

Holy Communion
The Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 2025



St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
Diocese of New Westminster

Located on the unceded land of the Musqueam,
Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh nations

Welcome!

If you are new here or visiting, please sign our guest book and stay after worship for refreshments and conversation.

If you would like to request prayers, please write the names of those to be remembered in the book on the small table in the prayer corner.

Communion is in both kinds (bread and wine). All are welcome at the table, and no one is required to take communion.

Participants are welcome to consume only bread.

Thank you for joining us today.

Walk with Us

Financial support from members and guests is essential for us to continue to be a place of welcome for all.

Here's how you can give:

Good: Cash or a cheque in the plate.
Regular donors get envelopes to ensure tax receipts.

Better: Transfer funds using interac to office@stmarymags.ca Indicate "donation" in the memo line.

Best! Sign up for pre-authorized debit to have a monthly donation transferred directly from your bank account.

We issue tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more.

Our Advent Liturgy

We open with an adaptation of the traditional **O Antiphons**. These are a set of seven short prayers traditionally sung or recited during Evening Prayer in the final days of Advent.

Together they trace a movement from creation's deep wisdom to the intimate promise of "God-with-us," gathering up the hopes of prophets and poets across Scripture.

Prayed in sequence, the O Antiphons invite a slow, attentive waiting. They give language to yearning—for justice, for healing, for light—and help the church lean toward Christmas not with sentimentality but with a grounded hope for God's presence taking flesh in a troubled world.

Advent carries a quiet penitential edge, inviting the church to face what's broken in us and around us so we can welcome Christ's coming with clearer eyes and a readier heart. We've moved confession to the beginning of the service to highlight this theme.

The collect, prayer over the gifts and prayer after communion are from the alternative collects authorized for use in the Diocese of New Westminster. The Great Thanksgiving is Eucharistic Prayer 3 from the Book of Alternative Services.

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The Gathering of the Community

We sing as the light is welcomed into our gathering.

O Antiphons

Cantor: “O Key of David, sign of might, you tear down bars that hold us fast.
Deliver the captives and free us from death—burst our prison”

All:



O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our hea - v'nly home.
Make safe the path to end - less day, to death's dark em - pire close the way.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - ma - nu - el shall come to you and as a hu - man dwell.

Cantor: “O Morning star of righteousness, your light shines brightly in the night.
Dispel our shadows and bring us light—illumine our darkness!”

All:



O come, O Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your ad - vent here.
Love stir with - in the womb of night, and death's own shad - ows put to flight.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - ma - nu - el shall come to you and as a hu - man dwell.

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One
All: **You come to your people and set them free**

Kyrie Confession

Presider: Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations
into your reign of justice and peace:
Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Presider: You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:
Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider: You will come in glory with salvation for your people:
Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy**

Prayer of the Day

Presider: God of glory and compassion,
All: **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.

Opening Prayers (1997) alt.

Proclamation of the Word

First Reading

Reader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah
(Isaiah 35:1-10)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Canticle 18 The Canticle of the Turning



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you
 3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the




weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

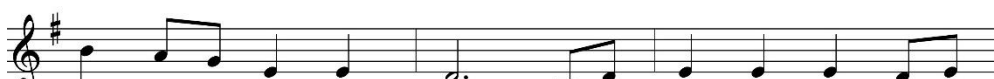


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58 Music: Rory Cooney (1952-)

Second Reading

Reader: A reading from the book of James.
 (James 5:7-10)

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Song

#100 Comfort Comfort Ye My People

1. "Comfort, comfort ye my people;
speak ye peace," thus says your God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness
bowed beneath oppression's load;
speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that their sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over."

2. Hark! The herald's voice is calling
in the desert far and near,
calling us to new repentance
since the reign of God is here.
O the warning call obey!
Now prepare for Christ a way;
let the valleys rise to meet him
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3. Make ye straight what long was crooked;
make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits Messiah's reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's Word is never broken.

Text: Johannes G Olearius (1611-1684) Music: Melody Geneva 1551

Gospel Reading

Reader: May God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of Jesus according to Matthew.
(Matthew 11:2-11)

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Reflection

The Rev. Tasha Carrothers

Following a period of silence, all are invited to share a brief thought or story evoked by the readings or the reflection.

Song

Hope Is A Star

C Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The tempo is marked 'Unison'. The score is divided into four systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system is the refrain, marked 'Refrain'. The fourth system contains the final line of the lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple bass line in the left hand and a more active melody in the right hand. Chord symbols are provided above the staff for the piano accompaniment.

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
2 Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,
3 Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.
Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be

first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

F C Dm7 FM7 Gsus4 G

F Am G C Am F Dm7 C

Affirmation of Faith

Presider: Do you believe and trust in God the Creator,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All: **We believe and trust in God the Creator.**

Presider: Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All: **We believe and trust in God the Son..**

Presider: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All: **We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

Presider: This is the faith of the Church.

All: **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,
Creator, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Please stand or sit as you prefer for prayer.

In the prayers of the people, the people who have gathered join their prayers to bring to God the needs of the Church, the world, and all who are in need. If you would like to add a person to the prayers, please speak to the Vicar. There is also a book on the front hall table where you can add names of people for whom you would like prayer.

The Peace

Presider: The peace of God be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

We share the peace of God with one another with a gesture of greeting.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

To make a financial offering, please place it in the offering plate by the door.

Song The Kingdom of God

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'The king - dom of God is jus - tice and peace and joy in the Ho - ly Spir - it. Come, Lord, and o - pen in us the gates of your king - dom. The'. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text and Music: Taizé Community.

