

St. Helen's Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster

Third Sunday of Advent
Dec 14, 2025



Preacher and Presider: The Most Reverend John Stephens

Archbishop of the Diocese of New Westminster,
Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

All stand

OPENING HYMN People, Look East! The Time Is Near CP 91

GREETING

In this time and place
we gather on the unceded, ancestral lands of the Musqueam nation.
From many places and peoples we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place
we await the coming of Emmanuel, God with us.
Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha. CP 113

In this time and place
we await God's transformation of the world.
Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha. CP 113

In this time and place
we await the coming of the commonwealth of peace.
Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha. CP 113

CONFESSION

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.

Holy One,
we long for you.
You know our wounding and our broken-heartedness.

**You know how others have hurt us,
and how we have hurt others.
You alone have the healing we need.
Yours is the love that changes everything. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins,
and bring you to everlasting life.

Amen.

Come O Lord and set us free, Maranatha. CP 113

We have been waiting and longing for light, watching for signs of the Lord. "Promised of ages," "Messiah to come," hear us, we beg you: "Come, save!"

Refrain.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:1-10

Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146



Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose help is in the Most High,
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
whose promise abides for ever.
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger. **R.**

It is God who sets the prisoners free!
who opens the eyes of the blind
and lifts up those who are bowed down; **R.**

God loves the righteous
and cares for the stranger,
sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked. **R.**

The Most High shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING JAMES 5:7-10

Hepsi Chand

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

All stand for the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord

and all people will see the salvation of our God. x3

THE HOLY 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

CP 107

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord

and all people will see the salvation of our God. x3

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Most Reverend John Stephens

Let us confess our faith, as we sing,

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
God from God, Light from Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
of one substance with the Father;
through whom all things were made.
Who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
And the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures;
and ascended into heaven
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge quick and the dead,
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.**

**And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom for prayer.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hepsi Chand

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid
we pray to Jesus.

**Wait for the Lord, Whose Day Is Near.
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!**

CP 94

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.
Help us to live in the light of your coming
and give us a longing for your kingdom.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.
Before you rulers will stand in silence.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.
Break into our lives,
where we struggle with sickness and distress,
and set us free to serve you for ever.
Maranatha: **R.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.
Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha: **R.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with all your saints and angels

we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha: **R.**

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;

give new courage to your people,

who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom

on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

After the prayers, those who wish may gather in a circle around the altar.

THE PEACE

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.

May the peace of God be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with signs of God's peace (a handshake, an embrace, or a nod and wave are all appropriate signs). Please remain standing.

THE OFFERTORY

As the altar is prepared for Holy Communion, the congregation is invited to make an offering as an expression of gratitude for God's generosity.

OFFERTORY HYMN The People That in Darkness Sat

CP 156

Please remain standing until communion.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts.

We open our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

We give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

CP 689

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the spirit of Jesus' teaching, let us pray.

**Source of Life,
holy is your name.
May your community of shalom be realized,
here on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us each what we need for today.
Forgive us our wrongdoings,
and help us release those who wrong us.
Save us from times of duress,
and deliver us from the effects of evil.
For you hold truth and justice and love,
now and forever. Amen.**

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.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for all God's people.
Thanks be to God

All who seek Christ and are drawn to this holy table are invited to come forth to receive Holy Communion. Dipping the bread (intinction) into the wine is not permitted. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please indicate such by placing your right hand over your heart.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God

CP 690

COMMUNION HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CP 48

The Lord is My Song

♩ = 72

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O
Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The

All stand.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

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.**

BLESSING

Episcopal Blessing

DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace to prepare the way for Christ.
Thanks be to God!

RECESSIONAL HYMN When the King Shall Come Again CP 109

*Please be seated for the postlude. The community disperses in silence.
In respect of those who may linger in contemplation,
conversation is reserved for the narthex.*

Upcoming Events:

19 December (Fri) 7pm— St. Helen's Christmas Concert

20 December (Sat) 9am— Advent Quiet Morning

24 December (Wed) 8pm— Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist Service

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ST. HELEN'S
WEST POINT GREY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Christmas at St. Helen's

Christmas Concert - Dec. 19 - 7pm

Christmas Eve Choral Service - Dec. 24 - 8pm

Christmas Day Service - Dec. 25 - 10am



sthelensvancouver.com

ST. HELEN'S

WEST POINT GREY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Family Christmas Carol Sing-along Concert

Friday December 19th

7:00 pm

Admission by donation

Reception to follow

4405 w8th Ave, Vancouver

sthelensvancouver.com

ST. HELEN'S

WEST POINT GREY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Discover the History + Imagine the Future of West Point Grey



Come learn about the history and future of our shared home, **West Point Grey**. Storytelling by former City of Vancouver planners Jeannette Hvalach and Christina DeMarco.

Connect with neighbours, reflect on the past, and dream about the future.

Dec. 3, 2025 — 7 PM

Jan. 14, 2026 — 7 PM

Everyone is welcome -
come curious and leave
connected.



How to Contribute to St. Helen's Financially

We deeply appreciate financial contributions to our shared congregational life and mission. The best ways to donate are:

- Set up a Pre-Authorized Donation - simply send an email to sthelenswpg@gmail.com to get started or change your amount
- Donate via interact e-transfer to sthelenswpg@gmail.com
- Scan the QR code to the right or visit sthelensvancouver.com/give to donate via credit card
- Use one of the envelopes available at the back of the church by the offering plate to donate via cheques or cash

Volunteers for this week:

Intercessor: Liz Hodgson

Readers: Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Hepsi Chand

Counter and Zoom: Lynn Raymond

Lay Administrators: Suzanne and Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, Claire Munn

Volunteers for next week:

Intercessor: David Van Blarcom

Readers: Liz Hodgson, Angela White

Counter: Dale O'Brien

Zoom: Tony Hodgson

Lay Administrators: Rev. Mark Munn, Suzanne Windsor-Liscombe, Tony Hodgson

Connect with us:

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