

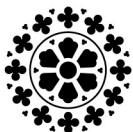


CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, VICTORIA, BC

Choral Eucharist

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

Sunday, December 14, 2025 11.00 a.m.



CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF ISLANDS AND INLETS
RENEWED HEARTS, RENEWED SPIRITS, RENEWED PEOPLE

Welcome to the **Cathedral Church** of the Anglican Diocese of British Columbia. Here we respectfully acknowledge that we gather to worship on the ancestral lands of the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, with whom we are in relationship to seek reconciliation.

As an Anglican centre for spirituality, learning, culture, heritage and community, this cathedral upholds a daily rhythm of worship in the heart of Victoria. From daily spoken and sung services to the weekly celebration of the Eucharist and Choral Evensong, we mark the important events of the Christian calendar and in the life of our diocese and the wider community.

Christ Church Cathedral is a fully inclusive community where all are invited to hear God's Word and partake of God's bread, regardless of upbringing or creed. Please join as fully as you wish in every action of our worship, including communion. This is God's house and all are welcome.

Liturgical Notes for Today's Service

Advent is considered to be one of the two main penitential seasons in the liturgical year, the other one being Lent. Coming before Christmas, it is more often associated with celebration and festivity, but preceding the coming of our Lord it is in fact a time to contemplate the totality of life, including its completion or 'last things.'

This makes Advent a rich and nuanced season where we can reflect on the responsibilities, and even culpabilities, that come with so great a gift as life itself: a gift given to us by God and fulfilled in Christ, the one through whom all things were made.

So, along with sober reflection, Advent is marked by awaiting and anticipation of the light of Christ, making candles and other illuminations so suitable. It is also a fitting time to consider the needs of the world, as we reach out in prayer and offer hospitality to those around us.

To help us call these things to mind, we enrich our Advent worship in various ways, including a seasonal opening rite. The choir sings the opening Introit from the west door. This year, it is the Advent Prose. During the singing of the opening hymn, light is processed through the people and installed in the wreath at the high altar. There are four candles, one added each week. Traditionally, three purple candles and one pink one were used to symbolize Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. However, for some time now we have used all blue candles, the colour associated with Mary, to represent her waiting for the Christ child. The fifth candle, brought in at Christmas, is always white, signifying the purity and victorious light of Christ.

If you would like to sign up for our E-news, or would like more information about the Cathedral, please visit www.christchurchcathedral.bc.ca

You can also use the QR code to make a donation, use our Welcome Card or to download the service leaflets and more.



Presider: The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas

Musical Settings: Communion Service in F

Herbert Sumsion (d. 1995)

This service is being broadcast live on the Internet. By attending this morning, you acknowledge and consent to the fact that video images of you may appear there.

The words to the hymns can be found in the blue hymnal "Common Praise". Copies of the hymnals can be found in the book racks in the pews. If you are unable to locate a copy, please ask the sidespeople for assistance.

Prelude: O Oriens

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951)

The Gathering of the Community

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome

The Very Reverend Jonathan Thomas

Introit

Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.
Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
And my servant whom I have chosen;
That ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.
Drop down ye heavens from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness.

Text: The Advent Prose (Isaiah 45.8)

Music: plainsong

Entrance Hymn #362—Tell Out, My Soul

Tune: Woodlands

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Remain standing as the candle is installed in the Advent wreath and lit.

Reader Hear these words from the Gospel of Matthew.

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

Seasonal Collect

Presider Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Presider Come Lord Jesus,
People **Bring Light, Give Joy.**

Dominical Greeting

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

People **And also with you.**

Collect for Purity

please remain standing

Presider Almighty God,
All **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Kyrie eleison

sung by the choir

<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.
<i>Christe eleison.</i>	Christ have mercy.
<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us hold this moment open to God's grace.

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those thing 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.

People **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35.1-10 / *all seated*

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Reading: Psalm 146.4-9

remain seated

VIII. 2.



HAPPY are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their ^ God;

**Who made heaven and earth, * the sea and all that is in them;
who keeps his pro-mise for ever;**

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.

**The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;**

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;

**The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; * he upholds the orphan
and wi-dow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.**

The Lord shall reign for ev-er,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. * Al-le-lu-ia.

Second Reading

James 5.7-10 /all seated

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

All stand and turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it is carried into the midst of the community.



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

The Holy Gospel

Deacon The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Deacon Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 11.2-11

Deacon The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

The Reverend Canon Jeannine Friesen

The Nicene Creed

all standing as able

Presider Let us confess the faith as we say,
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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

please stand, sit or kneel as preferred

<i>Leader</i>	Gracious God,
<i>People</i>	be mindful of your mercy.

Confession and Absolution

The presider invites the community to make its confession.

<i>Presider</i>	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.
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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. Amen.**

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.