Prayer over the Gifts

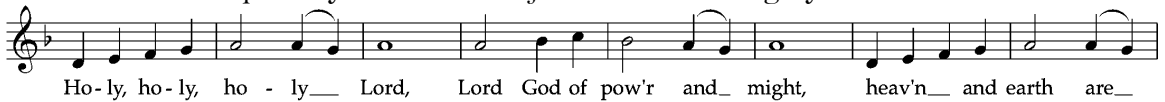
Presider: God of abundance,
All: we bring before you the precious fruits
 of your creation, and with them our very lives.
 Teach us patience and hope
 as we care for all those in need
 until the coming of your Son,
 our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

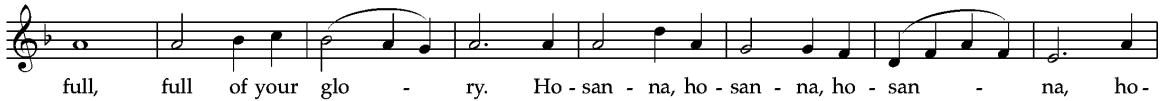
Presider: May God be with you.
All: And also with you.
Presider: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to God.**
Presider: Let us give thanks to God, our Creator.
All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider:

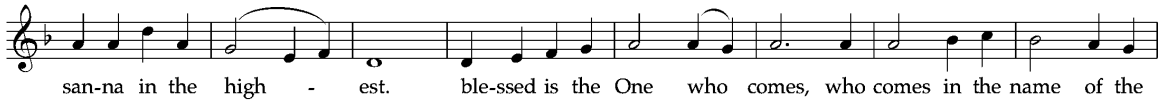
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when 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:



9



17



25

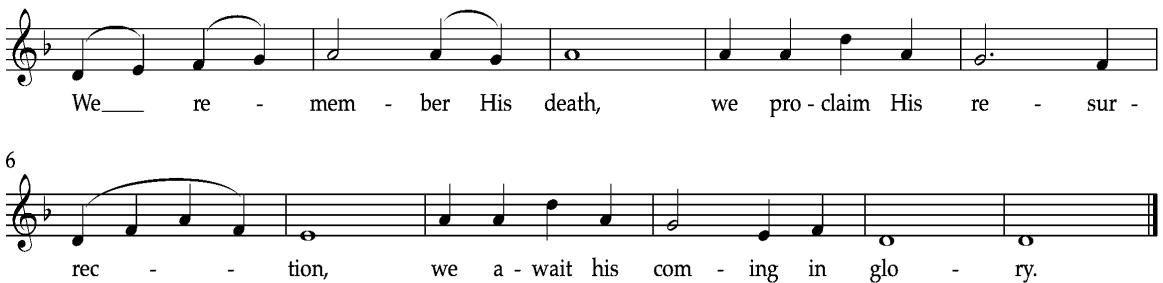


Presider:

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."
After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."
Therefore, Father, according to his command,



Presider: and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

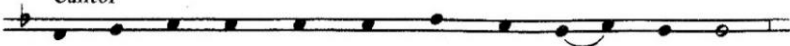
We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All:



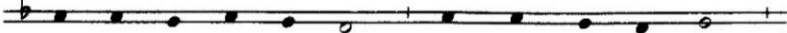
The Lord's Prayer

Cantor

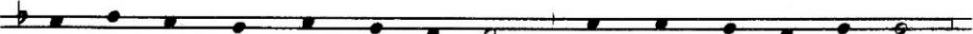


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,


All




Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



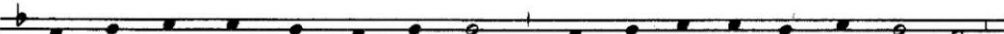
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.




Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.




For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider: God of promise,
yprepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All: **Happy are those who are called
to the supper of the Lamb.**

Communion

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain at your places. The consecrated bread and wine will be brought around to all who wish. Everyone is welcome at the table.

Sending Out of the Disciples

Prayer after Communion

Presider: God for whom we wait,

All: 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.

Doxology (Prayer of Gratitude to God)

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.

Blessing

Song #107 Joy Shall Come

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow. (3x)

Text: Israeli Trad.

Music: Patrick Wedd (1948-)

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve God's world.

All: Thanks be to God.

This Week at St. Mary Mags

| | | |
|------------------|----------|--|
| Weds, Dec 17 | 12 noon | Centering Prayer |
| | 12:30 pm | Holy Communion |
| Saturday, Dec 20 | 12 noon | Last drum circle for 2025; will be back Jan 10 |

Advent Events

| | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| Sunday, Dec 21 | 7:00 pm | Hope in the Darkness: A Service of Song and Word |
| Weds, Dec 24 | 8:00 pm: | Christmas by Candlelight. We welcome the Christ-child with solemn joy. |
| Thurs, Dec 25 | 10:30 am | Christmas Holy Communion |
| | 4:00 pm | Christmas Dinner |

Hope in the Darkness. New this year, this service of song and poetry—ancient and modern—is an invitation to friends and neighbours who think of themselves as spiritual but not religious. It's a time to name the darkness in our world and look forward to the coming of the light.

December 21 at 7:00 pm.

Community Christmas Day Dinner. If you think you're going to be at loose ends on Christmas day, then come to a feast at St. Mary Magdalene's. We are planning to serve turkey and ham and all the trimmings. Just bring yourself—it's no longer potluck. After dinner we might play board games or sing carols—whatever suits our fancy. **December 25, doors open at 4:00 pm.** Dinner served around 5:30 pm or 6:00 pm (the turkey is in charge of the timing). **Seats are limited**, so please contact Richard as soon as possible to reserve your seat: richardlovesbooks@gmail.com

Next Sunday's Readings

December 21, 2025 | Advent IV

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church

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The Rev. Tasha Carrothers, Vicar
Dave Dagta, Musician

