



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
Vancouver, BC · *Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds*

Choral Evensong

The Third Sunday of Advent

Christ Church Cathedral

December 14, 2025

4:00 PM

You are invited to join in the prayers and singing of the hymns, as we make our offering of prayer and worship.

Hymn CP 90 How the World Longs for Your Birth

Minister The Cathedral sits on the ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Coast Salish Peoples. Consistent with our values of community, inclusion and respecting the dignity of every human being, we have a responsibility to acknowledge, honour and make visible the Cathedral's relationship to Native peoples.

All From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.

Minister 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]*

The Confession

Minister Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

All We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Preces and Responses

William Smith (c.1603-45)

Minister/Choir O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God make speed to save us

O Lord make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's Name be praised!

Psalm 103

Benedic, anima mea (*Sung by the choir*)

Chants: John Robinson (1682-1762)

C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

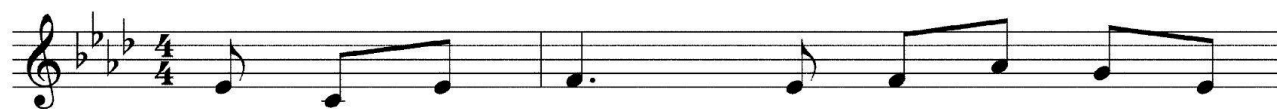
William Russell (1777-1813)

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all the benefits of the Lord.
- 3 The Lord forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 redeeming your life from the grave and crowning you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 satisfying you with good things, and renewing your youth like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 O Lord, you made your ways known to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- 8 You are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger for ever.
- 10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our sins from us.
- 13 As parents care for their children, so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.
- 14 For you yourself know whereof we are made; you remember that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you,
and your righteousness on children's children;
- 18 on those who keep the covenant and remember the commandments and do them.
- 19 The Lord is enthroned in heaven, and has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones who do the bidding of God,
and hearken to the voice of the word of the Lord.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you hosts, you ministers who do the will of God.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, in all places of the dominion of the Lord; bless the Lord, O my soul.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Office Hymn

SNC 36 O Ancient Love



1. O an - cient love, pro - cess - ing through the
 2. O home - less love, that dwells a - mong the
 3. O gen - tle love, car - ess - ing those in
 4. O suf - f'ring love, that bears our hu - man



a - ges: O hid - den love, re - vealed in hu - man
 stran - ger: O low - ly love, that knows the might - y's
 sor - row: O ten - der love, that com - forts those for -
 weak - ness: O bound - less love, that ris - es with the



form: O prom - ised love, the dream of seers and
 scorn: O hun - gry love, that lay with - in a
 lorn: O hope - ful love, that prom - is - es to -
 morn: O might - y love, con - cealed in in - fant



sa - ges:
 man - ger: O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be
 mor - row:
 meek - ness:



born, O liv - ing Love, with - in our hearts be borne.

Text: Michael Joncas, b.1951

Tune: BEDFORD ABBEY, 11 10 11 10 10; Michael Joncas, b.1951

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Canticle

Magnificat in F

George Dyson (1883-1964)

The congregation may stand for the Magnificat.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel;
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever. *Gloria Patri.*

The Second Lesson John 5:30-47**Canticle**

Nunc Dimittis in F

George Dyson (1883-1964)

The congregation may stand for the Nunc Dimittis.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. *Gloria Patri.*

The Apostles' Creed*Minister*

I believe in God,

All

**the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy Catholic Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the Forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated or kneel.

Responses [Minister/Choir]

William Smith (c.1603-45)

The Lord be with you

And with thy spirit

Let us pray

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister

Our Father,

All

which art in heav'n,

hallow'd be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done; on earth as it is in heav'n.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive them that trespass against us.

and lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Choir

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King;

and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people;

and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect of the Day

God of power and mercy,

Who dost call us once again to celebrate the coming of thy Son.

Remove those things which hinder love of thee,

that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder

for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost,

one God, now and for ever. *[CHOIR: Amen]*

A Collect For Peace O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
 give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
 that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
 and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,
 may pass our time in rest and quietness;
 through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *[CHOIR: Amen]*

A Collect For Aid Against Perils

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
 and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
 for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *[CHOIR: Amen]*

Anthem

Prepare ye the way

Michael Wise (c.1647-1687)

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low:
 and the crooked shall be made straight, And the rough places plain.
 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.
 And the voice said cry. What shall I cry?
 All flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof is as a flower that is in the field.
 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord shall stand fast for ever.
 O Zion, that bringest glad tidings, get thee up into the high mountains.
 O Jerusalem, that bringest glad tidings, lift up thy voice with strength and say unto Judah, Behold thy God!

Minister

Prayers, followed by the Prayer of St. Chrysostom:

God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common
 supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together
 in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions
 of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge
 of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

All

Amen.

Hymn

CP 92 O Day of God, Draw Nigh

Minister

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the
 fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Postlude

Rorate Caeli ("Drop down, ye heavens" - Advent Prose)

Melissa Dunphy (1980-)

Participants

Clergy The Rev. Claude St-Denis
Reader Bernard Cuffling
Music Christ Church Cathedral Chamber Choir
 Dr. Neil Cockburn (*Organist & Director of Music*)

Thank you for your prayerful stewardship of the ministries of the Cathedral. Your generous gift of any amount matters, because your stewardship empowers our mission to advance the Good News of God's infinite love and mercy through our worship, ministries, formation, and service. **You may make a gift of cash or cheque in the offering plate on the way out. You may also use one of the methods below.** We present our gifts at the Altar as a sign of thanksgiving to God, from whom all good things come.

 <p>E-transfer your donation to ar@thecathedral.ca. Please provide your name and address in the Memo Field for tax receipt purposes.</p>	 <p>SCAN TO DONATE Make a gift through our secure website at www.thecathedral.ca/give, accessible via the QR code above.</p>	 <p>Tip Tap donations are non-receiptable.</p>
 <p>An envelope is enclosed for your convenience to give cash or cheque. If you cannot find it, ask a greeter for one. Please also provide your name and address for tax receipt purposes.</p>		

This worship takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations, in the heart of Vancouver.

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