People **Amen.**

Welcoming of New Vicar

The Exchange of the Peace

all standing as able

Presider 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.

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

Please exchange the peace with your neighbours using a suitable gesture.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Hymn #91—People, Look East! The Time Is Near

Tune: Besançon

A basket is passed to receive monetary gifts which will be offered along with bread and wine at the altar. Please use the QR code at the beginning of the leaflet if you would like to make an online donation. Our easy to use Tap machines are available at the Quadra St. and Burdett Ave doors. Thank you.

Prayer over the Gifts

Deacon 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.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

many prefer to stand

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,
you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts;
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Glory and honour and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favour upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat: This is my Body,
which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,

and ourselves, a living sacrifice.
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us,
with the blessed virgin Mary and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honour, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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. Amen.

The Breaking of 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.

The Communion

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

Fraction Anthem

many prefer to be seated

Choir O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.
 O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.

*All are invited to receive communion, which will be distributed at the communion rail.
A reminder that intinction (or dipping the bread into the cup) is considered unsafe, and is
thus not permitted. If you have mobility issues, you may remain seated and communion
will be brought to you.*

Anthem

Prepare ye the way of the Lord
Make straight in the desert
A highway for our God

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
And ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low
And the crooked shall be made straight
And the rough places shall be made 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 forever

O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings
Get thee up into the mountains

O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings
Lift up thy voice with strength
And say unto Judah, "behold thy God."

Music: Michael Wise d. 1687)
Text: Verses from Isaiah

Presider 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.

All **Amen.**

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.**

The Blessing

Presider May Almighty God, by whose providence our Saviour Christ came among us
in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free
from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await,
make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn #88—Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus

Tune: Stuttgart

The Sending Forth of the Community

The Dismissal

Deacon As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Voluntary: Toccata on “Veni Emmanuel”

John A. Behnke (b. 1953) ¹³

Thank you for being part of this morning's service.



The Flowers in the cathedral are placed to the glory of God.

Sources—Book of Alternative Services and Common Worship

Readings for Next Sunday (Dec 21, The Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 7.10-16

Psalms 80.1-7, 17-19

Romans 1.1-7

Matthew 1.18-25

Assisting with Today's Liturgy

<i>Sidespersons</i>	Donna White, Elaine Ellison, Diana McNeil, Heather Murphy
<i>Verger</i>	Bob Fearnley
<i>Servers</i>	Members of the Servers Guild
<i>Musicians</i>	The Christ Church Cathedral Guild of Bell Ringers The Cathedral Schola Mark McDonald, <i>Assistant Director of Music</i> Donald Hunt, <i>Director of Music</i>
<i>Readers</i>	Harriet Kendrick, Ian MacDonald
<i>Deacon</i>	The Reverend Ross Bliss
<i>Assisting clergy</i>	The Reverend Anna Rossi
<i>Prayers of the People</i>	Gene Sederstrom
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Jesse Robertson, Susanna Longridge, Elsie Hepburn, Daniel Dempsey
<i>Camera and Tech Team</i>	The Cathedral Technical Team
<i>Chancel Guild</i>	Maureen Lundquist, <i>president</i>

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Thursday, December 11, Friday, December 12 / 7.30 p.m. & Sunday, 14 December / 2.30 p.m.

Victoria Symphony Presents: Messiah by Candlelight

(Sold out)

Friday, December 19 / 5.00 p.m.

Community Carol Sing-along

Freewill offering

Saturday, December 20 / 6.00 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.

Candlelight Concerts

Tickets at feverup.com

Sunday, December 21 / 4.00 p.m.

Christmas Lessons and Carols*

Freewill offering

Monday, December 22 & Tuesday, December 23 / 7.30 p.m.

CapriCCio Vocal Ensemble: Illuminare (Night Before Light)

Tickets at capriccio.ca

Wednesday, December 24 / 4.30 p.m.

Peopling the Creche: A family Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Freewill offering

Wednesday, December 24 / 10.00 p.m.

Procession & Solemn Eucharist of the Nativity (incense will be used)*

Freewill offering

Thursday, December 25 / 10.30 a.m.

Christmas Day: Cathedral Eucharist*

Freewill offering

The cathedral will be closed on Fri, Dec 26 to Thurs, Jan 1, apart from advertised services and concerts. There will be no Morning or Evening Prayer or midweek Eucharist during this period. The office will be closed Dec 24 to Jan 1.

Sunday, December 28

8.00 a.m.—Holy Communion

10.30 a.m.—Cathedral Eucharist*

4.00 p.m.—Olivier Messiaen's 'La Nativité du Seigneur': An Organ Meditation played by Donald Hunt*

Thursday, January 1 / 2.30 p.m.

Old Music for the New Year*

Admission by donation

Tuesday, January 6 / 7.00 p.m.

*(*livestreamed)*

Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Epiphany

Freewill offering