



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

ADVENT THREE

December 14, 2025

Rector:	The Rev. Vernon Foster		
Deacon:	The Rev. Helen L.		
Hon. Assistant:	The Rev. Pat H.		
Director of Music:	Charles H.		
Musicians:	Freeman D./Kyle M.		
Church Warden:	Joy Adams Bauer	email:	jadamsbauer@stpaulsnanaimo.ca
Church Warden:	Greg Brown	email:	gbrown@stpaulsnanaimo.ca

Church Services:	Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Communion
		10:30 am	Holy Eucharist
	Weekdays (except stats)	8:30 am	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Contemplative Prayer
	Wednesday	11:00 am	Holy Communion

Office Hours:	9:30 – 12:00 pm	Monday to Friday	250-753-2523
Office Address:	100 Chapel Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5H2		
E-mail/Website:	admin@stpaulsnanaimo.ca www.stpaulsnanaimo.ca		



*Please be aware the 10:30 service may be recorded or livestreamed,
and your presence in the service is considered your consent to appear on camera.*

PLEASE MUTE YOUR CELL PHONES DURING THE SERVICE

(CCLI LICENSE: 2006094)

HOLY EUCHARIST – 10:30 AM

*This Eucharistic liturgy is based on the
Anglican Church of Canada **Book of Alternative Services***

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

*We commit ourselves to working together in a spirit of reconciliation as we worship
and serve on the traditional lands of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.*

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Rev. Vernon Foster
Deacon:	The Rev. Helen L.
Liturgical Assistant:	Mary Jane
Greeters:	Julia, Michele
Duty Warden:	Julie
Musician:	Freeman

The flowers on the main altar are given by Gwen I. to the glory of God
and in loving memory of her spirit filled parents, George & Margaret R.

The flowers on the side altar are given by Julie F. to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for waiting in hope for the birth of Jesus.

Altar Guild Team: Kathy, Lynn

Refreshment Hour is hosted today by: Barb, Norma

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS: *(you may remain seated during the welcome)*

OPENING HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 350 Stand Up and Bless the Lord

ST. THOMAS

GATHERING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May grace and peace be with you all.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy.

CANDLE-LIGHTING: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE DOUBTER

In this third week of Advent, we stand with the doubter—
with those who wrestle with questions,
who long for reassurance,
and who seek God's presence in the midst of uncertainty.

The third candle is lit.

We light this candle as a sign of our questioning hearts:
that our doubts may not push us away from God,
but draw us closer to the quiet unfolding of grace,
to the small, persistent signs of life,
and to the ways God meets us even when answers are slow.

**God of the honest question,
meet us in our searching.
Grant us courage to ask, to seek, to wrestle,
and open our eyes to your hidden work in the world.
Teach us that faith and doubt may walk together,
and that your presence is revealed even in uncertainty.
Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON CP 678

Lord, have mercy upon us, 3x
Christ, have mercy upon us, 3x
Lord, have mercy upon us, 3x

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Let us, after a moment of silent reflection, call to mind and confess the times we have fallen short of God's purposes for us, resolving to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

Silence is kept.

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. *(A moment of silence)*

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 STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

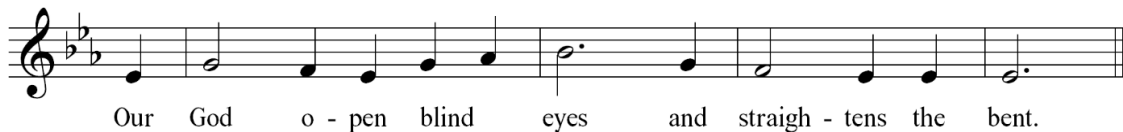
Marilyn

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 146:5-10

Cantor



SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Barb

Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Vs 1,2)

PSALM 42

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

(It is our custom to remain standing for the reading of the gospel. Please stand as you are able)

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 100 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Vs 3)

PSALM 42

SERMON:

Rev. Vernon Foster

ANTHEM: CP 117 Lo How a Rose

Melody: Alte Catholishe Geistliche Kirchengesang, Koln, 1599

Harm: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ADVENT CREED: *(Please stand as you are able)*

L.A. Let us confess our faith, as we say,

We believe in God:

The Source of all things. The God of Abraham and Sarah. The Holy One who freed the slaves from Egypt. The God who is steadfast love and mercy. The God who made a straight path in the wilderness and who promises to make all things new.

We believe in Jesus:

The Messiah, who is Emmanuel: God-with-us. He is King-of-Kings, yet born of Mary. Jesus showed God's love through healing and teaching, Jesus chose the way of servant-suffering by dying on a cross. After three days he rose from the dead. He is the Lord, the first born of the new creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit:

The One who inspires faith. Who has spoken through prophets and preachers and common people, The One who breathes new life into the church and the world, The Lord and giver of life. Who is making all things new. We believe that God is still creating. We believe that Jesus is present with us. We believe that the Holy Spirit is calling us forth in love and mercy. This is our hope, this is our faith. Amen.

Lutheran Church

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Beverly

THE PEACE:

Christ meets us in our questions with steadfast mercy. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

OFFERTORY HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 89 O Come O Come Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

God of the honest question, receive the gifts we bring
and the searching hearts that offer them.

In our giving, strengthen our trust;
in our questioning, reveal your grace;
in our lives, make your quiet mercy known.

All things come from you and of your own have we given you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: (Eucharistic Prayer 2)

(You are invited to stand during the Eucharistic Prayer as you desire)

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right.....as we sing:

SANCTUS

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

CP 735 Schubert

Holy and gracious God..... now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

David

Awaiting his coming glory, as our Saviour has taught us, so we sing:

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD:

The Bread which we break is the sharing of the Body of Christ.
We, who are many, are one body for we all partake of the one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION:

All are welcome to join us for communion. Our practice is to share the wine from a common cup.

For health reasons you are asked not to dip the bread wafer into the wine.

If you prefer, you may receive bread only. If you are gluten free, please ask for a gluten free wafer.

If you do not wish to receive communion, cross your arms in front of you to indicate to the clergy that you would like a blessing instead. We are happy to come to your seat to serve communion if you are unable to come forward – do let the greeter know.

COMMUNION HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 93 Ye Servants of the Lord

NARENZA

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

Give thanks to the Lord for God is gracious. **Our Lord's mercy endures forever.**

God of compassion and honest questions, you have met us at this table with grace deeper than our doubts. As we leave this holy feast, open our eyes to your quiet miracles, renew our trust in your mercy, and walk with us in every searching moment; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

May the God who welcomes our questions meet you with mercy in every uncertainty, steady your spirit with quiet assurance, and reveal grace in unexpected places.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sacred Spirit, be with you and those whom you love and pray for, this day and for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth with honest hearts, trusting that Christ meets you even in your questions.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

SENDING FORTH HYMN: *(Lyrics are in the Blue Common Praise Hymnal)*

CP 106 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

ASCENSION

POSTLUDE: O Come Divine Messiah, *Arr. By Mary J.*