoun & Maureen Thompson  
Livestream Tech...Z.. Barabas, T. Beneteau, S. Lee, L.Ronit, I. Nwaogu, A Sillah  
Altar Guild.....Sarah Vinu & Carol Young  
Fellowship Servers..... J.Bulkan , L.Moo D.& C. Stewart, L. Richards

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### **Giving to St. Helen's**

There are several ways to may a financial contribution to St. Helen's. Here are two popular ways:

E-Transfer: [giving2sthelen@gmail.com](mailto:giving2sthelen@gmail.com)

Pre-Authorised Debit (PAD): Contact the Parish Office for details.

Thank you for your generosity.

### **Parish Ministry**

Parish Staff:

P) 604-581-4800

E) [churchoffice@shawbiz.ca](mailto:churchoffice@shawbiz.ca)

Parish Clergy:

P) 604-379-8966

E) [sainthelensrector@gmail.com](mailto:sainthelensrector@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am – 1pm

### **Diocesan Ministry**

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